

***Local businesses supporting each other and the town***

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Tuesday 4th June 2019 at 5:30pm**

**The White Hart Hotel, St Austell**

**Chair’s Report for Year Ending**

**31st March 2019**

Dear Members,

Following our last AGM we welcomed two new Directors to the Board. During the year we have seen a number of changes and hope to bring the Board back up to strength with nominations submitted. Your BID Board remain committed to delivering on the key BID themes, despite the ongoing pressures we face with the continued austerity impacting on the public services and policing.

**The Last Twelve Months**

After the last AGM John Kneller stepped down after five years as a BID Director and for the last three years as BID Chair, during which time his contribution and support were invaluable. At the following meeting the BID appointed myself Richard Hurst, Centre Manager White River Place and BID Director for nearly five years as Chair and Aaron Niles – Manager of Wetherspoons as Vice Chair.

The core aims and objectives remain the same as those outlined in the renewal document. As a BID we have continued to focus and build on the achievements of previous years, pushing out more marketing material, building on social media, delivering with various partners a number of events in the town.

Improving the attractiveness of the town through planting schemes developed over the last few seasons continued to deliver success. Having been nominated as a ‘2018 RHS In Bloom National Finalist’ we collected a Silver Guilt Award at the ceremony in Belfast.

Maintaining a safe and secure environment continues to feature prominently in the BID meetings. We continue to maintain close working relationships with the many agencies in and around the town through the Safer St Austell Group, Police and St Austell Town Council, in order to support management of the challenges faced. Additional security has again been implemented along with patrols in the town from other stakeholders.

**The Coming Twelve Months**

We will continue to develop the programs already in operation, we will build upon the relationships that have been forged. Continuing to work collaboratively with other groups, in particular SABEF and its Coastal Communities Fund team on whose board and working groups we actively participate.

Our ‘In Bloom’ partnership has been strengthened as we now have a working group in place, engaging with Cornwall Council and its service providers, as well as St Austell Town Council.

Safe and secure environment programs are being stepped up, as we work with the Police to secure some additional Police hours in the town centre. With support from a successful bid to the PCC’s office, we will be deploying bodycams to trained security personnel. We will also continue to work closely with the agencies in the town.

Your Board represents you, all levy payers, in the decision making process of running our company. All Directors have day jobs acting on a voluntary basis giving many hours to help support St Austell.

As we are all only to aware the post EU referendum conditions look set to continue further into 2019 than any of us would have hoped, possibly even beyond. The pace of change on the high street continues to have an impact in every town across the UK, and irrespective of the type of business you are in, financial, legal, residential, services or retail we all await certainty and clarity on the way forward. We undoubtedly face another year of change and challenge, none of which is unique to St Austell. What can be unique is what we do to move forward, any contributions you may wish to make, be it, support, ideas, volunteering, please contact us via Annette Miller, your BID Manager, email: [staustellbid@gmail.com](mailto:staustellbid@gmail.com)

Our BID strapline, ‘Local businesses supporting each other and the town’ remains as relevant as ever, thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind Regards

Richard Hurst

Chair, St Austell BID