



**MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ONLINE AT 11AM ON 5th AUGUST 2020**

Committee in attendance:

Dan Silverston, Soho Sandwich Company (Producer)– Chair
Ben Newby, Freshfayre (Supplier)
Peter Mayley, La Baguetterie (Independent)
David Winter, Street Eats (Producer)
Robert Potts, Greencore (Producer)

Jim Winship, BSA Director

Apologies

Martin Beaver, RAP (Supplier)

Minutes of Last Meeting

These were approved.

Chair/Vice Chair

Jim Winship reported that Camilla Deane had left Norseland and, therefore, had to resign from the Committee. Dan Silverston agreed to take over as Chair. Jim Winship to invite nominations for Vice-chair.

Coronavirus

Back to Work: Robert Potts asked if the Association could lobby the Government to encourage people back to work as the FTG sector is struggling from the lack of people in the workplace. Jim Winship agreed to stress to Government the urgency for this to happen.

Good to Go Campaign: Jim Winship reported that he was in discussion with Visit Britain about directly linking the Government's Good to Go campaign with the FTG sector and the BSA's re-opening guidance. The English Government has agreed to this but it is taking time to get agreement from the devolved nations.

Obesity

Following publication of the Government's initial plans for tackling obesity, the Association has drafted a proposal for focusing on calories and is currently seeking backing from other trade bodies for this. A copy of the draft document was circulated prior to the meeting. The Committee agreed the Association should support the campaign.

The aim is to get wide support from the food industry and then to present the proposal to the Prime Minister and Ministers at the Department of Health. A former MP, who is close to the Prime Minister, has agreed to present the proposal to him personally and to distribute the proposal to key Ministers through the Parliamentary postal system, which means that it will go to the individuals directly rather than via their secretaries.

Traffic Light Labelling Review

A further part of the Government's obesity campaign involves a review of the on-pack traffic light labelling system. Jim Winship suggested that members might like to respond to this. It can be found at <https://consultations.dhsc.gov.uk/5e32eb6e6cfc6412797d6288>

Listeria

Jim Winship reported that there had been a further product recall due to listeria, this time involving a small factory in Southall called Bread Spread. Although the business is not a member of the BSA, in view of the potential damage to the industry, the Association has been liaising with the NHS over this, particularly as the company claims on its website to serve hospitals. This has subsequently proved to be incorrect.

As a result of liaising with the NHS and their auditors on this, there is increased pressure for the Hospital Food Review report to be published. This was delayed in March due to the pandemic. Its publication is the key to addressing some of the issues around listeria in hospitals.

Industry Dinner

Planning for this is continuing and a decision will be taken in September whether or not this can go ahead. If not, it will be moved into 2021.

2021 Awards

Jim Winship said that he would review the awards for next year in view of the fact that many sectors of the market had been closed for most of the year and it would be difficult to judge them. A proposal will be presented to the next meeting.

Monthly Briefings

The Association's new monthly briefings are proving popular. The August meeting (held on the same day as this meeting) featured a presentation from Mealtrak. The September meeting will focus on foodservice allergen labelling and the parents of Natasha Laperouse, who died from an allergic reaction, have indicated they will take part. The Food Standards Agency and three labelling members will also be doing presentations.

Immigration

The meeting briefly discussed the new points-based immigration system. Jim Winship reported that there was little the industry could do in relation to this currently as the Government was committed to going ahead with it. However, he said that the head of the Migration Advisory Committee had indicated that they were prepared to review the Immigration Shortage List annually. He also said that it was currently not seen as a priority by members, although there are concerns that many of the EC nationals working in low skilled jobs had returned to their homelands and are unlikely to return. This could cause a serious problem in the future.

Next Meeting

The next online Management Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, 16th September at 11am.