

ATTENDEES

| Name | Initial | Position |
|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Andrew Fuller | AF | Chair, Independent, voting |
| Charlotte Whitaker | CW | Manager, non-voting |
| Emily Ayres | EA | MVDC representative, observer, non-voting |
| Geoff Evans | GE | Leisure and Tourism, voting |
| Nick Boot | NB | Office, voting |
| Clayton Wellman | CWn | Councillor, voting |
| Stephen Cooksey | SC | Councillor, voting |
| Rick Parish | RP | Independent, voting |
| Basil Doha | BD | Retail, Independent |
| Teresa Weller | TW | Retail service provider |
| Roger Jones | RJ | Leisure and Tourism |

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| | Item 1 – Welcome and Introduction |
| 1.1 | AF opened the meeting. No apologies noted. |
| 2. | Item 2 – Approval of Minutes of previous meeting and AGM. |
| 2.1 | The minutes of the previous meeting in March were approved. |
| 3. | Item 3 – BID Update |
| 3.1 | <p>CW provided an update on current projects and activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a meeting regarding the yellow box junctions, which Zena Curry will be asked to attend. To A paper of evidence is currently being drafted present at the meeting. • The late-night economy was discussed covering whether there is evidence of appetite for it in Dorking and if so that it can be provided in a safe and well organised way. A survey will be run through social media to gauge people's interest, which should cover both those living inside and outside the area due to the range of followers. This will ensure a range of responses are received. Also raised were the merits of using an outside organisation to support the late opening of venues in town. Initiatives being considered are best Bar None and Purple Flag. • Visit Dorking website – a report was provided to the board giving two options for the changes to be made to the Visit Dorking and Dorking Town Partnership websites. Option 1 - editing each website until each looked as required. Option 2 - create two sister websites similar in look and feel. Each option was tabled with option 2 being the preferred choice. Vote for option 2 – For: 11 Against: 0 • The recent promotional video for Dorking was well received. • A discussion was held around the Mayflower events planned for Dorking to take into consideration sensitivities around the history of the events. The BID will liaise with partners also running events to ensure that this is handled sympathetically. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South House development – at the previous board meeting a presentation was given on the regeneration of South House in South Street, the main issue raised was parking. It has been suggested a condition of the planning permission could be that the developers provide a shuttle bus within the town. It is possible that the cost of this could be more than one developer could provide but this will be investigated further. |
| | Item 4 – MVDC Updates |
| 4.1 | <p>Update given by CWn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants – The restart grants will have a two-tier system with hospitality and leisure receiving a higher bracket of funding than retail. Businesses wanting to claim under the hospitality and leisure tier will have to show clear evidence that they fall within this bracket and if they can this would be awarded. Information has been received there will be changes to the rules in relation to Discretionary Grants and this is currently being reviewed so the new rules can be understood. For those businesses affected by these changes MVDC will review how additional help can be given. The Skills Hub has its soft launch on 12.04.2021 with plans for a physical location in the future. Referrals are currently through the Job Centre. Car parks – there will be an update on the upgrades to the car parks on 20.04.21. Welcome Back campaign – this is a government initiative being launched to support tourism, improve green spaces and provide more outdoor seating areas, markets and food stall pop-ups – giving people more safer options to reunite with friends and relatives. MVDC awaits guidance on spending. Signage for reopening will be supplied. Free after Three – Free parking after 3pm on Fridays will resume on 17th May. |
| | Item 5 – AOB |
| 5.1 | <p>AOB</p> <p>The matter of West Street being closed and made pedestrian only for a specific Saturday to encourage footfall into the town was discussed. It was generally agreed that it was not the right time for this to occur due to the disruption to the town, vehicles and residents and as it was focused on a specific area rather than the town as a whole.</p> <p>The vacancy for the BID Assistant Manager role was discussed. Four applications have currently been received and are being reviewed for suitability. Further advertising will appear in Reach publications who are responsible for the Dorking Advertiser and Surrey Life.</p> <p>Meeting closed.</p> |
| | THE DATE OF NEXT MEETING IS THE 11TH MAY 2021. |