

13 Darwin Avenue,
Buxton,
SK17 6NF
28th March 2012

Buxton Portas Pilot Working Group
c/o Mr Richard Silson
St James Terrace
Buxton SK17 6HS

Dear Mr Silson,

We are writing to explain why Churches Together in Buxton supports the bid for Buxton to be a pilot town in the Portas Project.

Church congregations are deeply concerned for the well-being of all the people of Buxton, of our many visitors and of students at the University. The churches run, and provide facilities for, many activities - especially for the young, the elderly and the vulnerable. We seek to build bridges of understanding with other Faiths and with those who do not profess a Faith.

We are inspired by the example of Jesus, who taught that society should be built on love, reconciliation and justice. The churches regularly pray for the prosperity (in the widest sense) of the town and of this area and, of course, all are warmly welcome at church services.

Therefore we are very happy that this pilot opportunity has brought together so many individuals and groups to work in cooperation to ensure that the town has the best possible future for everyone.

Buxton has a wonderful heritage of good-hearted people, glorious countryside, culture, the Spa and education. There is much in the town and surroundings to lift the spirits. There are many opportunities to create employment, encourage initiative, develop sustainable provision, and ensure that, even in these difficult times, we build together a resilient, inclusive, compassionate and outward-looking community.

Even better would be the thought that we were pioneering an approach and attitude that might inspire other small towns.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Jolly

Colin Smith (Rev'd)