



MEETING: Business Improvement District (BID) Proposal - Cirencester
DATE: 26th August 2008 10.30-12.30
VENUE: Cotswold District Council
LEAD: Parklife, Gloucestershire
ATTENDANCE:
Keith Rog (Parklife), Fred Read (Parklife), Dan Judges (Market Towns), Angela Presdee (Glos First), Joseph Walker (CDC), Andrew Tubbs (Cirencester Town Council), David Fowles (CDC Councillor)

Meeting led by Fred Read who currently leads the Gloucester (Bristol Road) BID
BIDs are a national initiative designed to improve business areas like industrial estates/town centres etc.

They are:

BIDs are funded through a levy (variable 1-6%) on the ratable values of businesses + external funds where obtainable.

BIDs are set up as a company (eg CLG), run by the businesses concerned (in conjunction with the LA and other partners) and are launched on the back of a vote by businesses affected.

A majority vote in favour of a BID requires a levy on all businesses in the area so matter needs to be taken seriously.

Common issues dealt with by other BIDs are:

Security

Road signage

Parking

Recruitment

Local issues (eg in Gloucester BID it's seagulls - estimate of cost to one company = £60K per year)

The meeting was to explain BIDS and check the interest.

I have a lot of information and links to other towns where BIDs operate if necessary.

Proposal is for a BID on the Love Lane Industrial Estate + possibly extending to or including the town centre.

It was agreed that all of the above issues needed to be addressed in Cirencester (exception of seagulls) but taking into consideration the "visitor/tourism" theme of the District.

It was agreed unanimously to pursue the idea with another meeting planned for October.

Meanwhile CDC to work up the idea and research other towns.

The idea will also form part of the work of the CDC LSP Economy/Skills Group, which I chair.

Happy to field questions.

Terry Morgan 28/8/08