

## NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016

**Present:** Adrian Brown, Andrea Lewis, Caroline Hall, Charles Jolly, Claire Millard, David Holdway, Frances Allen, Helen Davison, Iain Hawthorn, Janet Miller, Janine Morris, Jean Ball, Jean Rodger, Jo Holdway, John Atkin, John Estruch, Joe Dugdale, John Fairbrother, John Robertson, Karen Hyde, Madeline Hall, Mike Badman, Philip Barton, Roddie MacLean, Richard Silson, Suzanne Pearson, Trevor Gilman, Veronica Hawthorn

**Apologies:** Elaine Hill, Helen Haywood, John Jansen, Jim Lowe, Kathryn Barton, Lesley Caddy, Marc Haywood, Simon Fussell, Tim Ball, Tina Heathcote, Viv Marriott

**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 10<sup>th</sup> March were passed as true record.

### 2. PROJECTS - UPDATES & PROPOSALS

#### 2.1 Litter Picking Walking Group

A closing report had been circulated. The meeting expressed the wish to see the regular litter picking continue as an Ongoing Activity. John will arrange for the report to be amended accordingly.

#### 2.2 Buxton Spa Prize

A Closing Report had been circulated, there were no comments for queries.

#### 2.3 Buxton Casebook

A Project Proposal had been circulated. Jean Ball outlined the idea, and there was some discussion, and it was suggested that: Talking Signposts cannot be guaranteed to be present so should not be written into the scenario; consideration should be given to having a Family ticket; timing to coincide with the Family Festival Fortnight might be a better option than G&S week. The meeting was generally supportive of the concept, but it was agreed that, as the project would not be under BTT control, it should be rewritten as a Supporting Role Project before going to the Directors for their consideration.

#### 2.4 Buxton Railings Clean

Over 300 schoolchildren had taken part, with assistance from Buxton & Leek College students, and support from the Pavilion Gardens and HPBC. cleaned green algae off a lot of the railings. No decision has been made as to whether this would be an annual event.

#### 2.5 Buxton Spring Fair

The fair was a success in spite of the weather; very heavy rain meant a lot of stalls and activities left early and three of the performance venues had to pack up. We learned a lot about how to protect against heavy rain next time, though, and the flip side was that pubs, cafes and restaurants in the town were very busy and had a good day.

#### 2.6 Buxton Markets

The new company took over running the markets on 26<sup>th</sup> April, there are a lot more traders than there used to be and traders who were there before have reported an increase in trade. The challenge will be to keep the traders and recruit more; we need around 50 rather than the current 30, and of course more people shopping there. John asked for volunteers to leaflet lower Buxton on market days, and also noted that we still need to recruit additional stall crew for erecting and dismantling, more detail on [www.buxtonmarkets.co.uk](http://www.buxtonmarkets.co.uk). Themed markets (gardens, food, vintage & collectibles etc) will start in June. It was noted that the Save Buxton Market Facebook Page was attracting a lot more visits and positive comment since the new market started.

### 3. FOCUS ON GARDENING AND WILD SPACE

#### 3.1 Serpentine Project update - Joe Dugdale

Joe explained that the main aim of the project is re-skilling, by educating and encouraging people to grow their own food, alongside experimental testing of which crops and methods work best in Buxton. The property is owned by HPBC, who in 2012 were intending to sell the land for redevelopment, but amended their plans in the face of a public outcry. Transition Buxton set up the Serpentine Community Farm CIC, who are operating under a license agreement, but hoping to agree a long term lease soon. Volunteers have converted the site from a jungle full of rubbish (over 250,000 plant pots!) to a productive site with greenhouse, poly-tunnel and raised beds. They have established good links with Alderbrook Care, the Community Payback team and Buxton & Leek College, all of whom send their volunteers there. They have also had support from Buxton Town Team, Buxton Civic Association, Grow Wild, Derby University, Derbyshire County Council, the Rotary Club. Until they have secure tenure however, and access to the buildings, they are very limited in what they can do, so a long term agreement with HPBC is crucial.

It was commented that the project is a multi-faceted, and wide-ranging across the community; it has the full support of the Buxton Town Team. (Joe's slides are included in the appendix.)

#### 3.2 Open Gardens Project - Jo Holdway

The project is going well - fliers and posters have been distributed around the town, and trail maps (which double as tickets) will be on sale at the weekend. They have participation from 25 private gardens as well as a hotel, two churches, Pooles Cavern/ Grinlow Woods and the public parks. A number of gardens will have 'artists in residence', others have plants for sale or will be serving refreshments. There will be more publicity nearer the time, but everyone is encouraged to buy a Trail Map and check out the gardens. This is a pilot project, the idea is to expand it considerably next year, and to link with the new RHS Chatsworth Garden Show.

### **3.3 Fairfield Wildlife project - Karen Hyde**

The wildlife area in Fairfield was abandoned, but local people got permission to restore it, held fund-raising events, set up weekly volunteer sessions and are now well on the way to fully reclaiming it. Local schools have held their first lessons there. The next element is the wildflower meadow, they are in discussion with HPBC re which species should be included. They are starting to look at other potential sites in Fairfield that could be developed on similar lines, and are keen to establish an edible garden. Their next fund-raising event is a jumble sale on 31<sup>st</sup> may. Volunteers are welcome, there is more information on the Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/Community-wildlife-spaces](http://www.facebook.com/Community-wildlife-spaces) (Karen's slides are included in the appendix.)

### **3.4 Ashwood Park & Buxton in Bloom - Claire Millard**

Claire updated us on achievements to date at Ashwood Park - paths cleared and edged; the river banks cleared of self-seeded trees and bushes; abandoned flower beds dug out and replanted or sown with wildflower seeds; thousands of bulbs planted; regular litter picking sessions. Thanks are due to Buxton & Leek College students, Burbage Gardening Society and HPBC as well as Town Team volunteers. The next session on 15<sup>th</sup> May will be the first to be un jointly with Waterside Care, who are providing equipment and training as well as risk assessment and insurance for work in the river. Ashwood Park has been entered in the East Midlands in Bloom It's Your Neighborhood Competition. Other dates are coming up for painting the Ashwood Park benches, painting the bikes and workshops making flowerpot people. There will be more details in the newsletters and on the Facebook page.

## **4. ANY IDEAS?**

**Talking Signposts:** While we would be keen to see Talking Signposts out again this year, we do need someone to volunteer to co-ordinate the rota and keep an eye on stocks of guides and other information. No-one volunteered to take this on; all were asked to consider if this is something they might take on this year.

## **5. TOWN DEVELOPMENTS**

### **5.1 Crescent**

The contract for the redevelopment of the Crescent has been signed. The work is due for completion in early 2018.

### **5.2 Local Plan**

The Local plan has passed all its inspections and been formally adopted.

### **5.3 Access, Transport, Traffic & Parking**

The team are actively pursuing discussions with DCC Highways about the various ideas that came out of the Buxton on the Move conference. It was requested that crossing from Ashwood Park to Dale Road be included in the list of things needing attention, and also noted that signs in the HGV park had been knocked over by the lorries using it. John F has been collecting contact details for the coach companies that visit the town.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None raised.

## **7. FUTURE I&V MEETINGS**

The next meetings are scheduled to take place on:

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 7:30pm**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 7:30pm**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 7:30pm**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 7:30pm**

### **VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED**

JCMM

11May16