



Proposed Business Improvement District for Milngavie Town Centre

www.milngaviemyway.co.uk

WAITROSE FAILS TO DELIVER ON 'WARM WORDS'

Businesses from all sectors in Milngavie Town Centre have expressed dismay that Waitrose has so far declined to make any firm commitment to working with town centre businesses to revitalise and sustain the town centre for the benefit of all who live, work, visit and employ staff in the the area.

The Milngavie My Way BID (Business Improvement District) Steering Group has been in discussions with the retail giant since July this year, following East Dunbartonshire Council's decision to grant planning permission on the West of Scotland Rugby Club site.

Ian Lavrie, Steering Group Chairman said :

“ Like it or not, we all know that Waitrose is coming to the area and we had hoped to find a positive way forward to work with the company. In July we told their representative in Scotland that we would be finalising our Business Plan for the town centre in November this year and required confirmation of their support by that time.

“ We are now told by their spokesman Martin Gorman, that no gesture of financial commitment can be made until the store is open in late 2014. Don't they have a business plan and detailed projections into which an extremely modest financial gesture could have been incorporated? Apparently not”.

Callumm Christie, the newly elected Chairman of Milngavie Community Council and also a Steering Group member added

“We would have liked to have spoken to Waitrose about dedicating an amount of funding to, for example, piloting a shopper courtesy bus service between their development and the town centre area. But other than some warm words about future support for modest 'community' initiatives and volunteering we have no firm commitment from Waitrose to do anything at all. Remember that Waitrose's 'retail offer' will be substantially larger than its Byres Road store and include non-food as well as groceries. This will be a direct

**Milngavie My Way Developing BID
c/o Allander Flooring Ltd.; 15 Mugdock Road, Milngavie, G62 8PT**



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threat to town centre prosperity. All we are asking of Waitrose is a small financial gesture to demonstrate that this large company, which talks much about its corporate social responsibility, is committed to supporting the long term future of the town centre as the heart of a thriving community’.

The Steering Group has been asked to submit its proposed Business Plan to the Council’s Development and Regeneration Committee for consideration. The Business Plan will show how, working and investing collectively, businesses in the town centre could generate at least £100,000 per annum towards enhancing its leisure ,service and retail offer, promoting the town centre as the destination of choice and supporting businesses to be more effective through a number of cost saving, training and support measures.

The Business Plan for a 5 year period from May 2014, will be voted on by all town centre businesses in February – March next year in a postal ballot conducted by the Returning Officer of East Dunbartonshire Council. All businesses will receive detailed information on the proposals and a copy of the Business Plan following its final approval by Scottish Government and the Chief Executive of East Dunbartonshire Council in January 2014.

ENDS

For further information contact Pauline Cameron, Project Manager on 07930 313172 or info@milngaviemyway.co.uk

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Apparently they operate a multi-million pound business without writing a business plan, or else

“A BID for Milngavie will recognise the importance of getting Milngavie town centre ‘product’ right by making it more attractive and welcoming to residents and visitors. Our survey has shown that businesses recognise this is essential if we are to make the town centre a place where people of all ages choose to meet, visit, spend on goods and services and locate their business. And once the product’s right we can promote it with pride”.

Businesses in the driving seat

A BID is defined geographical area where businesses work together and invest collectively in local improvements which will improve their trading environment. A Scottish Government backed mechanism, governed by Planning legislation, a BID delivers projects and services which are clearly in addition to those delivered by statutory authorities and is able to lever in additional funding from external sources in order to deliver business led priorities. Through consultation, a range of projects and services are agreed and then voted upon by all eligible businesses in a defined area which will be delivered over a 5 year period. Businesses in 20 other places across Scotland, such as Hamilton and Queensferry, have already voted to form a BID, with several areas now voting in favour of a second ‘term’ for their BID company.

Further information on the Milngavie My Way BID can be found on their website www.milngaviemyway.co.uk or by emailing Pauline Cameron on info@milngaviemyway.co.uk.

The final proposed BID Business Plan will be put to a postal ballot of all town centre businesses next February to March 2014.

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