



MEETING WITH THE PROSPECT AND GEORGIAN TRADERS ON 8 MARCH 2007
THE OMELETTE, ALBION STREET, HULL

PRESENT

Ken Baldwin	Hull City Centre BID
Sarah Jackson	Hull City Centre BID
Victoria Jackson	Kingston Recruitment Ltd
Amanda Austin	Prospect Centre

Businesses in attendance:

Fairtrade Shop
159 Café Bar
Cheetham Allen Accountants
Silver Cross
The Omelette

Items of importance that arose at the meeting:

- 1. Ambassadors**
- 2. Cleaning and Maintenance**
- 3. Marketing**
- 4. Evening Economy**
- 5. Transport Strategy for the City Centre**
- 6. Empty Unit Management**
- 7. Christmas 2007**
- 8. BID sub committees**
- 9. Website**
- 10. Methadone Clinic**

1. The businesses were asked if there was anything that they would like the Ambassadors to do for them?
George Tamboras of the Omelette mentioned that when he had had some youths messing about in his car park, he had contacted the Ambassadors, who had turned up and got rid of the youths; they were much quicker than the police. It is the re-assuring sight of the Ambassadors that is bringing more people into the city centre.

2. There has been a 25% increase in graffiti in the city centre in the last 6 months. The BID have appointed a cleaning contractor for the new town area of the city centre, and since they started work on the 12th February 2007 they have been concentrating on the removal of graffiti and chewing gum from the pedestrianised areas in the city centre.

They work on a continuous circle of areas, so this means that at least every four weeks the new town areas will get cleaned.

The Old Town cleaning team starts mid April, there will be 2 teams of 4 that will straighten pavers, paint bollards and clear graffiti and chewing gum.

A Rapid Response Telephone number will be forwarded to the businesses in the March newsletter in case there has been an overnight problem that needs urgently sorting.

3. The BID's marketing calendar (working in conjunction with the events team from Hull City Council) officially starts in May 2007. Our major event for the year is a Global Food Festival which is taking place on the 23rd – 25th August 2007; we are trying to get as many of the food retailers in the city centre taking part in it as possible.

George Tamboras suggested that we could try to make the world's largest omelette, using eggs supplied by local producers. The events that we put on this year, we are looking to make them sustainable and be able to grow them year on year.

To establish how many people are using the city centre we have commissioned a national company to come and install initially four footfall counters at key locations initially throughout the city centre. These counters provide up to the minute info of how many people have passed through our city centre.

Lamppost banners will shortly be hung from 150 lampposts throughout the city centre, and 300 will be hung on the lampposts of the arterial roads coming into the city centre, except the A63 which is Highways Authority. Primarily they will be advertising Wilberforce and there will be approx 50 in the city centre with the 3 crowns logo, these banners we can change for when we have an event on to advertise it. Next year we may even look at sponsorship of some of the banners.

4. Evening Economy – the street marshals that operate on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday night are only funded until the end of March 07, the businesses think that we need some sort of marshal presence in the city centre on a night, alternatively taxi marshals to help get people in and out of the city centre. The BID is working with the Police and Sean White to try to resolve this.

5. The council are currently looking at a full transport strategy, the BID want to be involved in all discussions e.g. car parking, car parks staying open later, car parks being illuminated, this way we can lobby and say if we are not happy with the strategy and look at other proposals. It was mentioned that due to the traffic problems in the city centre potential shoppers go into Beverley rather than shopping in Hull, it's going to be difficult breaking the habits of these people to shop elsewhere. Also it was mentioned that people who are travelling through the city who are unfamiliar with it, it is a nightmare to navigate due to the bus lanes etc.

159 Café Bar on Storey St asked when the bus stop outside of their premises was going to be moved as the type of people who use it are rude and abusive, they stand 2 or 3 deep in front of the door to the café, they also drop their cigarette butts all over the front of the premises. It was mentioned that the location of the bus stop could be a safety issue to being so close to where people cross the road. The speed at which the buses drive down Storey Street was also raised.

Ken said that he would contact the Council to find out when the bus stop would be removed.

The new transport interchange will affect how the buses come into and around the City Centre. We are waiting to see the plans to see how it works and affects the businesses. The BID has also seen the proposed five year signage strategy from the council which if it comes off will be great.

It was asked if there was any likelihood that Prospect Street could be pedestrianised?

The BID confirmed that they had been talking to a company who wants to support pedestrianisation of Prospect St up to Albion St and Jameson St up to Bond St.

It was mentioned that for some shops especially the Fair Trade Shop in Waltham Street, access would be difficult for their customers.

Ken Baldwin explained that if it happened we could look at putting a road into Waltham Street at the back, but at the minute this is not even on the council Richter scale. By pedestrianising this area it would help Prospect St and Savile St. The biggest block to this proposal would be from the bus operators. It would most certainly help to strengthen the Prospect Area, also the regeneration of Albion Square.

6. Empty Unit Management – the BID are working with Citybuild to cover the windows of empty retail units with montages of pictures of places of interest in the city centre. We are going to be contacting the landlords / owners of the properties and asking if we can get access to hang these montages inside of the windows, whilst we are there we will clean and paint around the mullions of the windows. This is going to be trial run down Whitefriargate.

It was asked what was going to happen to the old Wilkinson's building; apparently Wilkinsons are still paying rent on it. One of the businesses had heard a rumour saying that Iceland were going to take it over?

7. Christmas 2007 must be the best Christmas that Hull has had for a long time, we have been in discussion with a company who can supply an observation wheel to come into the city centre (a smaller version of the London Eye), we are looking at putting this down Princes Dock Side so that you will be able to see views all over the City Centre, Marina and River Humber from it. We looked at the possibility of putting an ice rink in Trinity Square, but it was too expensive and there were other issues against it. Whatever we do we need to attract our own people into the city centre, we are looking at bringing in Carol Singers, musicians, bell ringers, stilt walkers, magicians, possible a quality carousel, whatever we do we don't want tacky it has to be quality.

It was pointed out that there used to be a Christmas event around Holy Trinity that included charities, this was very well attended.

8. The BID asked the businesses who attended what they wanted the BID to help them with: Better cleaning, better access and more customers.
9. We were asked how many sub-committees the BID had? We are in the process of setting up a Retail Committee. We would like to see a team of retailers running the committee to take the city centre forward. We may then look at a sub-committee for restaurants / hotels. It was suggested that we need to start a sub-committee for events e.g. street art, people can then be co-opted onto the committee.
10. The BID are in the process of commissioning a Visit Hull Centre website, this will show all of the businesses in the city centre and have links their websites (if they have one). The Hull BID website will be regularly updated with the minutes from all of the meetings.
11. Concerns were raised regarding the methadone clinic in Boots, Prospect Centre; a couple of the businesses had experienced problems with the drug users most especially around the 'top up' time. Hull BID explained that we were in discussions with Boots at present to try and get the location changed. It was asked, if the businesses where against this in the future would the BID push it, the answer was Yes.