

**IDEAS & VISION GROUP**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014**

**Present:** Charles Jolly, Claire Millard, Janet Miller, Janine Morris, John Atkin, John Jansen, John Moss, Karen Beresford, Mike Badman, Pat Hobby, Phillip Barton, Roddie MacLean, Richard Lower, Richard Silson, Tina Heathcote

**Apologies:** Alan Thompson, Ali Quas-Cohen, Bob Fox, Dave Carlisle, Helen Davison, Helen Heywood, Jean Ball, Jean Todd, John Estruch, John Faulkner, Linda Baldry, Marc Heywood, Sarah Rawlinson, Steve Caddy, Sue Mellor, Zena Bishop

**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> November were passed as true record, with no matters arising.

**2. REVIEW OF 2014**

With accompanying slide show, we reviewed what had been achieved during the year.

**Buxton Spring Clean and Railings Clean:** Around 100 people were involved in cleaning up signs, benches, bus stops, litter bins etc around the town, and weeding, sweeping and picking litter; a further 100 plus school pupils (from the Community School, St Thomas More and St Anne's) and Buxton College students cleaned a significant proportion of the railings round the Pavilion Gardens. The video of the latter is well worth watching.

**Buxton Spring Fair 2015:** The second spring fair was nearly 50% bigger than the first one, with 170 stalls, and with an expanded area to link to events in the Pavilion Gardens and Promenade. New attractions included school sports and a circus on the bowling green, the artificial cave, donkey rides, alpacas, martial arts displays, lots more activities for kids, bands on the pump house roof, bars in the Crescent.

**Illustrated Map & Merchandise:** The illustrated map was finished, printed as a poster and offered for sale either framed or unframed; over 100 have been sold so far. More recently it was turned into a jigsaw, the first batch of 48 sold within a week, the second batch delivered two weeks ago has also virtually sold out. The combined income from these means that the original investment in creating the map has been pretty much repaid. As well as the map we designed a tea-towel based on the sketch donated by the Academy of Urbanism, these have also been selling well. We have had stalls at all 6 of the artisan markets with one more in the Green Man Gallery this Saturday, they are also on sale in a number of retailers in town as well as in the TIC and at Pooles Cavern visitor centre.

**Artisan Market Trials:** The markets started in June, and the first four alternated between Spring Gardens and the Market Place, while the University carried out a survey of the views of traders, retailers and the public. This concluded that there was very little to choose between the locations from the point of view of the public and the Spring Garden retailers, but a definite advantage to the market place retailers to having it up there; subsequent markets have therefore all been up there and are set to continue (though there will not be a January market). We will be meeting Denise from the Market Co in February to review things. John has been measuring footfall in Spring Gardens and the Market Place on market days and non-market days and will report on his findings soon.

**Buxton in Bloom:** We entered the East Midlands in Bloom competition, after a gap of 5 years, and were awarded Silver Gilt, Haddon Hall Care Homes also got Silver Gilt, a pupil from Buxton Junior School won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in her age group in the Art Competition and the Serpentine Project was given a special Judges' award. In parallel we ran lots of local competitions (best street, hanging basket, pub etc) and had an awards ceremony in the Pavilion Gardens that attracted over 50 people. The project pulled together a lot of smaller activities which were happening anyway, as well as encouraging people to take on improving new areas like the back of the Springs Shopping Centre.

**Street Art Phase 1:** George Street was transformed from a horrid back street with dirty grey hoarding to a mini outdoor art gallery: the Community School painted a tropical beach scene; Buxton & Leek College painted panels with flowers and sketches of local landmarks; Green Man Gallery artists painted scenes from higher Buxton; Helen Wallace painted a French café scene. As well as the paintings we produced decorations from recycled plastic bottles - flower tubes on the Market Place for the summer and snowbirds flying around the bottom of the Slopes for winter.

**Talking Signposts:** We had volunteers positioned near the Turner memorial to assist visitors through July and August. The July rota had better coverage than August, but it is estimated that we spoke to over 4,000 people in that time. We covered some additional shifts on Artisan Market days through the autumn.

**Vox Pops:** So far we have videoed 35 interviews with residents, visitors and business people and have gathered a lot of interesting comments and ideas. This has proved to be a good way to talk to ordinary people, who are hard to reach by more traditional consultation methods.

It was noted that in addition to the above projects there had been a number of smaller activities; we entered the ATCM Town Team of the Year award and won Highly Commended; Karen organized a litter pick in the Ashwood Park; we ran a campaign in support of additional HLF funding for the Crescent.

**3. PLANS FOR 2015**

**3.1 Repeat Projects**

**Buxton Spring Fair:** Already approved. Will be held Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 'hold the date' emails will be going out very soon, work will start in earnest in the new year.

**Buxton in Bloom:** Janine and team are discussing what we might do differently and will submit a proposal soon.

**Talking Signposts:** Tina will look at drawing up a project proposal in the new year.

### **3.2 2020 Vision: Buxton Conference**

This is being organised jointly with Vision Buxton, it will be on 25<sup>th</sup> February in the Pavilion Arts Centre. Preliminary 'hold the date' invitations have gone out to key organisations, we are now in the process of selecting the 20 or so of these who will be asked to speak, for no more than 5 minutes. Other organisations will be offered space for poster exhibits, and there will be group discussions and time for networking. They will all be asked to provide a short paragraph on their plans and aspirations, which will be included in the delegate packs. It was suggested we could expand to include major employers and education establishments, but noted that we have a restriction on numbers.

### **3.3 Market Regeneration**

A Pre-Qualification bid to run the Buxton markets was submitted to HPBC before the 28<sup>th</sup> November deadline. We do not know if any other bids were received, we could be the only ones. We will hear on 5<sup>th</sup> January whether this has been successful and if HPBC want to enter into more detailed discussions with us. Of course if an experienced market operator has put in a bid and is keen to take on the market and regenerate it, that would save us a lot of work. If we do take on the markets we would set up a separate Buxton Market CIC which would own its own stalls and employ a part time manager and a team to erect and dismantle the stalls. There are a lot of examples of good practice around and about including the recently resurrected Matlock Market, we will research these the new year.

### **3.4 Walking & Litter Picking Group**

A project proposal had been circulated. The idea is to form a group that meets once a month, walking a different route each time and collecting all the litter. It would be based in Buxton initially but as the group grows it could expand into a wider area. It was suggested we could target dog-walkers as well as ramblers etc; also that we should aim for a lot of advertising of the group via press coverage, Twitter and Facebook, to encourage other people to do the same. Also suggested the group could in time run special interest litter picking walks, and also perhaps log the amount of litter collected each time. The proposal was supported enthusiastically and will go to the Directors for approval. John Moss volunteered to join the project team, Zena has also expressed interest.

### **3.5 Welcome to Buxton Station**

An updated proposal had been circulated, with a plan marking the proposed improvements and a more accurate estimate of costs. There has been progress with resurrecting the 'Friends of Buxton Station' - the previous chair has been tracked down and it is hoped that the records, bank account details etc will be handed over shortly. Funding applications are being drafted for submission to DCC (via the Community Rail Partnership), the Bingham Trust and the Satterthwaite Bequest; the DCC money has to be paid to FOBS, current thinking is that the Town Team would send in the other two applications. It was suggested that the 'official' Buxton logo should be incorporated into the design, this may not fit in with the railway theme but will be considered. It was confirmed that the project should be sent to the Directors for approval.

### **3.6 Buxton College Student Projects**

**Ashwood Park:** Claire will be working with the students on this. It was noted that the park is listed among the top parks in the Peak District, but has fallen into disrepair. There has been a meeting with HPBC officers and some of the students on site and they have started to draw up a list of improvements. The general idea is to open it up to more light, with a formal area of park at the Weatherspoons end, then a wilder area beyond the tennis court.

**Spring Clean & Railings Clean:** Helen Davison is working with the students on these. They are working on getting an application in to the Guinness Book of Records for the longest railing clean.

**Street Signs:** Colin Davison is working with students on this, identifying cleaning, repair and replacement needs.

**Street Decorations:** Tina and Janet met the students working on this today. They are keen on doing murals so we have suggested they work with the team doing the station improvements. They will also look at painting benches and creating sculptures from recycled materials.

The students will be producing project proposals for all the above.

Noted that some of them had been volunteering at the Serpentine today and had worked very hard.

### **3.7 Market Place Improvements**

Mike is developing ideas for an area of planters and seating on Scarsdale Place.

### **3.8 Welcome to Buxton Banners**

The University have taken this on and plan on fixing banners on the roads coming into the town and also around the town centre. Use of the Buxton logo was suggested - because of the vertical layout this may not be possible, though it would be easier if the logo can be used alone without the strapline.

## **4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Crescent Development**

The Heritage Lottery Fund have agreed to provide an extra £11.3million, in addition to the £12.5million already pledged - total Lottery funding therefore equates to £1,000 for every person in Buxton. We are still waiting for confirmation of the final £2million from the LEP, but hopeful that work will start soon.

### **4.2 Nestle Station Road Site**

The planning application was submitted on 31<sup>st</sup> October, and is currently listed on the HPBC site as invalid. Dick will try to find out more and also what stage the Local Plan has reached.

### **4.3 Hardwick Hydro Building**

Work is ongoing, the fire escape at the back was dismantled this week.

### **4.4 Well Dressing Festival**

Noted that it will be celebrating its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, and want to present their ideas to us some time soon.

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

The next meeting will be on:

**Monday 12th January at 7:30pm in the Buckingham Hotel.**