



## British BIDs news

18<sup>th</sup> March 2008

### Three 'Yes' votes – including two firsts for Scotland

Daventry, Bathgate and Inverness are all celebrating after winning their BID ballots. Bathgate is the first BID in Scotland, with Inverness the first BID in Britain to formally incorporate property owners into their BID arrangements.

Daventry Town Centre achieved a yes vote of 74% representing 80% of rateable value. Turnout was 27%. This result is especially impressive as Daventry applied a BID levy of 2%, which is unusual for town centre BID areas.

Bathgate became the first BID in Scotland to achieve a yes result at BID ballot on Friday, with strong majorities on both counts. 93% of businesses voting voted in favour of the proposals, representing 83% of rateable value. Turnout was 45%.

The second Scottish BID to be informed of their result was Inverness who heard last night that they had also been successful. Their straight majority was 73% representing 84% of rateable value with a turnout of 34%. The Scottish BID legislation enables property owners, as well as occupiers, to be charged the BID levy. Inverness decided to utilise this aspect of the legislation with property owners and occupiers splitting payment of the 1% BID levy – paying 50% of the levy each.

There are six Scottish BID pilots, with the next pilot to go to ballot being Clackmannanshire at the end of this month followed by Falkirk and Edinburgh in May and Glasgow later in the year. For more information on BIDs in Scotland please visit the BIDs Scotland website: <http://www.bids-scotland.co.uk/>

We will also be reporting the result of the next English ballot at Royal Leamington Spa later this month.

### British BIDs events

- **Bb Chairs Network event** - Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April – London  
Our regular Network session for the Chairs of established and developing BIDs. Open to Bb members only, if you have not already done so, please let us know if your Chair is able to attend.
- **Bb Summer Conference** - Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> June – central London  
The Mall Corporation are confirmed to speak. Details of further speakers to be published shortly.

### Finding Funding

The Scottish Arts Council publishes a document outlining all major sources of funding for arts projects in Scotland. This was updated last month and includes contact details for grant making bodies and organisations. This can be found via the homepage of [www.scottisharts.org.uk](http://www.scottisharts.org.uk)

For more information about British BIDs and how to become a member visit [www.britishbids.info](http://www.britishbids.info) or email [contact@britishbids.info](mailto:contact@britishbids.info) or telephone 01414 160144