



## **BUSINESSES URGED TO HAVE THEIR SAY!**

'Make your voice heard!' That's the message coming from the Milngavie Town Centre BID Steering Group as Milngavie Town Centre businesses are urged to have their say as part of a consultation on what a Business Improvement District (BID) for Milngavie should seek to address.

A BID is a business led initiative within a defined geographical area, providing a mechanism for investing in the area. Projects funded through BIDs elsewhere include year round co-ordinated marketing and events programmes, physical improvements to the streetscape and signage, skills development for current and future workforce, crime and safety initiatives and savings on core costs through collective purchasing.

A BID raises its funding through a modest Levy Investment paid by all businesses in the BID area, matched by external funding sources including the local authority and other partners.

Milngavie businesses – from all sectors - are now being invited to take part in a consultation, through completing a short tick box questionnaire which will be hand delivered by a member of the Milngavie BID Steering Group.

"We want as many businesses as possible to take part in our consultation so that we can identify clear priorities for action" said Ian Lavrie, Chairman of the Steering Group.

"The results of the questionnaires will be independently analysed and responses not attributable to any individual business, ensuring confidentiality. We hope to have results available by end of September in order to develop a costed Business Plan by November 2013" Ian added.

25 AUGUST 2013

The Milngavie town centre BID 5 year Business Plan will be distributed to all businesses which will then be balloted in March next year, when they will have an opportunity to vote for or against the creation of a Business Improvement District for Milngavie.

Eileen Bannerman, owner of 'Besotted' card and gift shop and Steering Group member has already seen the positive impact of a BID in Bathgate - which has had a town centre business improvement district since 2008 - where she owns another business with her partner. Eileen said:

" I have seen how a BID can help revitalise a town centre, through only a modest investment by businesses working together on the improvements they know will make a difference".

In Bathgate, where businesses recently voted in favour of a second 5 year term for the BID, projects have included marketing to improve the perception and image of Bathgate, physical improvements to businesses and the streetscape, improved safety and security and access to shops and services.

Commenting on the Milngavie BID's consultation the Steering Group's recently appointed Project Manager, Pauline Cameron -who successfully developed the Oban BID in 2011-2012 - urged businesses to take part:

" Please make your views count during the consultation process and make the most of the opportunity to speak with the Steering Group member who visits you – they want to hear your concerns and ideas for making the town centre a better place to do business whether you are an office based business, service sector or retail".

The consultation period will end on 6 September with approximately 150 businesses and organisations with properties within the town centre being invited to participate.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to editors:**

- Further information on the Milngavie My Way BID from Pauline Cameron Project Manager 07523 958440 [info@milngaviemyway.co.uk](mailto:info@milngaviemyway.co.uk) .
- The Milngavie BID ballot be counted on 17 March 2014 with ballot papers issued by 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014.
- A series of events for the Milngavie town centre business community will be held to provide information to businesses, the first of which takes place on 27 August.