

22ND December 2011

Time to make views known

The business community of Windermere and Bowness has just been notified of an official ballot to validate a Windermere and Bowness Business Improvement District (BID).

This will incorporate all the businesses within the LA23 postcode area.

The vote will be taking place from January 3 until the final day of the ballot on January 31.

All business ratepayers within this area, having a rateable value of £3,000 and over, have one vote each to say whether they want a BID or not.

The BID will involve raising a one per cent levy on the rateable values of all those businesses.

This would amount to approximately £150,000 each year for five years.

This would be administered by the BID board made from business

rate payers to the betterment of local businesses.

Please read the literature sent to you and check the Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade's web site (<http://www.wbcoft.org.uk/BID.htm>) for full information.

There will be a public meeting on January 12, 2012, at the Burnside Hotel at Bowness-on-Windermere, where questions can be raised and answered.

The formation of a BID has been worked on for over three years now.

The Windermere and Bowness Chamber of Trade BID Steering Group has been working hard to bring the vote to a head, so that we can begin to benefit from this initiative.

I would like to thank our secretary and the committee for their hard work so far.

The time is here, the business community must decide whether to vote for this or against it.

The current financial climate is extremely poor, but we have to ask ourselves who is going to help us if not ourselves?

We already have an early casualty, in the cancelled Windermere Air Festival. Perhaps this is the way to improve our situation and come out fighting, rather than sinking into oblivion.

**Simon Everett
Chairman, Windermere &
Bowness Chamber of
Trade BID Steering Group**