

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

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Tuesday 1st September 2020 at 5:30pm**

**The White Hart Hotel, St Austell**

**Chairman’s Report for Year Ending**

**31st March 2020**

Dear Members,

As we closed another year for your BID, it had up until Christmas been one of positive progress regarding the core projects we have been managing. This had been combined with some exciting work we have engaged upon with other groups lining up events and projects for 2020. Leaving the festive season behind, it became all too clear that 2020 was going to be a very different year, by the time we reached the end of our year the world we all knew had quite literally shut down.

**The Last Twelve Months**

Changes to your BID Board: Aaron Niles of Weatherspoons stepped down as Director and Vice Chair after being promoted within his organisation, he was replaced by his successor David Rescorla. We also welcomed Grant MacDonald from the Market House, Clive Acraman representing St Austell Chamber, Ben Delaney from Charles French, Donna Roberts of Cut Throats, Allan Clare of AWC Training and Sean Marshall of Marshall Textiles. After the last AGM, the Board appointed Dale Lovatt and Martin Davies as Joint Vice Chair. Other positions\offices remained the same with Board approval.

The core aims and objectives stayed the same, with the focus remaining on building upon recent projects and strengthening engagement with other groups. The benefits of which saw the larger second Garden and fourth Whitegold Festivals working with SABEF. We also had our biggest Christmas Light Switch-on along with the provision of support to other organisations delivering town based events.

Improving the attractiveness of the town through continued development of our planting schemes over the last few seasons yielded more success, this year achieving a SW RHS Gold Award and entry into 2020 RHS in Bloom National Finals.

Maintaining a safe and secure environment continues to feature prominently in the BID’s meetings. Despite good working relationships with the Police and other agencies we have had to maintain the security presence in the town centre and when required increase the frequency of patrols. The introduction of Bodycams for the security officers has proven successful and has supported results for the police on several occasions.

**The Coming Twelve Months**

With the onset of COVID19 and the impact that this has had, many plans lined up for 2020 have been cancelled or postponed, I am delighted to say that most have been simply moved into 2021.

It remains important that we continue to develop current programs and build upon the relationships that have been forged, working 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’ plans continue, despite RHS judging having been postponed until 2021 we still plan to deliver a reduced scheme within the town centre for 2020.

Safe and secure environment – with the challenge’s society faces we will continue to provide security with a view to stepping up their regularity and frequency during the year. We will also continue to work closely with the police and other agencies through Safer St Austell.

COVID19 – the impact of the global pandemic is already being felt with the outcome still unravelling. It is already clear that BID will be looked upon to take the lead, putting measures in place to facilitate the implementation of government guidelines supporting the reopening of our town centre. We will also work closely with other Councils, agencies and other BID’s adapting to the continual changes that will come our way.

Your Board, all of whom have day jobs continue to support the BID on a voluntary basis, remains committed to delivering on the key BID themes, building on the success and learns of previous years. The accelerated pace of change brought about by COVID19 that is impacting every high street across the UK, combined with the final negotiation of our exit from the EU and the societal challenges we face, means that the remainder of 2020 and onwards into 2021 is without question going to be a period of challenges and change. We are supported by Annette Miller, your BID Manager and should you be interested in joining the Board, supporting events, sharing ideas or volunteering to help with projects please contact Annette via her email: staustellbid@gmail.com

In closing, our thoughts go out to all those affected by this pandemic.

Kind Regards

Richard Hurst

Chair, St Austell BID