

NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON TUESDAY 12TH JULY 2016

Present: Adrian Brown, Andy Parker, Derek Bodey, Janet Miller, John Estruch, John Fairbrother, John Robertson, Matthew Nuttall, Richard Silson, Roddie MacLean, Rosemary Wood, Selene Howell-Williams, Tina Heathcote

Apologies: Charles Denton, Charles Jolly, Claire Millard, Ellen Wooliscroft, Eileen Smith, Elaine Hill, Frances Allen, Helen Haywood, Jean Rodger, Jean Todd, Jim Lowe, John Moss, Kathryn Barton, Marc Haywood, Philip Barton, Richard Lower, Simon Fussell, Trevor Gilman, Viv Marriott

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

Derivations: A fish always rots from the head down? "Bad leadership".

1. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

2. PROJECTS - UPDATES & PROPOSALS

2.1 Talking Signposts 2015

A closing report had been circulated, there were no queries.

2.2 2020 Vision: The Buxton Conference

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

2.3 Buxton Market Regeneration

A Closing Report had been circulated. John E explained that this reflected the end of the Town Team's project to win the tender, set up a new company and launch the new market; the Town Team will continue its support for the initiative. He also clarified that the agreed budget of £500 had been converted to a loan of £3,000, all being well this will be repaid in full in due course.

2.4 Crescent Planters

A project proposal had been circulated, it was noted that because of the timing, and a desire to have things in place before the Festival, this has already been approved by the directors - apologies to the Ideas & Action meeting. The basins in the Turner Memorial have been planted with trailing lobelia (noted that HPBC are now investigating why the water was ever turned off) and a dozen wrought iron planters are being hung from the Crescent hoardings. Thanks were expressed to Buxton Civic Association for providing half the funding, some of the surplus from the Open Gardens project is being used to fund the remainder. If more funding is obtained then more planters will be provided as the hoardings are extended. Some concern was expressed at the potential for vandalism, Tina will be asking Vinci to ensure their CCTV covers the hoardings as well as the interior of the compound.

2.5 The Slopes Care Team

A project proposal had been circulated. It was noted that HPBC are very short staffed and very keen for us to take on this work, and that while the immediate priority was basic maintenance such as edging paths, more ambitious improvements might be undertaken in due course. It was suggested that Buxton and Leek College students could be involved later in the year. The consensus was that the project was worthwhile and should go ahead, however a volunteer is needed to co-ordinate it; Janet and Tina will attempt to recruit someone.

2.6 Talking Signposts 2016

The rota is open and shifts have started, but only eight people have signed up so far, more helpers are needed. Janet will put out a call for volunteers on Facebook, it was suggested an email could be sent out to other organisations such as U3A, Lions, Rotary, WI, BCA and Vision Buxton. The Scouts and Guides might also be interested to join in. One person had expressed a preference for the logoed tabards rather than the blue hi-viz vests, it was also noted that the "i" badges had gone missing and need replacing. A request was made for one hour (rather than two-hour) shifts to be offered. Roddie advised that the Buxton Crescent Hotel and Thermal Spa Company would be fixing two panels with town maps on them, one near the Turner Memorial, the other near St Anne' Well.

2.7 Buxton in Bloom

There have been lots of entries to the local competitions, and Flowerpot People are appearing all over town. The East Midland in Bloom judges will be visiting the town on Friday. It was noted that entering EMI B involves a lot of work, and suggested for next year that we consider whether the benefits are justified. Thanks were expressed to the Buxton WI who have made 200m of bunting, and will be making more.

2.8 Regeneration of Ashwood Park

Some of the benches have been refurbished, and the ends painted red; this has been well received, with a lot of positive comment on the Facebook post. Work continues, and volunteers are always needed, contact Claire.

3. FOCUS ON ACCESS, PARKING, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

3.1 Report on a Meeting with DCC Highways - Dick Silson

Four members of the APTT forum had met last week with senior officers at Derbyshire County Council and HPBC. They are willing to listen and appear to value the Town Team's involvement. There is no money however; this was made worse when Derbyshire failed to agree to a unitary structure, which would have released additional central government funding. They do have plans to rethink the Five Ways junction, using smarter traffic light controls, and are also minded to close off the connection to Green Lane; there is likely to be a consultation on this at some stage. Money has also been earmarked for the White Peak Loop cycle trail, this is EU money for long distance cycle routes and cannot be diverted elsewhere. The issue of the High Path was raised, it is clear DCC have no plans to deal with

this; it was suggested the land might have been sold again recently. Dialogue will continue. DCC have a team looking at sustainable transport who have been in touch and are keen to meet us and get involved.

3.2 Coach Spotting - Andy Parker

There is an argument for providing more space for coaches to park, as there are only 11 spaces in the town. HPBC have asked us to develop a business case, for which we need information about how many coaches visit the town now and how long they stay. To this end an on-line survey has been set up where people can upload the details of any coach they see parked in the town - <http://buxtontownteam.org/working-on/coach-survey/> It is anticipated that the data will be collated and analysed by University students in the autumn. It was noted that many coaches use the Palace Hotel, and suggested we should ask them for information. Noted also that the Vision Buxton Marketing Group are working to attract more coaches to Buxton, and encourage them to stay longer, through better information and incentives. Drop-off points in the town centre are also being looked at (eg the market place and the Quadrant) rather than having passengers alight at the Sylvan Park parking.

3.3 Peak Rail Update - Dick Silson

Dick has been in touch with Peak Rail's Paul Tomlinson and apparently there has been some progress although details are not yet finalized. Peak Rail have met with the chief executive of the Peak District National Park Authority; they are still in discussion with DCC re the bridge over the A6 - once this is in place there are no further obstacles to running trains as far as Bakewell; Network Rail and the quarrying companies are very keen to be able to use the line to relieve pressure on the Hope Valley line; discussions continue with Nestle re a land swap deal at the Station Road site. Paul will be happy to come and update the Ideas Meeting in due course.

3.4 Pedestrian Lights Survey

It was noted that many of the pedestrian lights in the town take a long time to operate, meanwhile pedestrians have often seen a gap in the traffic and crossed anyway, leaving traffic sitting at a red light for no reason. It was suggested that a survey recording the time taken to operate, and the length of time on red, would be very useful data. It was agreed the University should be asked if they will take this on, or failing that the Scouts and Guides might.

4. TOWN DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 Crescent

Work has started, the hoarding are going up, scaffolding is being erected, the building is a hive of activity. The delay in setting up the compound is due to issues laying the new foul drains, as they have hit rock - this means negotiations with Nestle to safeguard the integrity of the water supply. It is understood that 250-300 workers will be on site soon. While this will be a boost to the local economy it will cause massive parking problems; to date Nestle have still not agreed to the use of the Station Rd site for contractor parking.

4.2 Station Road

Discussions are continuing between Nestle, their new developers and HPBC regarding the best use of the site. The inclusion of Peak Rail's station is still part of the plan.

4.3 The Buckingham Hotel

A planning application has been lodged to demolish the existing building and build a new five storey hotel, with a further three storeys below ground. A roof garden and a vertical light well with 'green walls' growing hydroponic crops are also included in the scheme. There is no intention to develop a Town Team view on this proposal, but people are welcome to comment as individuals - see <http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/> the application number is HPK/2016/0276. It was noted that to date there have been 26 comments in support and 6 objections or partial objections. Objectors include the Buxton Group, Historic England (both objecting to the demolition), the Council for British Archaeology and Buxton Civic Association (accepting the need for demolition but objecting to the replacement building as proposed). Their various objections include: the loss of a heritage asset; harm to the conservation area; risk to the aquifer; size and appearance of the proposed building; removal of mature trees; traffic issues; noise and disturbance.

(Noted since the meeting that Nestle have objected due to the specific risk to the Buxton Water supply.)

5.4 Batham Gate Stone Plant

It was reported that a planning application was being lodged for a stone processing plant near the A6. No further details were available.

(Since the meeting planning application reference identified as HPK/2016/0317)

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 North Derbyshire CCG Public Meeting on Better Care

The meeting had been held earlier in the evening and was very well attended. There was much concern about the proposals (to reduce elderly care beds to only 44 for Derbyshire, all in Chesterfield) and many questions raised, but not so many answers. That said, the feeling was that it was a genuine consultation and the panel were listening. There was a suggestion the NHS might step in to support the CVS when DCC funding is withdrawn.

7. FUTURE I&V MEETINGS

The next meetings are scheduled to take place on:

Thursday 11th August 7:30pm

Tuesday 13th September 7:30pm

VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED

JCMM

14July16