

IDEAS AND VISION GROUP NOTES OF THE MEETING ON MONDAY 13TH JANUARY 2014

- Present:** Charles Jolly, Emily Markie, Janet Miller, Janine Morris, Jean Todd, John Estruch, Kathryn Barton, Philip Barton, Rachel Hoodith, Richard Lower, Roddie MacLean, Sarah McCahill, Simon Fussell, Steve Caddy, Tina Heathcote, Tom Rhodes
- Apologies:** Adrian Brown, Derek Bodey, Ian Howarth, Jean Ball, Joe Dugdale, Linda Baldry, Margaret Charlton, Mike Bryant, Neil Scowcroft, Sarah Rawlinson, Suzanne Pearson
- Chairman:** Roddie MacLean chaired the meeting.
- Introductions:** The meeting started with a round of introductions.

1 NOTES OF THE MEETING ON 16TH DECEMBER

A number of amendments were requested to the notes of the meeting, Janet will revise and re-circulate, and post the amended version on the website. There were no other matters arising.

2. PROJECT UPDATES

2.1 Christmas Crawl 2013

Rachel reported that all the completed entries had now been collected in. There were fewer than last year; one particular business was closed for the post-Christmas period, so a lot of 'crawlers' had been unable to collect their last stamp. Entries with the other 29 business stamps had been accepted, but it would not have been possible to let everyone know about this.

Feedback from retailers was mainly positive, but even those who were unenthusiastic still said they wanted to take part again next year.

A draw for the winners was held at the end of the meeting. Rachel will contact them to invite them to the prize presentation evening. The project team are meeting tomorrow to finalise the details, but provisionally this will be held on Friday 31st January at the Green Man Gallery.

2.2 Totally Locally

The project team will be based on the Christmas Crawl team. Preliminary enquiries have resulted in at least 10 businesses wanting to be involved, but this needs to translate into a firm commitment to help with the organising. Once a strong enough team is in place they will start recruiting more businesses. It was suggested that pubs and restaurants could be included as well as retailers. Rachel will be circulating a project proposal form for comment shortly.

2.3 Big Buxton Spring Clean

The project proposal for this had been circulated in advance. Tina explained the basis of the project and its primary aims, and confirmed that the Big Clean Up Day would be Saturday 12th April. It was noted that we needed to establish links with the HPBC cleaning team. Maps of the proposed Clean-up area were distributed, it is proposed that as soon as these have been zoned and responsibilities allocated, the team would start recruiting helpers. This will include from other organisations, schools and the university. It was agreed that the proposal should be forwarded to the directors for formal approval.

2.4 'Project Molino'

John explained that the Pop-up Shops project had come to a natural conclusion because there were now very few empty shops on 'Main Street'. The project team were not planning on doing any further work on this.

They were now considering developing a 'vision' for what Main Street should look like in the future, and a draft project proposal had been circulated before the meeting. The project is essentially a piece of research, they envisage spending six months 'fact-finding' (collating previous research, assessing what has been tried elsewhere, surveying residents, businesses and visitors) followed by three months developing their ideas and agreeing the vision.

It was generally accepted that such a piece of research would be a useful thing to have. It was suggested however that as market research is a very specialist area, it might be better to draw up detailed terms of reference, and then seek funding to commission an expert provider. It was further suggested that for credibility, any such work would need to be carried out in collaboration with other organisations in the town, and the terms of reference would need to be agreed with them. In addition all relevant organisations would have to be involved, with none left feeling excluded.. There was support for

the drawing up of terms of reference, but differing views about pursuing funding, and John felt that this would be a much more complex and time-consuming approach.

John explained that the team saw the vision for 'Main Street' as something that would be agreed just for Buxton Town Team, to help inform decisions on future projects; they would not expect to commit other organisations to agreeing the vision, or to involve them in developing it.

Concern was expressed that while we might perhaps develop and agree a common vision, we would have no power to influence what then actually happened in the town, and that to publicise a vision that we had no means of implementing could damage our credibility. Concern was also expressed about how HPBC would view the project, and that they might see it as having the potential to conflict with their (democratically mandated) Local Plan.

There was also awareness that similar research had been carried out in the past, by HPBC particularly, in developing the Local Plan, but potentially by the University and others; also that other research was being planned by other organisations which might overlap. It was agreed that a good starting point would be to find out what studies had been done previously and obtain copies of them.

The proposal detailed five stages, culminating in an implementation phase. John clarified that they were only seeking approval now for the first stage (developing research plans and identifying funding implications), but that he expected this would be followed soon after with a more detailed proposal, which could be thought of as terms of reference, for Stages 2 and 3 (the actual research and recommendations). He was asked to redraft the project proposal to make this clear, and to circulate it again for comment.

Meanwhile it was agreed that the team could approach other organisations to request details of any studies that they had carried out, but should not mention the proposal for developing a new vision until the project has been approved.

2.5 Buxton Spring Fair 2014

Janet confirmed that the core project team had been recruited and that detailed planning was starting this week. Everyone on the contact list has been emailed preliminary notification of the date (Monday 5th May) and applications will open at the end of the month. Meanwhile Janet and Tina had met with Terry Crawford, who is keen for the event to link with their 'Spring Spectacular' and Picnic in the Park; accordingly the Spring Fair area will probably expand slightly beyond last year's, in the direction of the Pavilion Gardens. Hopefully there will be some benefit to us in terms of additional publicity from the Gardens.

2.6 Artisan Market

John reported that he and Alan had met with Terry Crawford and the Artisan Market Company (AMC) a few days ago. HPBC Licensing Department are proposing amending the licensing rules for the High Peak to allow an event organiser to purchase a day license for £250, with no limit on the number of stalls, as an alternative to each individual stall paying £25 as now. The AMC had confirmed that their business model would work with this arrangement. The proposal is expected to go to the relevant committee on 19th February.

In addition it had been made clear to the AMC that to conform with the Market Charter, any market on a Saturday has to incorporate the regular market. Additionally there needs to be a robust plan as to how existing annual licence holders (who pay a significant amount to HPBC) are accommodated.

As regards timing the AMC would prefer the first Saturday each month. It was agreed that an Artisan Market two days before the Spring Fair would be a bad idea, as these are not events that will bring people in for the weekend, and people are unlikely to go to both. The first Artisan market would not therefore be held until 7th June. Apparently the AMC do operate elsewhere on an 10 or 11 months basis, to allow other scheduled events to take place.

The AMC have a core of around 35 traders who go to all their markets and would be expected to come to Buxton as well; these would be supplemented by local traders, so the AMC would expect to start with 50-60 stalls. If the market outgrows the available space preference is given to local traders, subject to their meeting the required standards.

The location of the Artisan Market is still contentious. We understand that the AMC have a strong preference for starting in Spring Gardens (though it might spread out from here), which would mean the existing market traders having to move down there one day a month. They would be offered a reduced introductory rate (they currently pay a lot less than the £48 that AMC will charge).

It was recognised that the best location for the AMC, as a commercial company, was not necessarily the

best for the economy of the town.

The AMC are asking the town team to take on the role of consulting with affected businesses and residents. In the light of the very strong feelings on the issue, a number of people queried what effect this might have on our reputation and goodwill from the town, particularly if the end result were a permanent relocation of the market to Spring Gardens.

After much discussion, it was agreed that, while the proposal could of course go ahead without us, we would only support it in terms of active involvement if there were two pilot markets, one on the Market Place and the other in Spring Gardens, followed by an evaluation. John was asked to check with AMC whether they could agree to this.

John was also asked to draft a revised project proposal to be circulated for comment.

2.7 Talking Signposts

Tina will be organising a preliminary project meeting very soon, after which a project proposal will be drafted.

3. SCHEDULE OF IDEAS

Full discussion of this had to be held over for a future meeting, due to lack of time. The last update was in June. It was noted that even more projects were now being actively worked on than at that time, and that a number of new projects needed adding to the list.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Ideas & Vision Group meetings will be on:

Tuesday 11th February - main topics Buxton in Bloom and Buxton Civic Association plans

Monday 10th March - business followed by a workshop on developing a Neighbourhood Plan

Both at 7:30pm, provisionally in the Buckingham Hotel, this will be confirmed or otherwise.

JCMM

14Jan14

Revised 17Jan14