

Update by Email only to all BID Board Members 30/04/2020

1) it has been agreed that the levy bills will go to businesses on the 11th of May. I have requested, as a means of separation, that those businesses with an RV of 10 and under (app 350 hereditaments) will get the 'pay later if you want' letter and all others will get the other normal letter explaining why we have sent them. This has made it easier for SLDC to extract the data needed.

2)The first business idea telephone conference took place on Monday and we had 24 businesses in attendance. There were some good ideas and some of the usual, it was great to see some new faces. The second cohort will take place a week on Monday. The Westmorland Gazette has been very supportive in gaining momentum for this with a front-page article and good website interaction. They will report on the first cohort. I also did an interview with radio Cumbria, all very positive.

3) Brian and I are building up the objectives from cohort one and have come up with some suggestions for the achievement of those objectives. They will be presented to the 2nd cohort and added to. If any business would like to attend the 2nd cohort meeting then please do get in touch, with thanks to Lynda and Adrian for their support. It would be good if this could be passed to your own networks (for example Nick any shops within the shopping centre that may want to attend?)

4) We are still waiting to see if SLDC will support BID and in what format that will take, whilst we wait for levy funds. A proposal from BID to SLDC has being sent.

5) SLDC is providing us with the 9k that was not collected due to the changes in systems, this would ensure that 100% collection rate was achieved (it is normally around 97%), this is appreciated.

6) I am trying to limit my days to 2 to 2.5 days instead of 3.2, but as per usual am normally available all the time! Please be aware though I am starting a new contract next week for 1 day a week, managing an Innovate UK project for an innovations technology business in Shropshire so may not be available immediately.