

St. Martin's Occupier BID : Ballot

Statement of Consultation - Occupiers

Background

For 20 years, Heart of London Business Alliance (HOLBA) has been the catalyst for positive change in London's West End. HOLBA is focused on securing the long-term commercial and cultural well-being of the area. Through area promotion, business support and advocacy we champion our members' interests and ensure the West End remains truly world-class.

The HOLBA area currently embraces three districts and has an excellent track record of delivery since its establishment in 2005. It is highly visible and has an excellent business mandate. Business engagement is a key priority at the centre of Heart of London's entire work programme. Regular communication is undertaken with 100% of its members - keeping its membership updated as to the work of the organisation, events and activities, opportunities and threats. The organisation manages a successful and well-attended business networking programme.

The ballot for St Martin's BID has been given the go ahead by the Heart of London Business Alliance (HOLBA) Board to take place in February/March 2025.

Business Engagement (January 2024 – January 2025)

An occupier consultation programme, which commenced at the beginning of 2024, has helped understand whether there is a desire to continue the BID in St Martins and identify priorities and themes moving forward; these appear in the St Martin's BID Proposal/Delivery Plan.

- Events - we invited 102 St. Martin's businesses to an All Member Reception to launch the BID Proposal.
- An electronic version of the BID Proposal was sent to all occupiers who have provided contact details in October 2024.
- All 110 occupier hereditaments have also been offered the opportunity to meet our team to discuss the BID in St Martin's.
- As of 30th January 2025, all 110 occupier hereditaments have been contacted and asked to advise of their key and voter contacts.
- As of 30th January 2025, we have identified the voters for 67 of these 110 hereditaments and held formal meetings to discuss our plans with 32 of them.
- Voters for a further ten hereditaments have agreed to similar meetings.

- Voters for eleven hereditaments have indicated that they do not require a formal meeting (six of these have indicated that are happy with our plans).
- This totals 53 hereditaments, which represent 48% of the constituency.
- We have had informal engagement with a further 41 occupier hereditaments by email, phone call or visit/meeting, representing 37% of the constituency.
- The majority of occupiers that have been met with have demonstrated positivity towards the continuation of a St Martin's BID.

Ballot (February 2025 to March 2025)

- Notice of Ballot sent to finalised voter list confirmed by Westminster City Council.
- Invitation to discuss business plan given to 100% of businesses taking part in ballot.
- Ballot papers sent to 100% of voters.

The St. Martin's Occupier BID, pending a successful ballot, would commence 1 April 2025.