

BOARD MEETING NOTES & ACTIONS

In attendance: Steve Sawyer (MRBD Limited), Trevor Williams (Thales UK) (Chair), Michael Deacon-Jackson (FTD Johns), Cllr Peter Smith (Crawley Borough Council), Tim Rose (Elekta), Julie Kapsalis – via Zoom (Coast-to-Capital LEP/Chichester College Group), Paul Searle (P&H Motorcycles), Tony Maynard (CGG), Keith Pordum (BonCulina) (Vice-Chair), Markus Wood (Avensys), Cllr Bob Lanzer (WSSC), Clare Silva (MRBD Limited), Chris Oxlade (MRBD Limited).

Apologies: Marie Ovenden (WSSC), Nick Burrell (WSSC), Yvonne Taylor (PPL Insights), Clem Smith (Crawley Borough Council).

Meeting outcome		Action / outcomes
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Trevor Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked the Board to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held 18 June which was agreed.</p> <p>ACTION 01: Minutes from 18 June 21 were approved by the Board</p>	<p>Board approved the minutes from 18 June 2021 meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Finance latest</p> <p>Steve Sawyer advised the Board that although BID Levy collection has been more challenging over the pandemic, the finances are in good shape. The BID Levy income collected to date is £463,066 (83.42%). There is still £64,857 outstanding from 2019/20 2. Bad Debt provision and outstanding levy from 2019/20 is £146,577. This is not accounted for in our budget so if paid will have a direct and positive effect on the bottom line.</p> <p>Steve advised there have been no calls re-hardship from businesses so the normal process for debt collecting will continue.</p> <p>Trevor Williams asked what the revenue is looking like on the Digital Signs?</p> <p>Markus Wood advised that unfortunately lots of accounts were cancelled at the beginning of the pandemic as their renewal contracts coincided with the start of the pandemic, so income is not as predicted.</p> <p>ACTION 02: The Board approved the budget position</p>	<p>The Board approved the budget position</p>
3.	<p>Services and projects update (Item C, Section 2)</p> <p>Steve Sawyer gave an overview of the current services and projects that are underway and in the pipeline. To note a few:</p> <p>Microparks are progressing well. First four expected to be completed by the end of October.</p> <p>A new Manor Royal Website will be launched soon. Steve gave thanks to Michael Deacon-Jackson (FTD Johns) for his support and Chris at the BID office for managing the project.</p> <p>Superhub market test– 4 responses have been received from suppliers to date.</p> <p>A new Business Ranger has been recruited and is starting training next week.</p> <p>ACTION 03: The Board noted progress providing – no further comments.</p>	<p>The Board noted progress providing – no further comments.</p>

Water Neutrality –Steve gave an overview the Water Neutrality Statement issued by Natural England instructing for no more planning applications to be approved unless “water neutrality” can be proven as, in their words, “it cannot be concluded that the existing abstraction within Sussex North Water Supply Zone is not having an impact”. This has the possibility of making new development difficult.

Peter Smith gave further information about the root cause of this and how the water consumption in the area is affecting Pulborough Brooks.

Peter advised he is working with other local authorities to plan how to proceed. No plan has been given by Natural England so applications are being delayed.

Steve Sawyer highlighted that this is sending a message that you can’t develop on Manor Royal which we don’t want.

Steve went on to advise that the BID might need to lobby local MP. The Board would need to agree a statement and issue letter to MP. SS also suggested a similar letter to be issued to Crawley BC in order to better understand the position and discuss practical ways forward so that planning applications can be progressed.

Peter Smith highlighted the need to be sensitive to environmental issues, balanced with the business case.

Tim Rose mentioned that delays are likely to cause financial issues as materials increase in price. Might blow the budget out the window for any future development.

Peter Smith reassured the Board that Crawley Borough Council are doing all they can, and a public statement has been issued.

Gatwick Airport (Northern Runway):

Steve gave a brief overview and noted that MRBID has declined the opportunity to co-sign a letter of support from the “business” community in favour of making its own more balanced response expressing support in principle while highlighting concerns and shortcomings and taking the opportunity to express frustration at safeguarding.

Tim Rose advised that Elekta has also refused to sign as not comfortable. Support given in writing. Freight not going from Gatwick.

Steve Sawyer asked Julie how the LEP have responded? Julie advised the LEP have not signed and is happy to pick up offline with Steve.

Tim Rose advised he will brief Dee, Gatwick Diamond.

The BID will share back with the Board a statement position for feedback on the northern runway. Board in agreement.

Towns Fund

Steve gave an overview of the significant funding Manor Royal will soon benefit from for environmental / public realm improvements, broadband investment, investment in sustainability and potential investment in Fusion Innovation Centre

Peter Smith said “Thank you Steve for all the work you have done supporting the

The BID to share the BID’s statement position with the Board for feedback

	towns fund. Vital not only for Manor Royal but the town too. Steve returned the thanks to Peter.	
5.	Future meetings and AOB Clare Silva advised the Board that the next Board meeting 10 December will be taking place at the Sandman Hotel Shark Bar for both the formal meeting and a chance for a Christmas social. In addition, the Christmas Event will be taking place at Elekta. Clare thanked Tim Rose and the Elekta team for supporting this event. This will be taking place 8 December – invites to follow. Steve reminded the Board of the AGM and Manor Royal Matters taking place 10 November at Crawley Town FC. Please book to attend https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/162780287221	

All business having been completed the meeting was CLOSED at 12.00