



Proposed Business Improvement District for Milngavie Town Centre

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BUSINESSES MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD: MAKE MILNGAVIE A DESTINATION OF CHOICE!

East Dunbartonshire Council has confirmed its commitment to contributing funding to a future Milngavie Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID).

The news is a significant milestone for the plan, which would see local businesses investing collectively in order to improve the town's trading environment.

The BID system is already in operation in 20 other Scottish towns, and involves the local business sector developing, managing and paying for a five-year scheme to boost the local economy.

If the Milngavie town centre proposal is agreed, all businesses with a rateable value property of £1,000 within the town centre area, including Gavins Mill and Tesco area, would contribute through a modest compulsory levy.

Every eligible business within the BID area will be balloted in February – March 2014 on whether or not they are in favour of the plan.

If the ballot is successful, it is hoped that the BID will start on 1 May 2014. The Chair of the Milngavie My Way BID steering group, Ian Lavrie, said that confirmation of the council's support was key to the proposal's progress.

“An enormous amount of hard work has gone into the preparation of this business plan, and I am delighted that businesses and organisations across the town have engaged with the consultation it involved and have thrown their weight behind what we believe is a tremendously exciting scheme,” he added.

“Securing the council's commitment is a major step forward in our efforts to see this plan become a reality, and a tremendous vote of confidence in both the plan itself and in the ability of local businesses to deliver it.

“The BID has the potential to transform those aspects of the local trading environment which our business owners have said they would most like to see tackled.

“After the Christmas rush is over, we will be making concerted efforts to visit businesses throughout the town to ensure they have all the relevant information on the benefits which this sort of collective working can bring before they receive their ballot papers on 3 February.”

East Dunbartonshire Council's endorsement of the BID plan means that - subject to a successful ballot - it will provide financial support of £30,000 a year for the five year duration of the scheme.

Chair of the Development and Regeneration Committee, Alan Moir said he was delighted that his fellow councillors had recognised its potential impact.

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



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“This proposal promises to benefit not just the local business community which has worked so hard to develop it but all those who live in, work in or visit Milngavie town centre,” he added.

“Following the unsuccessful ballot last time around, I think all councillors have all been impressed with the efforts made in ensuring that the views and priorities of the town’s businesses have been so accurately reflected and incorporated.

“I am very hopeful that there will be a positive response to the future ballot. If the ballot is successful, East Dunbartonshire Council will of course work in partnership with the BID team and other relevant organisations to ensure that the scheme secures the maximum possible return.”

Although the council has endorsed its commitment to the proposal, the Milngavie My Way business plan now has to be formally submitted to both the authority and the Scottish Government both of which have 28 days in which to veto or approve the proposal. Thereafter the Steering Group will be focused on ensuring the contents of the business plan are communicated to all eligible voters and wider community stakeholders.

Ballot papers are due to be issued on 3 February 2014. Local businesses will have 42 days in which to return them by 17 March 2014, following which they will be counted and the results announced within one week.

For more information on how a BID works and the Milngavie My Way BID, please go to www.milngaviemyway.co.uk or contact Pauline Cameron Project Manager on info@milngaviemyway.co.uk.

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