

**Andrew Cooper**  
**City Centre Manager**  
**Bath**

**4 August 2010**

**Dear Andrew,**

## **BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

Thank you for a helpful discussion yesterday about the process for setting up a BID in Bath. FoBRA has always supported the BID concept, and we're pleased that you're making progress. Residents do however have some concerns about the details, and I should be grateful if you would put this letter before the steering group which meets on 5 August.

As you know, FoBRA works hard to improve wellbeing in Bath. We don't just expect others to deal with problems, we are ready and willing to get involved ourselves. Residents have for example:

- Called for and led the Task & Finish Group on street cleaning, which provided the comprehensive new blueprint which the Council is now implementing.
- Given firm support to the Public Realm & Movement Programme.
- Set up an initiative with the Police to optimise their resources and visibility.
- Implemented our own local cleaning programmes.

Bath is unusual in that a large number of residents live in the centre of the city, and most contribute to the amenity by keeping their properties in good condition. As we understand it, the BID zone will stretch from Royal Crescent to Great Pulteney Street and thus take in nearly all of Abbey Ward and the most densely populated part of Kingsmead Ward. It will affect the daily lives of thousands of residents here. For example, cleaning equipment can be noisy; promotional activities which may be appropriate in commercial areas are less desirable in residential streets; and encouragement of the night time economy can lead to late night disturbance.

We hope that residents generally will come to support the BID, and we think it will be beneficial for the BID team and everyone else if residents had the opportunity to contribute their knowledge of the city to the details of its operation. Before you set the arrangements up for the five-year period, we hope you will make provision for residents to be consulted periodically. Otherwise, this excellent initiative may start to lose people's confidence just when it ought to gather their fullest support.

I'd be pleased to discuss some simple way of achieving this objective, without detracting in any way from the need for the BID to be seen by everyone as a business-driven and business-led initiative.

With best wishes,

**Henry Brown, Chairman**

**PROMOTING RESIDENTS' INTERESTS IN BATH**

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