

Welcome to Colne BID's second annual AGM, sadly we cannot meet face to face but I'm sure by our 22nd AGM we will be able to sit in the same building together, maybe not in the same rooms though.

Copies of the report along with copies of our second years trading accounts will be available online later this week on the Colne BID website

I will start off by thanking my fellow board members for all their work and support over this difficult period, all of us have day jobs as such and all the hours put in are on a voluntary basis for the betterment of the town, so thank you for that.

A special thank you for Sarah Cockburn-Price who is not a board member and has no voting rights but non the less gives her time willingly to the BID again on a voluntary basis.

I call Sarah our community liaison officer or the oracle for short, as Sarah is the vital link between business, members of the public and the council that we need, and the BID would not run half as well without Sarah's input and involvement so thank you Sarah.

We've also had a change of management in the past 3 months, our previous BID manager Lisa Durkin has moved on and we thank her for her involvement for the 2 years she was with us, I'm happy though to introduce our BID Officer Aneesa McGladdery, Aneesa has been working with us for certain projects since September 2020, when the board decided we needed a full time roll to support the board and help meet our 4 main objectives Aneesa was a natural fit and brings much enthusiasm and experience to our team as well as being passionate about Colne – you will be hearing more from Aneesa shortly

After our first AGM in February last year, we were full of positivity and ideas then lockdown one arrived March 23rd, which has made the last 12 months challenging for the BID, but more so for our members,

The BID's main core values are Promote, Pride, Partnership and Protect, bringing people to the high street and surrounding areas of Colne has been a serious challenge for the BID at a time when our member's need the support most, we have changed our approach to a digital model in a short space of time and this continues to evolve, we will come back to this in a short while,

I will now hand over to Aneesa for the formal aspect of the AGM – Director Elections and to run through our past 12 months and the future plans we have, thank you