

NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2015

Present: Adrian Brown, Alison Jolly, Andrea Lewis, Charles Jolly, Claire Millard, Derek Bodey, Helen Haywood, Isobel Stockdale, Janet Miller, Jean Ball, Jean Todd, John Estruch, Linda Baldry, Liz Perry, Marc Haywood, Margaret Charlton, Mo Law, Mike Badman, Mike Bryant, Phillip Barton, Roddie MacLean, Richard Silson, Simon Fussell, Steve Caddy, Tina Heathcote, Zena Bishop

Apologies: Helen Davison, Janine Morris, Joe Dugdale, John Jansen, John Phillips, Karen Beresford, Mike Monaghan, Pat Hobby, Rachel Hoodith, Richard Lower, Sarah Rawlinson, Suzanne Pearson

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 12th February were passed as true record.

2. PROJECTS

2.1 2020 Vision: The Buxton Conference

The conference took place and was very successful, with 97 people in total attending. Information gathering involved twenty speakers with 5 minutes each, followed by a table exercise to agree top priorities for the town. A full report is in preparation and should be circulated very soon. It is important that this is not just a 'moment in time' but that real actions result from it.

2.2 Buxton and Leek College Projects

Ashwood Park - The students have been working clearing up pathways and have lots more plans for improvement.

Railings Clean - This will take place on Tuesday 28th April, 10am-3pm, with 150 pupils from the college and all bar one of the schools lined up to help on the day.

2.3 Winter Lights

A draft project proposal had been circulated. There is an opportunity to win up to £10,000 of lights for your town from Blachere Illuminations. Roddie has volunteered to lead the project, with Andrea and Jean Ball on the team, but others are welcome - let Janet know and she will pass your contact details to the team. The meeting supported the team registering an interest and developing their ideas further. The closing date for entries is 26th June.

2.4 Big Spring Clean 2015

This would be a repeat of the 2014 project, provisionally to take place on Saturday 25th April. The meeting agreed that a project proposal should be presented to the Directors for approval next week.

2.5 Car Boot Sales

The idea would be to hold occasional Sunday car boot sales on the Market Place, partly as a way of raising funds (towards market stalls?) but more importantly to encourage active use of the space. The possibility of planning issues was raised, but we think this would not be a problem if it was classed as a market. Linda will discuss the suggestion with Licensing and report back.

2.6 Market Regeneration

The HPBC procurement process has progressed to the next stage, and we expect to be invited formally to tender, but the date when this will happen is still uncertain.

3 TOWN DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Station Rd Planning Application

HPBC planners have advised that the application will not be going for determination on 16th March, because of the complex analysis required. The Retail Impact Report has been passed to consultants to assess its credibility, and the traffic modelling has been passed to DCC for scrutiny, and to advise on what measures might be needed to mitigate the impact if the proposal went ahead.

Buxton Town Team sent in a detailed objection as did many other voluntary organisations in the town. Vision Buxton are working on submitting one shortly with a particular focus on the need for improved connectivity with the town centre if any development goes ahead. Waitrose has submitted a detailed critique of the retail assumptions. Peak Rail has made strong representations regarding their retention of the right to operate a railway on the land, including on the area where the proposed hotel is to be built.

Dick will continue to monitor progress and let everyone know if there are any developments.

4. FOCUS ON HEALTH & WELL-BEING

4.1 21C Joined Up Care - Margaret Charlton

Healthcare in the UK is heading into another re-organisation, following the enactment of the Health & Social Care Act and major budget re-allocations. The latter generally transfer NHS resources to Social Services, aiming either to prevent people going into hospital in the first place, or to get them out again faster. A number of pilot regions have been set up, the nearest to us are Erewash and Stockport. It has just been announced that full responsibility for health care in Greater Manchester will be devolved to local control.

Facilities in Buxton were listed, noted that the nearest acute care is in either Stockport, Macclesfield or Chesterfield, with specialist units even further away.

There are a lot of challenges: lack of money (massive savings demanded in both NHS and local authority budgets); understaffing especially in rural areas; local demographics (nearly 20% of the population is over 65, and older people need the highest level of resourcing); geographical factors and administrative boundaries; our clinical commissioning group is based in Chesterfield; services are disjointed; out of hours access whether GP or pharmacy is scarce.

Independent and uncoordinated changes in the surrounding area will affect us, but Buxton's needs are a very minor consideration. Other problems, such as the use of algorithm assessments resulting in more referrals to A&E, are a widespread problem. Lots of solutions are being proposed, and different areas are trying different things, but there is huge potential for freeing up hospital beds through better linkage with social care.

The voluntary sector has a key role to play, not least in helping to 'build strong, vibrant communities'.

A public meeting to discuss the issue last week was very poorly advertised and attended, it is hoped that it can be repeated soon, if so Janet will circulate details and we can help to publicise it.

Noted that there are various self-help communities around, the Lions run a 'Message in Bottle' scheme so emergency crews can easily find what medication people are on, the Volunteer Bureau run a 'befriending' scheme - though it seems that getting onto their books can be a lengthy process.

Margaret's slides are included in the Appendix to these notes.

4.2 Pets as Therapy - Alison & Charles Jolly, with Bonnie

Bonnie is a retired greyhound and a 'Pets as Therapy' dog. Dogs have been bred for all sorts of different uses, but the relationship with humans has been there for thousands of years and there is an instinctive bond, which is particularly strong where language is a problem, for instance with people with dementia or people with learning difficulties or other disabilities. Bonnie had to be thoroughly assessed for suitability before joining the scheme, as did Charles and Alison. She visits the Hawthorns once a week, and is very popular with residents, Charles gave several examples of breakthrough in contact with people who do not normally react to anything much.

Noted that dogs are also used for their sense of sight, smell, hearing, as therapy in prisons, and even as subjects for children to read to.

No-one knew of any other Pets as Therapy dogs in Buxton, but apparently Haddon Hall has regular pet therapy sessions. More information on the scheme at <http://www.petsastherapy.org>

4.3 University Spa Treatments - Isobel Stockdale

When the University of Derby took over the Dome the spa facilities already existed from its time as a hospital, and so they launched the world's first degree in Spa Management. They produce 40 graduates a year, who work all over the world, though the majority of the staff at the Dome are past students. They also run a commercial day spa, with a range of therapies on offer, and link in with Buxton & Leek College's hair and beauty salon. The majority of their clients are not local, but come to stay in Buxton eg for the weekend, but they also have events where community groups come in. Many of their student dissertations involve research into various aspects of 'wellness', and they are expanding activities to go out into the community, for instance visiting care homes. They are also looking at developing new related degree courses covering wellness, exercise, lifestyle and so on.

Noted that in some countries such treatments and therapies are seen as an essential part of a healthy life.

Isabel's slides are included in the Appendix to these notes.

4.4 Ideas and Discussion

It was noted that though 'the well-being of the community' is in our primary objective, this is the first time the topic has been discussed at this meeting. No immediate ideas for projects were suggested, the meeting felt that we needed time to absorb all the information and mull it over. It was suggested that all our projects should consider their effect on wellbeing as part of defining the objectives.

The meeting thanked the presenters for their interesting and informative contributions.

5. FUTURE I&V MEETINGS

The next two meetings are scheduled to take place on:

Tuesday 14th April at 7:30pm

Thursday 14th May 7:30pm

The Buckingham Hotel is booked for these two dates, but we need to find another venue thereafter, if not sooner.

Various alternatives were suggested - the Dome, the Old Hall, Pooles Cavern, the Palace, the Clubhouse, the Railway - any other suggestions please to Janet.

Janet and Dick will draw up a list of dates for meetings later in the year.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 St Anne's Well

Suggested we could buy plastic bottles and sell them to visitors to fill with water, but concern expressed at the amount of volunteer time required, plus there would be licensing and health & safety issues. Also noted that it is not possible to get to the well in a wheelchair, and that all of this area of the town needs improvement alongside the Crescent development.

6.2 Traffic Studies

Noted that Jim Seymour, who spoke for DCC at the conference, has offered to carry out traffic modelling studies for us if we have ideas to put forward.