

# AGENDA ITEM 8

**Report to: Chichester City Council (CCC) Meeting 20 April 2022**

**Report from: Councillor Sarah Quail**

**Report on: Chichester Business District (BID): Recent Activities**

**Date: 11 April 2022**

## **Background**

As your representative on the BID, I attended two recent meetings, one on Zoom on 3 March, and another 'for real' on 30 March. You will recall, that in November 2021, Chichester BID received a positive (70%) mandate to continue in office for a third five-year term beginning in April 2022. The first meeting was essentially to do with confirming the new Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Helen Marshall, in place. The second meeting dealt with recent key activities to support the local economy which I think are worth reporting for your information below:

## **Current issues**

Factored into current planning are the following:

- the situation on the High Street is very fluid
- how the BID can best support the emergence of retail and hospitality business post-pandemic
- impact of inflationary pressures
- recruitment and retention issues across the retail sector
- acknowledgement that a thriving High Street is as much space for new experiences as retail space
- retail confidence
- attracting additional footfall
- revitalising the night-time economy

These issues inform the BID's three strategic priorities:

- Promoting the city
- Delivering an organised and safer trading environment
- Creating new business opportunities

### **1. Promoting Chichester**

This is the BID's primary activity, making up 50% of their expenditure in driving footfall in the city centre, increasing visitor dwell-time, increasing social and print media coverage, and creating a city experience for all the family. The Merry and Bright Christmas campaign did just that and as I write, shop windows in the city centre will be featuring Easter Eggs (find them!) for family visitors. There are new plans too for an Events Calendar, dressing the city with flags and bunting, and increasing the flower footprint across the city with the support of local businesses and residents' associations. There are plans too for a wide range of events to drive footfall such as the Platinum Jubilee Street party in collaboration with Chichester Cathedral on 2 June and city centre events to mark Glorious Goodwood in July.

# AGENDA ITEM 8

## **2. Delivering an organised and safer city**

The BID supports the city in two distinct ways. Firstly, the BID Rangers are deployed on our city centre streets in conjunction with the Police, Community Wardens and ChiBAC staff. BID Rangers are eyes and ears on the street and provide a reassuring presence for shoppers and retailers alike. Secondly, ChiBAC (Chichester Business against Crime) Crime Partnership provides a real time security communication system to BID levy payers. Further, a mobile Welfare Unit is provided on twelve nights of the year when there is particularly high night-time footfall in the city centre e.g. on Ladies Day at Glorious Goodwood.

## **3. Creating new business opportunities**

Initiatives include

- further developing relationships with key partners such as Chichester College, Chichester University, Chichester Chamber of Commerce, and the Great Sussex Way (Visit Chichester!)
- working with Chichester District Council's (CDC) Invest Chichester to develop a useful resource of relevant local information for those wanting to bring businesses into the area and to this end, the BID is developing a live shop vacancy report with links to relevant agents and site details
- plans to showcase local art in void shop spaces
- identifying a new supplier of footfall information in the city centre segmented by street with additional information on dwell time, visitor frequency, catchment areas and demographic profile
- working with the Economic Development team at CDC to support the independent retailers in the city through such things as the Shopappy initiative and BID's virtual directory of local independent shops.

# AGENDA ITEM 10

## Report to City Council updating on County Council activities - by Sarah Sharp

**Westhampnett** The Recycling Centre at Westhampnett has changed to summer opening hours and is now open every day 9-6 pm.

**Oving Road** A first-round consultation has been held on increasing sustainable travel links in the Oving Road area. More detailed plans will be put together and a further consultation held in the summer.

**Education** A full consultation on the draft strategy for Education and Skills will also run in the summer.

**Food waste** As WSCC prepares for mandatory foodwaste collection, to help bring down foodwaste there are reduced price composters available here <https://getcomposting.com/> or phone 0844 571 4444.

**Bognor Road Crossing** Progress on the support for a pedestrian crossing on Bognor Road is slow. The Area Highways manager has put together some sketches which hopefully will be drawn up as proper designs by the autumn of this year.

**A286 Speed limit** Apuldram Parish Council is keen to reduce the speed from 50 to 40 mph on the A286 near the tight bends near the Cider House Restaurant, on the way between Chichester and the beach, marina etc. The accident statistics on this road are very high and there have been several fatalities. If you are able to support this petition, it could really help to save a life:

<https://chnng.it/ScfCbdKT>

**Men's Shed** The Men's Shed is keen to find a home that they can run independently in line with UK Men's Shed Association rules. If you can help find a home, they are very open to suggestions.

**Buses** The County Council is keen to hear your views on our local buses. Please have your say here: <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/westsusbus/brainstormers/ideazone-creating-the-best-bus-service/ideas/new>

**Road line repainting** The County has agreed to re-do some faded lines at junctions in Chichester South. It is worth recording faded line problems here: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/faded-lines-or-damaged-signs/>

**Newsletters** There are a lot of newsletters on different topics that the County Council has responsibility for. You can sign up if you are interested in schools, highways, caring, advice for farmers, alerts for food businesses, libraries, climate change, Sussex police and crime panel, public health, getting out and about, community safety... The link to sign up is:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWSCC/subscriber/topics>

**Bus Shelter Bognor Road** – discussions are still ongoing with West Sussex County Council

**Covid Memorial** There will be a Covid Memorial event in Chichester Festival Theatre on 13<sup>th</sup> May 10.30 to 2 pm. If interested, please register with [karen.pirks@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:karen.pirks@westsussex.gov.uk) or phone 0330 2228988. There will be a display of Forget me Nots and a book of memories and reflections to help the friends and relatives of the 21,000 people who passed away during the pandemic in West Sussex, some of whom couldn't hold full funerals due to the Covid rules.

# AGENDA ITEM 10

**Speed Limits** - A group is working on reviewing the speed limit policy over the summer

**Community Highways Scheme** - work is also being done on reviewing the way this scheme works.

**Road Safety** a Task and Finish group is also working on this over the next two years