

## Board Meeting

16<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 2.30pm, Elgin BID Office & Zoom

In Attendance	Apologies
Gemma Cruickshank (GC) Tina Mainland (TM) Greg Robertson (GR) Laura Scott (LS) John Divers (JD) Stuart Huyton (SH) Mark Angus (MA) Stephen Young (SY) Derek Duncan (DD)	Katherine Mackintosh (KM) Natalie Shewan (NS) Ian Urquhart (IU)

Discussion: Last Meeting Note & Action Point Update	
The last meeting note and action update will be sent to Board after this meeting for any comments.	
Conclusions	
Action Points	Person Responsible

Discussion: Member Engagement	
GC highlighted to the Board we are still struggling to get members to engage. Attendance at Working Group meetings has fallen dramatically with only a couple of people attending. We have tried different times and days to get more attendance without success.	
A survey was put out in the bulletin asking what the best way would be for businesses to engage with us. There have only been five responses so far, with one to one meetings being the most popular option. GC told the Board she would prefer group meetings to allow for conversation and ideas to flow. GC asked the Board for their ideas, the Board agreed that going in to visit businesses would be the best option going forward.	
LS suggested having sector specific meetings so discussion around factors effecting those businesses can be had, GC and Board agreed this would be beneficial for businesses.	
Conclusions	
Member engagement continues to be low, GC will continue to visit businesses to engage with them. Sector specific meetings will be explored .	
Action Points	Person Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look in to holding sector specific meetings</li> </ul>	GC/TM

Discussion: Street Cleaning
<p><u>Street Cleans</u></p> <p>The street cleans of the city centre have started up again and will be occurring every fortnight. GR commented that there was a great difference of Blackfriars Road and the underpass after the last street clean. LS highlighted we should push to get more businesses to come along and help, we will post on the Closed Facebook Group on the run up to Thursday. GR suggested to encourage businesses to sweep their shopfronts as it will help to improve the look of the streets.</p>

Street Cleans of city centre up and running every fortnight. GR great difference, from street cleans. LS push to get more businesses to come along and help. GR encourage businesses to sweep shop fronts.

### Street Sweeper

While the street sweeper was broken, City Cleaning Services (CCS) were out litter picking which we have received positive feedback about from businesses.

The street sweeper has now been fixed and CCS have been out with it. They had fed back to GC that isn't as effective as manual litter picking as it picks up different material so they will go out two days a week with the sweeper and one day manually litter picking. LS commented that they are out regularly on Thunderton Place and it has made a good difference to the street.

MA asked for the route that the street sweeper does. INSERT ROUTE HERE. MA suggested to create a map that highlights the different day's routes which can be shared with the businesses so they know when their area will be getting cleaned.

MA also suggested to get a photo with CCS and the street sweeper to post on our social media as a good news story.

### **Conclusions**

#### Street Cleans

The street cleans of the city centre have started up again and have already made a difference. They will be taking place on a Thursday every fortnight.

#### Street Sweeper

While the street sweeper was broken, CCS were out manually litter picking which received very positive feedback from the businesses. The street sweeper is now fixed and will go out twice a week and CCS will manually litter pick one day a week.

#### **Action Points**

- Post photo of CCS and street sweeper on social media
- Create route map and share with businesses

#### **Person Responsible**

TM  
TM

### **Discussion: Vacant Properties**

New businesses will be opening up in the coming weeks, GC will give an update on the current vacant property rate at the next Board meeting. Elgin is however under the Scottish average for vacant retail properties which at last count was 16.4% (last count in Oct 21). MA suggested to post the rate on social media as a good news story.

The covid testing centre has now moved out from 30 High Street, JD suggested to contact Gary Templeton or Jim Grant to ask if the Moray Council have plans for the property or need help advertising it.

An issue with the remaining vacant properties on the Plainstones area is the very large advertising V-boards. Aberdeen Inspired have an agreement that on Union Street vacant properties can only have a flat advertising board and they paid for the boards to be changed. GC asked the Board for their opinion on putting this in place for the Plainstones area as they are quite unsightly. GR agreed that it was a good idea and suggested looking to get a bi-law put in place by Moray Council. MA suggested that instead of having flat boards to have window vinyls created and suggested to get a quote from Designed Elgin.

### **Conclusions**

With new businesses opening and current businesses expanding, Elgin's retail vacancy rate continues to be under the Scottish average.

For the remaining vacant properties, the large V-boards are quite unsightly, the Board agreed looking into options and costings for changing them as Aberdeen Inspired have done on Union Street.

#### **Action Points**

- Contact Jim Grant/Gary Templeton to ask if MC have plans for 30 High Street

#### **Person Responsible**

TM

## Discussion: AOCB

### Gulls

The sonic has been installed on the St Giles Centre roof and has had a good effect so far. Normally there are 30-40 nests on their roof but there have only been two so far. The roof next to the centre has also been positively effected as it has no nests and usually has quite a lot. GC will give a further update at the next Board meeting at the end of gull season.

### Planters

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May Threaplans will be dropping of the Plainstones and businesses hanging baskets and the flowers for the planters. SSE will be putting up the Plainstones hanging baskets as they have done in the past. The Positive Action Group will be helping out on the day with replanting the planters.

We will also have training on the water bowser with the Positive Action Group as they have volunteered to create a watering rota for during the summer. GR highlighted we will need to check that our Public Liability Insurance will cover others using the water bowser and the hanging baskets we have put up.

### Bunting

The bunting has arrived, GC has been in touch with the team in the Council that will be putting it up to come and see the bunting before they put it up. GC is waiting for the Council to confirm a date, has asked for the bunting to be put up before the Jubilee. GC and WD will go along on the day of installation to ensure they are put up correctly.

### Benches

The picnic benches were given a fresh coat of paint and are now back outside. GC had previously emailed the Board and has approval for five more benches to be made. Currently the cost will be around £800, this is an increase on last year due to the increase in timber costs. Providing costs do not rise much further we will get the new benches made in the better weather and aim to have out in July.

GR queried if Jordan MacDonald who was organising having the tree benches painted was still going ahead with the project and suggested if he is not that we take it on. GC will ask for an update from Jordan.

### Other Business

SY raised concerns with drunken school children on Friday afternoons who run around the shopping centre smashing bottles and being extremely anti-social. The Police are aware of the situation but more needs to be done. GC will raise these concerns with Police Scotland at the parking meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

GR asked if the fountain will be getting turned on, JD explained that it will not be due to the current pump that it has is not strong enough to constantly pump water to stop legionella bacteria from building up and a new one would costs thousands. GC has contacted Macduff Aquarium to find out if there are other options that can stop the legionella bacteria, GC is currently waiting to hear back from them. MA suggested contacting distilleries to find out what they have in place for their cold water stores.

## Conclusions

### Gulls

Sonic has been installed and has had positive effect. GC will give a further update at the next Board meeting at the end of gull season.

## Planters

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May the Plainstones hanging baskets, business hanging baskets will be getting delivered and the street planters will be replanted.

## Bunting

The bunting has arrived to the office, the Moray Council will be putting installing it.

## Benches

The picnic benches are back out. We will get five new benches created and put out by July.

GC will ask for an update from Jordan MacDonald on whether or not he is going ahead with painting the tree benches, if he is not we will take over the project.

## Other Business

There is extreme anti-social behaviour caused by drunk school children on Friday afternoons in the shopping centre and around the Plainstones. The Police are aware of the situation but there isn't a presence to deter them, GC will bring the issue to the Police at the parking meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

The fountain cannot be turned on due to the current pump not being strong enough to stop the build-up of legionella bacteria and a new pump would cost thousands. GC is looking to how the build-up of legionella bacteria can be stopped without the need of a new pump.

Action Points	Person Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Contact Towergate to enquire about Public Liability Insurance</li></ul>	TM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Contact Jordan MacDonald for update on tree benches project</li></ul>	GC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Talk to Police regarding anti-social behaviour from school children</li></ul>	GC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Contact distilleries to enquire about their process for stopping legionella bacteria</li></ul>	GC

**Next meeting date- 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

## **Action Point Summary 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Action Points 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2022		Update
<b>Member Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Look in to holding sector specific meetings</li></ul>	GC/TM	
<b>Street Cleaning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Post photo of CCS and street sweeper on social media</li><li>Create route map and share with businesses</li></ul>	TM TM	
<b>Vacant Properties</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Contact Jim Grant/Gary Templeton to ask if MC have plans for 30 High Street</li><li>Look in to options for changing V-boards on vacant properties</li></ul>	TM GC/TM	
<b>AOCB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Contact Towergate to enquire about Public Liability Insurance</li><li>Contact Jordan MacDonald for update on tree benches project</li></ul>	TM GC GC	TM emailed 18/5/22

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Talk to Police regarding anti-social behaviour from school children</li><li>• Contact distilleries to enquire about their process for stopping legionella bacteria</li></ul>	GC	
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