

BID Presentations Q&A points

Burnside Hotel 12.01.2012	Question	Answer
Q1	Is there a Danger of people/businesses stopping their community activities if a BID is in place	<p><u>David Wathen</u> (Chairman, Skipton BID Board): A BID Board doesn't deal with any projects which are the responsibility of the Local Authority; this is to ensure that BID funds go to support projects in the community. To ensure this in Skipton, the BID Chairman meets monthly with the CEOs of the Local Authorities.</p> <p>Under national legislation, any BID is a Limited Company with a Board of Directors elected from and by local business people and often (as in Skipton) an independent Chair. As a Ltd. Company the Board is accountable under national legislation for its activities, accountability and transparency. Skipton BID will only pay out on agreed projects against third party invoices claimed within 60 days of the completion of the project.</p> <p><u>Barry Butler</u>: the Windermere & Bowness BID Steering Group has written agreements with CCC; SLDC and Town Council as to their respective base line services – these agreements would be handed on to a future BID Board.</p>
Q2	Under a BID is there any control over the type of businesses coming into empty properties on the High Streets	<u>Barry Butler</u> : a BID would have no control – just as the local authority has no control.
Q3	Would the BID levy be applied to Charity shops?	<u>Barry Butler</u> : Yes. Non-profit making Charities (eg. Schools, Police Stations Fire Stations etc) would be exempt
Q4	How many BIDs are there and is it important they have repeat terms?	<p><u>Adrian Faulkner</u>: there are 190 BIDs in the UK, 10% are in their second term and some in a third and there are several (local) areas considering BID proposals.</p> <p><u>David Wathen</u>: the success of any BID depends on the enthusiasm and ability of the BID Board and the town itself to maintain a vision of the attractiveness of the town and its environment to visitors to ensure they want to return. Concerning the Windermere & Bowness BID if the Vote is Yes then it will be the first BID in SLDC area and other areas are already considering BIDs.</p>
Q5	Would there be a conflict for a BID dealing with Windermere and Bowness – which are two distinct communities	<u>Adrian Faulkner</u> : the BID Board task is to deal fairly with all sectors of the LA23 area concerning the projects presented – and hopefully the members of the Board would come from across both communities; having an independent Chair is a clear benefit. A quick look at the 6 Project areas in the Budget shows that Marketing; Built Environment; Training are sectors reaching across the whole community.
Q6	How did Skipton decide to have an independent Chair?	<u>David Wathen</u> : when Board members came up for re-election (by rotation) the then Board wanted a somewhat different 'steer' and appointed him as independent Chair, having a vote at Board meetings but not at General meetings. David also interfaces on a monthly basis with the CEOs of the Local Authorities concerned with Skipton.

Q7	How do businesses 'but' into the Project sectors and how do Partners get involved	<u>David Wathen</u> : Any business in the BID area (or a partner wanting to work with the BID on a matched funding basis) must put a project proposal to the BID Board, which then considers the project's relevance to the BID Boards objectives.
Q8	Are the media present? After the first open BID meeting with business, some press reports were not particularly informative.	<u>Adrian Faulkner</u> : the Evening Mail is present tonight. In the Westmorland Gazette of 5 th January there was an informative article about the LA23 BID on p29 in the Business Sector. <u>Barry Butler</u> : it is important that people talk and explain about the BID with colleagues and other businesses
Q9	What is the size of Skipton BID levy?	<u>David Wathen</u> : £140,000 pa, collected by the local authority and allocated to budget sectors of the business plan; the projects coming out of the sectors is monitored for 'spend' – but if a budget sector is undersubscribed the monies may be re-allocated. Remember a BID is not a single 5 year project but should be considered an ongoing one gathering momentum as it develops. <u>Alan Katz</u> : In the light of that comment, the important of continuously talking to the (business) community, Local Authorities, Project Partners through the life of the BID has to be stressed.
Q10	The LA23 BID area is a large one, will a BID Board be able to give value to businesses on the fringe of the area?	<u>Barry Butler</u> : It is up to the BID Board to maximise the coverage and application of projects supported. The LA23 area has 800 businesses whose rateable value is £3000 or over; and businesses of rateable value of £2999 or less have been taken out of the equation by the Steering Group.
Q11	In Skipton do projects repeat yearly or just roll on? What kind of project(s) is joint funded?	<u>David Wathen</u> : the Festivals supported are either yearly or bi- annual, whilst other projects are of a fixed or agreed term. Some projects may be either joint-funded or match-funded (eg Marketing projects); the Puppet festival is joint funded by the BID Board, local authority, Arts Council etc
Q12	What projects are currently suggested by the BID Steering Group? What kind of organisation or group might propose a project to the BID Board?	<u>Barry Butler</u> : Suggesting projects is not the Steering Group's responsibility, but that of the BID Board. In talks and presentations, the Steering Group may have referred to say the <i>Christmas Lights Committee</i> &/or the <i>Windermere in Bloom Committee</i> , or organisers of say a <i>Street Market</i> &/or <i>Christmas Market</i> as being examples of bodies which might make a funding application to a BID Board (after one is formed)
Q13	How are proposed projects assessed?	<u>David Wathen</u> : by considering against the policies of the BID Board
Q14	What is the amount of the LA23 levy and how is it collected?	<u>Adrian Faulkner</u> : the proposed levy is 1% of rateable level and is set for 5 years; this equates to £153,000 pa [£765,000 over the life of the BID]. The levy is collected by SLDC (who also follow up the none or late payers) and hold (ring fence) the money until the BID Board call it down to the Board's Bank account. SLDC will make a charge (4.8% or £6740pa) to the Board – the level of this charge is in line with that paid by other BIDs in the country.
Q15	Who calls the Ballot? When does it close?	<u>Adrian Faulkner</u> : by statute, SLDC calls the Ballot and has authorised the Electoral Reform Society to conduct the Ballot. Voting papers went out on the 3 rd January 2012 to the LA23

cont Q15	Does the ballot procedure act against a possible imbalance between small and large businesses?	<p>business rate payers on the basis of one business one vote. The closing date is 5.00pm on 31st January 2012 – any votes received after that time and date will not count; SLDC will be notified of the result within 1 or 2 working days after the Ballot closed.</p> <p>Statutory legislation states 5% of the businesses must vote for the Ballot to be legal and to date over 7% have voted; the legislation also states that of the businesses voting 50% of the businesses voting and 50% of the rateable value voting must be in favour of the BID for it to be accepted.</p> <p>If the vote is YES, then as it is a democratic vote all qualifying LA23 businesses pay the levy.</p>
Q16	How is the Board selected?	<p>The Steering Group will notify businesses in the LA23 area of the outcome of the Ballot; if it is a YES vote the result letter will also contain a form to nominate a candidate for the Board, details on the form would include: who they are, business they are from, a brief note of what expertise they would bring to the Board (such details would form the basis of a pen-portrait for say Board details on a BID website) .</p> <p>If 8 candidates or less are nominated (under the BID Steering Group proposals) they would be appointed; if 9 or more candidates are nominated then there would be an election – again on a one business one vote basis.</p> <p><u>Adrian Faulkner</u>: once the Ballot result is known, the BID Steering Group stands down – but with a YES Vote the Steering Group’s last duty before standing down is to see through process of nominations to and the election of the BID Board.</p>
Q17	The levy is set on Rateable Value for a 5 year period?	<p><u>Barry Butler</u>: Yes. It must be pointed out that there is a national revision of business rateable values as at 1st April 2013 but this will not come into effect until 1st April 2012.</p> <p><u>Tony Blaney</u>: commented his business RV would see the guest-house paying a levy of £150 pa and he sees this as a very acceptable cost to access all the leverage a BID would bring to the LA23 area – particularly when compared to his current marketing costs.</p>
Q18	Which is the nearby BID which failed to get a second term that David Wathen referred to?	<p><u>Barry Butler</u>: Keswick was one of the earliest BIDS in the country and had a steep learning curve – which resulted in failing to get a YES vote for a second BID. Keswick allocated monies very stringently in their first BID – some on project(s) which could not be completed within the time frame and also had paid facilitators in the initial year. Latest news is Keswick are now reforming a BID Steering Group.</p>
		<p><u>Comment from the Floor</u>: the LA23 BID Steering Group are to be congratulated for all the hard work and effort put in to taking the BOD proposal forward to the point of the Ballot now being ongoing.</p>