



**HULL CITY CENTRE BID – PUBLIC MEETING  
HELD IN THE MORTIMER SUITE, HULL CITY HALL ON  
TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007 AT 6.00PM**

**PRESENT**

**BID Directors present:**

Mike Killoran	Chair of the BID Board and Manager of Princes Quay
Ian Kelly	Chief Executive of the Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Andy Sloan	Hull City Council
Rob Nicklas	Thearne Pet Stores
Steven Marsay	Debenhams
Jo Barnes	Hull Citybuild
Steve Tradewell	True Budget Accommodation

**In attendance**

Ken Baldwin	Hull City Centre BID Manager
Inspector Andy Foster	Humberstone Police
John Marshall MBE	Goodwin Centre

Circa 40 BID levy payers were also in attendance.

**PRESENTATION**

The Chairman introduced the meeting then asked Ken Baldwin to give a presentation.

Ken Baldwin gave a detailed presentation on the BID's first 100 days. He also noted that there had been some confusion over the number of votes cast by certain hereditaments (rate paying property owners) in the city centre which he clarified as;

Princes Quay had 9 votes not 100  
Prospect Centre had 1 vote not 30  
Hammonds had 1 vote not 30  
Hull City Council had 116 votes not 120  
Hull College had 5 votes not 80  
Queens Gardens Police Station had 1 vote not 50  
The Deep had 8 votes not 30

It was also highlighted that all of the voting was handled independently by the Electoral Reform Service in London.

**INTRODUCTIONS AND QUESTIONS**

The BID Board of Directors then introduced themselves to levy payers and the Chairman, Mike Killoran, asked if anyone had any questions on Ken's presentation about the BID. The following questions were raised:

- i) Dave Green of Alans Fruiter's asked - How much was the management costs?

Ken Baldwin replied - What was said in the business plan – the BID was voted in on management costs of circa £100k.

Dave Green, Alan's Fruiter's further asked - Who will the management costs be paid to?

Ian Kelly replied - The Chamber was the accountable body/host organisation responsible for administration and management. He noted that three members of staff were currently on the books and were being paid at the 'going market rate' for their jobs. He also noted that at the end of the financial year each BID levy payer will be entitled to a full set of audited accounts, and at future meetings levy payers will be able to ask any questions as desired.

- ii) George Tamboras, The Omelette noted and asked - Cleaning, it was excellent, he had graffiti near to his restaurant, he rang up and it had now been painted over. He also noted that in the presentation Ken had said that the Christmas market was not as good as he would have liked. Mr Tamboras felt the French market that had previously been held in Hull was very successful, he thought that if it had been along those lines it would have been quite good. The only thing that he was concerned about was the beer being served.

Mr Tamboras also felt the Ambassadors were very visible, he had called them in to his restaurant on a number of occasions where they had helped him escort people off the premises. He suggested "don't give up on the markets – have you any others planned?"

Ken Baldwin replied – that the BID went with a German company to do a German market, they had had problems with the language and unfortunately as they didn't get the BID until October they couldn't get them on board until November. A lot of the high quality marketeers had already been signed up for other cities by that stage. From the BID point of view Ken was himself disappointed. The BID was told that there would be 40 stalls and there was only 15 so that was also disappointing. Ken was happy to hold his hand up and say "we got it wrong" but the BID still intended to look at doing other Christmas Festivals and markets.

- iii) Ted Johnson, Johnson Butchers questioned - By definition he noted a Business Improvement District was to improve Business in the District, so why were the views of the levy payers not taken into account? He felt that nobody had any objection to markets per se, it was the siting of them, and the siting was actually detrimental to the traders. Siting was however detrimental to the trade of the shops of people who were paying the levy, why couldn't their views be taken into account?

Ken Baldwin replied – that he was willing to take that view into account and that he would send a new questionnaire out to every levy paying business to get their latest views.

Ted Johnson, Johnson Butchers also asked - The BID was going to have a programme of events; the BID was also going to have stalls, where did this idea come from? Doesn't the wishes of the levy payers come into these decisions and didn't the BID need to find out what they wanted?

Ken Baldwin replied - The BID was looking to put a series of events that were festival related across the City Centre, that's why he had mentioned the motor show, this was all based on questionnaires that the BID had sent out originally and their feedback on marketing and events.

- iv) Anthony Ketley, Kathmandu noted and asked – That he had been in the City Centre for 16 years, markets were in his view directly detrimental to the independent sole traders, when the French market came it was selling directly in competition with himself. He felt all of these events that the BID were putting on in the City Centre were taking money out of the city. Everything sold at the markets had no sell by dates, no ingredients dates, everything was written in foreign information, cheese was displayed without proper refrigeration. Were the rules for these people different to the rules that local people had to adhere to i.e. trading standards, environmental health?
- v) Mr Cobley noted and asked – That he had been in the City Centre for 25 years as a food trader. Why should they pay for two police and cleaning teams? We've now got the BID Rapid Response Team and the Council's own cleaning team. This morning outside his shop there was sick everywhere, so he asked Rob Nicklas to get it sorted out, he said he wasn't sure whether the BID had a cleaning team yet so he rang 300300 and they came within quarter of an hour and cleaned it up – so why did he have to pay twice for the same thing?

Ken Baldwin replied - The BID Rapid Response Team was not yet in operation, as regards that morning, Ken was delighted that the Council had turned up so quickly, but much of Hull City Centre had longstanding graffiti and the likes in the City Centre for many months on end and sometimes years on end. It had never been touched, the BID was trying to add to the current service and clean it off in a systematic, rapid and consistent way as well as have a longer programme of dedicated cleaning.

The Chairman Mike Killoran noted that - The BID was to give added value services.

- vi) James Larvin, Hull Cheese asked - Everything that the BID had said was the Council's responsibility, so why did levy payers pay rates, why pay council tax when they don't do anything? They evidently can't be bothered, so why are they paying extra to do these things that the Council should be doing?

Mike Killoran the BID Chairman replied - The BID was to give added value to existing services and that it would generate £1 million for each year (5 years) to respond to BID levy payers specific requests.

- vii) John Cheetham, Accountants noted and asked – That he wanted to congratulate the BID Board despite the aggressive approach of some, he felt it was an encouraging start, obviously some of the people at the meeting disagreed with that but as far as he was concerned it was a very encouraging start. Mr Cheetham wished the BID every success for the future. At one of the other meetings he mentioned very strongly about policing – if the rest of the town centre was not secure the rest of the initiatives don't matter, this is a top priority.

Insp Andy Foster, Humberside Police replied - Mr Cheetham was making a good point, the Police had been doing some work for the past few years to ensure that Operation's like Borneo, which had brought in about £41k of extra policing into the City Centre tackled that.

A brief update of crime statistics was given from PC Alan Cowley (PC for the City Centre):

150 arrests  
66 Fixed Penalty Notices issued  
100's of alcohol seizures  
ASBO's, one individual given 6 months, another given 2 months and awaiting trial and another given 13 months.

Hugh Rice, Hugh Rice Jewellers noted and asked – That he had had first hand experience with the Anti Social Behaviour team and they've been excellent, their

response had been immediate. Was it correct that the BID was scrapping the Chamber of Trade and when will the empty window signage be up and running?

Ken Baldwin replied - The Chamber of Trade had run its course, so a Retail Forum within the BID would be created.

The Empty Window signage would be up and running in the next few months.

Dave Green, Alan's Fruiter's asked - Has Operation Borneo finished now?

Insp Andy Foster, Humberside Police replied - It was due to finish in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February.

Dave Green, Alan's Fruiter's noted and asked - About Al Cowley – yes he was a fantastic officer, but he was the only officer in the town centre at the moment. With Ian Bough coming over to the BID – what was going to happen to the HCRCP, it had been running for 3 years, will it still run?

Ken Baldwin replied – It will still continue.

Ian Kelly, Chamber of Commerce noted – The BID Board had had the most robust of discussions regarding policing; the BID wanted Andy Foster and his team to succeed. Rob Nicklas had been very vocal on behalf of independent traders in his discussions with the Humberside Police and Divisional Commander Sean White over of the newly reorganised policing structures.

Cllr Andy Sloan, Hull City Council noted - Most of the councillors in the area were unhappy with the base level of policing that existed in the City, levy payers could go to the Council website and watch the Council meetings where this was discussed almost every month. Ian Kelly was correct in saying that the additional resource that will come out of the BID will be additional resource over the base levels.

John Marshall, Goodwin Centre highlighted - The Ambassador Service was set up as a pilot scheme about 12 months ago by the Goodwin Trust to demonstrate to City Centre businesses what could be achieved with an Ambassador scheme. They were not set up to be a security firm, however they were there to assist, they were a physical presence in the city centre to deal with a lot of low level Anti Social Behaviour i.e. street drinking and drug taking.

Mike Killoran, Chairman noted - The wishes of the 1472 levy payers of the city was paramount and Ken would therefore send a new questionnaire out to see if they all wanted markets or not, he noted traders needed to work together, "we are here to work as a team". There's no point in us fighting each other, the BID wanted all of the levy payers expertise fed into the BID to make the City Centre a bigger and better place.

Ted Johnson, Johnson Butchers asked - four of the proposed events were supposed to increase footfall and increase trade, did the BID Board have discussions on how to go forward, could this discussion include the levy payers?

Mike Killoran, Chairman noted - The BID would love to hear from all the levy payers and that why they were here tonight to give all levy payers a voice.

Ted Johnson, Johnson Butchers stated - The concept was sold that the businesses would have a say in the regeneration of the City Centre, the reality was the businesses don't have a say, the Board had a say and they were not taking into account the wishes of the levy payers.

Mike Killoran, Chairman replied - This is a democracy, the BID wanted to work with everyone and the BID had taken on board what everyone was saying, but it was a

two way partnership, the BID needed levy payers to come to them with their thoughts and suggestions and the BID would deal with them as best they could.

Cllr Andy Sloan, Hull City Council noted - As the one person on the top table who was elected he could understand what was being said. Clearly we [the BID] are going to get it wrong sometimes and Ken had openly admitted he didn't get it right with the Christmas market, the BID was going to be a learning curve. Some things were going to work well, something's were not going to please all the people, somethings will work maybe the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> time, but in addition to that he had heard what Ted Johnston was saying about the interaction between levy payers and the BID Board and again this was another learning process. The BID itself as an organisation was only 3 or 4 months old and it would learn from experience, his question would be the transparency of the Board in the future.

Bob Carver, Bob Carver's Fish & Chips highlighted - The market was a big problem. It wasn't a disaster to everybody but the businesses who were adjacent to it didn't benefit from it at all. The markets that were in the market had been there for hundreds of years, they were kicked off there 17 years ago by Hull City Council why can't they have it back there in front of Holy Trinity Church?

Mike Killoran, Chairman noted – Ken was working on that.

Colin Brown, The Deep said - Also as a member of the Yorkshire Tourist Board, I have to say that Lincoln, York, Leeds and Sheffield would love to hear this today. The fact is that the battle for the future of this city would be fought in the City Centre. It will either become a centre for culture, for successful retail, for recreation, or it will be driven down by crime and graffiti and all of the other problems. I think that you guys have taken on a very difficult job, good luck to you – you'll have my full support and I'll give you more than 100 days to prove that you can do it.

Hugh Rice, Hugh Rice Jewellers asked - This is the beginning and can we just talk about the positives for a change instead of the negatives. It is the first meeting, let's give the BID a few more days than 100. I think that we can only go forward because we have got to compete with the like of Leeds, Beverley, Sheffield and the rest. If we don't make it an attractive venue for people to come to – they won't.

Dave Green, Alan's Fruiter's asked - The ballot paper was a green piece of paper with a Yes / No vote. The piece of paper that he got had to tick either Yes or No. Did that come from the ERS?

Kevin Priestley, Hull City Council reported - The ERS were contracted to deliver the ballot and they were the people who sent out the ballot papers. The prospectus was with it. All of the documentation that went out with the ballot paper was verified and checked by the ERS before they posted it out, they checked everything, they are very familiar with doing BIDs.

Ian Kelly, Chamber of Commerce noted – Essentially a group of business people wanted a BID and they ran a campaign and won a BID. They had run the campaign for 12 months, it was in the Hull Daily Mail day after day for weeks and no opposition was evident. They as a group of business people had rolled their sleeves up to improve this City Centre and that is what they intended to do.

Paul Featherby, Duncan's Gunmakers stated - The way the prospectus was phrased, the way the prospectus was presented, Vote Yes, it was biased. He was not asking if it was legal or not, he was sure it was. Ken and Rob Nicklas will remember coming into our shop, we were totally against the BID and are still totally against it. What we've heard tonight are words, but the one thing that these two gentlemen said in front of witnesses was when we said we would not be supporting the BID, these two gentlemen said if you don't vote for us we won't listen to you!

Ken Baldwin replied – Frankly, that’s absolute nonsense.

The Chairman, Mike Killoran noted that at 7.45pm it was time to conclude the meeting. Everyone had been involved in a very robust debate, he highlighted that the Board would take on board all the views registered but he did urge all levy payers to contribute constructively for the benefit of the city.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.