

NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Present: Derek Bodey, Janet Miller, Jean Todd, John Estruch, John Robertson, Philip Barton, Richard Lower, Roddie MacLean, Richard Silson, Steve Bradshaw, Suzanne Pearson, Tina Heathcote

Apologies: Adrian Brown, Claire Millard, Dave Carlisle, Elaine Hill, Frances Allen, John Jansen, Jim Lowe, Mike Monaghan, Simon Fussell, Sue Mellor, Trevor Gilman, 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 meetings on 12th July and 11th August were passed as true record.

Noted that while the 'Action' meeting in August had been successful in terms of getting work done in Ashwood Park, it was attended largely by those people who normally help in the park, rather than the people who normally attend the Ideas & Action meeting. Also noted that it was dark by 9pm; if we repeat the exercise it should be in June.

2. PROJECTS - UPDATES & PROPOSALS

2.1 Buxton in Bloomin' Winter

A project proposal had been circulated. An application has gone in for funding from the National Lottery, if this is not granted the event will still take place but without expensive items such as the banners. Alternative funding will also be sought from eg the Waitrose Community Matters and the Councillors' Initiative Fund. The consensus was that the project should go to the Directors for approval.

2.2 Buxton in Bloom

The awards for the local competitions took place on Sunday, hosted by the Palace Hotel. The East Midlands in Bloom awards would be tomorrow in Mansfield, Tina and Janet would attend. It was hoped that with the attention paid this year to the judging criteria, we would gain more points compared to previous years. It was requested that the portfolio be made available on the website.

2.3 Buxton Open Gardens

The team had held a debrief meeting on Sunday and a project report would be written up soon. Noted that the project had exceeded its objectives, with 26 gardens open (target was 10) and 460 maps sold (target was 100). In addition to the project surplus, a lot of parallel funding was raised for a range of charities. Noted that we could charge more for the maps, but that people were possibly so generous in giving to the charities because the maps were cheap. It was suggested that another year we could specify that any project surplus would go towards a specific project, or generally towards horticultural projects in Buxton. It is anticipated that the project will become an annual event, and for the time being at least will continue to be a Town Team project.

2.4 Ashwood Park

A tree surgeon has volunteered to do tree work at no cost. The closed bridge was officially condemned, suggested we ask a local engineering company to sponsor a replacement, possibly as an apprentice project.

2.5 Slopes Care Team

Several sessions have taken place, and work is steadily being done. HPBC have asked us to log volunteer hours.

2.6 Crescent Planters

These have been vandalised several times, as were the ones behind Waitrose. Tina attended a meeting earlier with the Police and various other interested parties, apparently there have been 43 'anti-social behaviour' incidents since early June, and the police are looking into ways to deter this.

2.7 Merchandise

Noted that the most recent order for tea-towels includes a very attractive version of red on a neutral background.

3. FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERING

3.1 Derivation: A Fly in the Ointment

A minor irritation that spoils the enjoyment. Noted that ointments did not used to be medicinal, rather were expensive perfumed oils. The phrase comes from Ecclesiastes 10.1-3 "As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor."

3.2 Skills & Resources Audit

The link to a survey had been included in the newsletter - www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6VG3SKK. There have only been a very few responses so far, members encouraged to please complete it.

3.3 General Discussion

In response to questions: what encourages people to get involved; what puts them off; are there Town Team people we might persuade to become more active; are there non-members who might get involved for specific projects?

Points noted as follows:-

Motivation: people vary; tasks need to suit their nature; they need to enjoy doing it; something sociable, useful; sense of belonging; feeling of having made a difference.

Publicity: suggested a Town Team leaflet (we have one but it needs updating); permanent display(s) somewhere eg library, market place; come and join us posters.

We have lots of support and high level of awareness in the town, but how do we translate FB likes/comments into active participation? Before and after pictures? Suggest phone round membership list asking what activities people might be willing to take on? Busy people are already involved in other things. Blanket requests for help rarely succeed, need targeted approach, specific ask based on someone's skills and expertise.

Noted that the proportion of Town Team members who are active is very high compared to other voluntary groups.

3.4 Suggested Actions

- Add space on membership form for people to say how they want to be involved
- New member welcome phone call to find out what skills/ experience they have
- Work back through membership list by phone with similar questions
- Include questions at next general meeting - why joined Town Team, what hope to get out of it, what willing to do
- Update the general Town Team leaflet.

Noted we would need to find volunteers to take on these tasks!

4. TOWN DEVELOPMENTS

HPBC have asked us to support a bid for up to £1.5million from the Arts Council Great Places Scheme. Expressions of interest have to be made by 6th October, as yet the rules as to who can apply are uncertain, as is the content of the proposed bid. The directors will be finding out more, for discussion at their meeting next week.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Bunting

Noted it will be being taken down imminently.

5.2 Water Street

Buxton Civic Association have advised they will be developing a sensory garden on the site of the old public toilets.

6. FUTURE I&V MEETINGS

The next meetings are scheduled to take place on:

Wednesday 12th October 7:30pm

Thursday 10th November 7:30pm

Wednesday 7th December 7:30pm

VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED

JCMM

19Sept16