

NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON THURSDAY 10TH MARCH 2016

Present: Ali Quas-Cohen, Charles Denton, Frances Allen, Graham Starkey, Helen Davison, Helen Haywood, Janet Miller, Jim Lowe, John Estruch, John Fairbrother, John Robertson, Kathryn Barton, Marc Haywood, Matthew Nuttall, Mike Badman, Pat Hobby, Roddie MacLean, Richard Lower, Richard Silson, Rosemary Wood, Sandra Worsley, Steve Caddy, Tina Heathcote, Trevor Gilman, Viv Marriott
Andy Parker (first part only), Damian Paynton and Greg ?? (Item 3 only)

Apologies: Claire Millard, John Jansen, Lesley Caddy, Mike Monaghan, Philip Barton, Samantha Flower, Simon Fussell, Suzanne Pearson

Introductions: Dick Silson chaired the meeting, which started with a round of introductions.

1. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting on 9th February were passed as true record.

2. A FLAVOUR OF BUXTON ON THE MOVE, THE CONFERENCE

Some of the conference videos were shows (intro mix, a Taxi Driver's Views, a Hauliers's View, URC Guides Visitor Research, Poynton Junction) followed by a rundown of the top three priorities identified by the conference tables. A summary sheet is appended - key ideas included using existing frequent bus services to support a Park & Ride at the top of Fairfield Road; the need for a roundabout at the Waterswallows junction; a suggestion of a 'no traffic light' trial in the town. There followed a wide ranging discussion mainly about the merits or otherwise of traffic lights, how well the Poynton shared space works, people's instinct to co-operate when they are not granted priority, and how shared space can cater for people with disabilities. The full report of the conference will be written up and published soon, and we will be continuing the dialogue, in the meantime people were encouraged to look at the videos on Martin Cassini's website www.equalitystreets.com.

3. ANY IDEAS?

3.1 CoderDojo

Damian and Greg presented their idea to open a CoderDojo Group in Buxton, where young people from 8 to 18 years old would learn a range of computing skills. Coder Dojo is a global network that started in Ireland, so there is a format to follow and support available. There are groups in Manchester and Wilmslow, a Buxton Group would be the first in Derbyshire. They would set practical projects eg creating websites, writing software, building robots; some projects would be outdoors so not just sat in front of a screen. Schools are expected to teach more of this as part of the curriculum but are struggling as the teachers do not themselves have the necessary technical skills. The group so far is a small team of volunteers, they would welcome more people, technical expertise is not needed. They probably already have sufficient technical equipment, using laptops, or raspberry pies (small programmable devices) that are extremely cheap to buy. What they do need is premises; all that is needed is a room with tables and chairs and an electric supply, ideally not in a school environment. A number of suggestions were made - church halls, community rooms etc. For more information and to get involved see www.buxtoncoderdojo.org.

4. PROJECTS

4.1 Project Proposal - Buxton in Bloom

A project proposal had been circulated, there were no queries and the proposal will go to the Directors for consideration at their next meeting.

4.2 Project Proposal - Buxton Railings Clean or Buxton Spring Clean

Two proposals had been circulated. Helen is leading the Buxton Railings Clean project, working with Buxton & Leek College and the local schools. All the latter are wanting to be involved this year, with one saying the whole school will take part. The proposed date is Tuesday 26th April so there will be a lot of young people and Helen will need people to help out. She will also need lots of containers for water, empty 4 pint plus milk bottles are ideal. Offers of help should go to Helen - helen113dav@btinternet.com.

Helen is not able to take the lead on a wider Buxton Spring Clean project, and the people involved in organizing the previous Buxton Spring Cleans are fully committed on other projects. This is the case even if the project focused just on encouraging other organisations and individuals to take responsibility for particular areas rather than having a special day of cleaning. The meeting was asked whether anyone else would be willing to take the lead; as no-one volunteered it was agreed that the Buxton Railings Clean project proposal should go to the Directors for consideration at their next meeting.

4.3 Buxton Spring Fair

Janet reported that applications are coming in fast with 80 stalls signed up so far, well ahead of this time last year, and including a lot of newcomers. Performers are also starting to apply for time slots at the performance venues, which the University Events Management students are co-ordinating this year. We will need lots of helpers on the day (Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May) for setting up, marshalling and clearing up; people will be needed between 6am and 7pm, offers of help should go to Janet on townteam@buxtontownteam.org. Previous helpers are being contacted direct.

4.4 Buxton Markets

John reported that we have received three trailer loads of stalls, with more due early next week. We will be looking for help cleaning and refurbishing these, anyone willing to volunteer should contact jestruch@buxtonmarkets.co.uk. We still need people to join as members, and if they can, to loan money to the company to fund start-up costs. There is more information on the website - www.buxtonmarkets.co.uk.

5. TOWN DEVELOPMENTS

DB Schenker Site - Demolition of the loco sheds has started and should be completed by the end of April. HPBC are in discussion with DB Schenker about developing the site as a car park.

Network Rail - Trains using the freight line south to Dowlow and Hindlow are currently limited to 1,600 Tonnes; this could be increased to 2,700 Tonnes by extending the sidings at Hogshaw by 450m. This would relieve the pressure on the Hope Valley line and allow more passenger trains, also make rail more viable and enable freight to shift from road to rail. A 2,700 Tonne train is the equivalent of 50 articulated lorries. Construction traffic will access the works off the A6 beyond Dove Holes and is not expected to affect Buxton at all.

Crescent - Closure of the Crescent to establish the construction site could take place as early as 21st March.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Pavilion Gardens Water Feature

There is a meeting on Tuesday to explore the idea further, several members of the Town Team will be there, more information from Trevor - gilmantrevor@gmail.com.

6.2 Special Olympics 7-12 August 2017

Mike said that Buxton Lions would be very involved in helping to organize the Special Olympics which will take place in Sheffield. The event brings around 2,000 athletes with disabilities, along with their families, to compete in 20 different events. There is talk of a day trip to Buxton as part of the programme. More information or offers to help to Mike - mike.f.badman@gmail.com.

6.3 Twinning of Buxton Station

Marc reported that the Japan East Railway Corporation, who operate Shibuya Station, are interested in the idea of twinning with Buxton. There is talk of an exchange visit to explore the idea further. It was noted that Buxton already has a strong link with Japan via the Funny Wonders collaboration with puppet groups based there.

7. FUTURE I&V MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on:

Tuesday 10th May 7:30pm VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED

Note there will be no Ideas Meeting in April, instead there is the General Meeting on Wednesday 13th April.

JCMM

13March16