



BCC Plastic Free Inquiry

10th January 2018

Colmore Bid Position

Introduction

The Colmore BID has undertaken a very successful ballot and will be embarking upon its third 5 year term from 2019 to 2024. Our new work will be based on our published business plan.

The BID area is highly concentrated gathering over 550 businesses that employ around 35,000 people. Notably, decisions made by individuals, corporate entities and policy makers impacts on a densely packed part of Birmingham.

Current practice in District; a discounted rate via a partnership with First Mile, which can undertake mixed recycling is offered to all businesses in the area.

The Colmore BID Food Festival; this is an annual 2-day event in July each year attended by some 30,000 and is now a zero waste to landfill project. Since 2018, no single-use plastic straws are used in drinks at the Festival. There is an ambition to review the event each year in terms of practice to reduce environmental impact.

We do believe that waste in general and plastics in particular have become heightened in everyone's consciousness.

In future we will seek to lead by example as our small BID office acts with a greater degree of awareness of inputs and outputs - in terms of material that we use and thus procure and the manner in which it is disposed of, reused or recycled.

Communication is one of the key elements to Colmore BID's success, we aim to provide consistent and clear information to the levy payers across the District. Not only do we draw in best practice from elsewhere, but we often seek to craft exemplar projects which create impact via our communication channels. This impact is attuned to the District as a place and with its businesses and the people within those businesses. Thus we are in a position to provide clear, up to date advice on recycling. I suspect there is not a really clear idea in everyone's minds about exactly what should be ordered, used and then disposed of. As global, national and local policy and practice changes we will always commit to helping translate that into everyday decisions and communicate those. We thus would encourage BCC

and its partners to provide strong policy and practice that we can then convey. Other BID's similarly can provide this support.

Currently Colmore BID is looking to work with 'Refill' to tackle the challenge of single use water bottles by inviting the food and beverage points across the District to join this initiative.

Colmore Bid has worked with the GBSLEP, BCC, TfWM on a lasting legacy of public realm projects - Church Street Square, Colmore Square have been delivered and Cornwall Street and the East end of Colmore Row are imminent. These works are capital intensive and the BID has invested along with partners in this programme. We see the next step alongside this investment to tackling movement of traffic. There has, over the last 15 years, been a significant reduction in cars moving around the District, but an increase in freight vehicles. Freight is an increasingly significant source not only of significant inefficiency, but pollution, noise and disruption. One aspect, of many, involving freight, is waste collection; like all other forms of movement there is a question of supply and demand. We have an ambition to tackle both ends of this equation - by working with businesses on behaviour change and also with freight thinking - in part this relates to the quantity of waste amongst other things.

Thank You.

Philip Singleton