

NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2015

Present: Dave Holdway, Frances Allen, Graham Starkey, Janet Miller, Jean Todd, Jim Lowe, Jo Holdway, John Estruch, John Moss, John Robertson, Kathryn Barton, Mike Badman, Pat Hobby, Philip Barton, Richard Lower, Richard Silson, Roddie MacLean, Steve Caddy, Sue Allez, Sue Jacob, Tina Heathcote, Trevor Gilman, Zena Bishop

Apologies: Alan Thompson, Charles Jolly, Claire Millard, Dave Carlisle, Derek Bodey, Helen Haywood, Jean Ball, John Jansen, Linda Baldry, Marc Haywood, Mike Monaghan, Simon Fussell, Sue Mellor, 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 meeting on 14th October were passed as true record. People were reminded that if they are not being emailed the agenda and notes to please ask Janet to add them to the list.

2. PROJECTS

2.1 Access, Parking, Traffic and Transport Conference

A project proposal had been circulated. Tina explained that the idea had come out of the 2020 Vision Conference held in February, which looked at the impact developments in the town in the next five years. Traffic, parking etc emerged as a key issue, a lot of ideas were put forward and it was thought that this was something that the Town Team could address as a specific project. The idea is to host a second 'APTT' conference along similar lines but inviting representatives of all the users of the town space - residents, taxi firms, haulage companies, bus companies and so on - to look at what might be done and the sort of costs that might be involved. The aim is to take an holistic approach and look at the needs of everyone who moves around the town, including pedestrians and cyclists as well as private and commercial road vehicles. Two meetings have been held with officers at HPBC, who are happy for us to proceed and are talking to DCC Highways. The University have offered to host the conference at the Dome. It was noted that there is a HPBC Sub-Committee looking at traffic issues across the High Peak, and the effects of the new Mottram by-pass and Airport link road. Also that distant developments can have unexpected knock on effects, as happened when the rail bridge over the A515 was raised enabling HGVs to use that route. The meeting supported the proposal and recommended it should go to the directors for approval.

2.2 Buxton Markets

The aim is to launch the new market in March 2016, just before Easter. The project team are well on with setting up the new company, finalizing the agreement with HPBC and researching suitable market stalls and other equipment. We will be recruiting members later in the year, and offering them the opportunity to invest in the company, as a way of involving the community and also raising funds for the purchase of equipment and to start paying staff. We will start recruiting traders early in the new year. Applications are now being sought for a markets manager, and people are encouraged to pass the word around; there is a link to the job description from the front page of the website. It was suggested that local bus companies could be encouraged to introduce a new low fare between lower and higher Buxton, it was agreed this is something the APTT project could pick up.

3 TOWN DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Station Rd Development

Dick reported that that Nestle's agents in Derby have contacted Peak Rail asking for a meeting to discuss a land deal. Separately, Buxton Civic Association have met with senior Nestle executives. Both these are seen as very positive developments.

3.2 The Crescent

It has been confirmed that work will start on the Pump House before the end of the month. It will be a usable shell building from the end of May, so the roof is likely to be available as a venue for the Festival Fringe, but not for the Spring Fair. The Crescent Glow 'son et lumière' project is going ahead from 20th November till the year end.

4. SKILLS & RESOURCES

A draft form had been produced as a means of capturing what skills and resources are available to the Town Team from within the membership. All those present were asked to complete this and then suggest how it might be improved, before it is circulated to the members.

Suggestions for inclusion: a separate section on availability/willingness to volunteer (how often, when, how long for); willingness to lead and organize events; computing skills and skill with data bases; talking to the public; DIY skills; availability of general gardening tools, DIY tools, catering equipment, chairs and tables, tents, gazebos and stalls. Janet will revise the form accordingly.

5. FOCUS ON GARDENS

5.1 Buxton in Bloom 2016

Tina reported that the 2016 theme will be 'painting the town red', so the project team are suggesting that flower displays should be white through all shades of pink to red. The trial with people creating flower pot people around town proved very popular and will be repeated, hopefully with more of them next year. We will be entering the town into the East Midlands in Bloom competition obviously but in addition are looking to nominate entries for the 'it's your neighbourhood' category.

In the local competitions they are looking at reducing the number of classes and revising the judging criteria. They are also looking to introduce a small 'adopt a plot' project whereby individuals or groups can nominate an area that

they want to tidy up and look after, the BiB team would check ownership and help with clearing and providing compost and plants. As part of this scheme they are hoping to tidy up and refurbishing the small park on Fairfield Road, and the bank opposite the Cottage Hospital, but suggestions for other sites are welcome.

5.2 Ashwood Park Regeneration

Work has carried on with help from Buxton & Leek College, HPBC and Burbage Gardening Club. About 3,000 bulbs have been planted in the park and over the road by the coach park, and a lot of self-seeded trees and undergrowth have been cleared to open up the vista. The next clearing session will be on Sunday 22nd November, all are welcome to come along.

5.3 RHS Chatsworth

Roddie advised that a new RHS Garden Show is due to launch in June 2017. He noted that the RHS Show in Malvern brings 86,000 visitors to the town over 4 days, and Tatton Park now attracts over 100,000. Chatsworth is only 16 miles from Buxton, so this is a great opportunity to bring RHS visitors to Buxton as a destination of choice while they are in the area. This would boost the local economy, and fill the hotels and restaurants at a time when not much is going on in the town. It would also promote gardening to the town's residents and encourage more cultivation. Roddie's slides are appended.

5.4 Buxton Open Gardens 2015

Jo introduced her proposal for an Open Gardens event on 11th & 12th June 2016, as a pilot for a bigger event in 2017 to coincide with the RHS Show. The aim of the project would be to open 10 to 15 private gardens to the public, they have 6 gardens offered so far. A route map would be produced which would be on sale for £5 and act as entry ticket. They hope to incorporate art work, poetry reading and story-telling in at least some of the gardens. They are also talking to Burbage WI who would offer tea and cakes either in Burbage Church or in one of the gardens. They will need funding to be able to produce the maps, but would hope to recoup all of this in ticket sales. They are looking to link with the existing Burbage Gardening Society Open Gardens event which is about a week later. They have also asked Buxton Art Trail artists about providing artwork. There is a possibility of incorporating the Pavilion Gardens, and people having stalls there to sell plants and other goods.

It was agreed that as Town Team ethos is to promote 'one town' the gardens should not be restricted to Burbage. It was suggested that High Peak Community Arts might be able to help with designing publicity materials. It was also suggested that Buxton Markets CIC could schedule a specialist gardening market for Saturday 11th June.

The meeting was generally supportive. It was agreed that a project proposal should be drafted to go to the Directors for approval; Jo will liaise with Janet.

5.5 General Discussion and the 'Garden Fringe' Project

It was agreed that a Garden Fringe to coincide with RHS Chatsworth would be well worth some effort to develop. Ideas included:

- Literary talks and other relevant events at the Opera House
- Garden craft workshops and demonstrations eg willow weaving, flower arranging
- Invite Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time
- Major Garden related event in the Pavilion Gardens
- Additional garden themed markets on the Market Place
- Package deals worked up by accommodation providers and local coach companies
- Investigate additional transport services between Chatsworth and Buxton for the duration
- Ask Paul Cummings (creator of the Tower of London poppy installation) to do something in Buxton
- Seek a famous patron eg the Duke of Devonshire
- Involvement of our twin towns Oignies and Bad Neuheim
- Expand more of the Chatsworth events into Buxton eg the sculpture trails

It was agreed that HPBC and the TIC should incorporate RHS Chatsworth into their forward planning, and that the Vision Buxton Marketing Group and Group Travel team should be asked to look into the scope for package deals.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Spring Gardens: It was noted that there has been more trouble in Spring Gardens with teenagers climbing lamp posts, but accepted that there is nothing the Town Team can do about this.

7. FUTURE I&V MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on:

Thursday 10th December 7:30pm in The Railway Hotel.

JCMM

12Nov15