

Ideas and Vision Group Notes of the meeting on Tuesday, 2nd July 2013

Present: Janet Miller, Linda Baldry, Suzanne Pearson, Janine Morris, Marie Cooper, Rachel Quinn (Waitrose), Jo Cotton, Roddie MacLean, Adrian Brown, Carlon Stewart, Alan Thompson, Peter Dewhurst, Philip Barton and Mike Bryant

Observing: Charles Jolly (Scrutiny Group)

Visitors: Maria Doglioli and A N Other.

Apologies: Sarah Rawlinson, Jean Ball, Mike Mirams, Neil Scowcroft and Tom Rhodes.

Chairman: Roddie MacLean was asked and agreed to chair the meeting.

Introductions: The meeting started with a round of introductions.

1 Notes of the meeting on 13th May. These were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising which were not covered by the current agenda.

2 Local Loyalty Scheme Slow progress was being made on this front. At the One Year On Event, Rachel Hoodith, Nichola Sargeant and Sonia Alexis had registered an interest. Marie Cooper reported that Neil Scowcroft was trying to recruit representatives from the different parts of the town centre. Alan Thompson said it was important that there was one leader who would drive the project forward.

It was agreed that Rachael, Nichola, Sonia, Marie and Neil should be the Project Team for this work with power to co-opt others as required.

The Town Team was grateful for the preparatory research undertaken by students from the University.

3 Buxton Spa Prize Suzanne Pearson explained that this had been inspired by the Bath Prize and was supported by Trevor Osborne. It was to be a competition for artists who would paint scenes of Buxton working in public spaces, mainly in the open air. The plan was to have painting going on through June, July and August 2014, with judging in early September followed by a 3 week exhibition of art for sale. It would become an annual event with the possibility of Photography and sculpture being included in later years. More detail had been circulated on a Town Team Proposal Form before the meeting.

The Prize was to be run by a separate body but was seeking association and support from the Town Team. As there was no financial commitment involved, the project was supported by the meeting and approval of Associate Status was recommended to the Directors. *Since the meeting, all the current directors have approved this via e-mail.*

4 Wayfinding – Talking Signposts Mike reported that, following the support given at the last Ideas and Vision Group, he had submitted a Project Proposal Form to the Directors and a trial during the Buxton Festival had been approved with a budget of £250 for Town Team branding, on the basis that this would be multipurpose.

Plans were now well in hand. Janet had undertaken to make tabards and almost every shift (Monday to Saturday) had been filled. Tina had offered help with the initial briefing. If the trial period was a success, Mike hoped to form a Project Team from the volunteer guides so that the service could be provided, whenever the town was busy, without depending on him to manage it.

5 Updates

5.1 One Year On Event A brief report on the Town Team's origins and first year had been presented to those present. The evening then provided the opportunity to showcase current projects and recruit members for their Project Teams. The evening had been judged a success and the Strawberries and cream had been enjoyed by everyone.

One of the legacies of this event is a series of publicity boards with basic information about the Town Team and its projects. These had already been used at the Buxton Voice meeting.

5.2 Pop-up Incubator Project A new member had been recruited at the One Year On Event, bringing the Project Team up to five. Their application was being processed by the Charity Commission and they were making progress with the first cluster. They were optimistic about both premises in Springs Shopping Centre and some financial support from High Peak Borough Council.

5.3 The Market It was reported that the Retail Sub-committee of High Peak Borough Council was still trying to widen any consultation about the market's future. The members felt that just consulting on moving it to Spring Gardens was not going to achieve anything. Roddie was still pressing for a better organised Market in its present position. This would cost very little and is supported by many of the councillors. A firm marshalling of the stallholders is essential.

Alongside the above, Maxine (of Maxine's Mobile Pizza) is trying to establish a Food Fair, in the lower town, on the first Friday of the month. She would like to see Buxton become a "Foodie town".

Alan Thompson extolled the virtues of the Treacle Market, held in Macclesfield. This filled the streets with stalls on one Sunday a month. Stalls were allocated space on a themed basis similar to the clusters proposed for the Pop-up project above.

5.4 Illustrated Map In the absence of Joe, it was assumed that this was making slow progress. *Since the meeting, our assumption has been confirmed.*

5.5 British Legion etc. Roddie explained the proposal again (*Please refer to past meeting notes*) and reported no real progress with the registration of the building as a community asset. It had been derelict for so long that establishing community use in the last five years was difficult. Mike stated that he had heard a hopeful report that Trevor Osborne's bid might be the only one received. Peter reported that the accommodation for a Students' Union had been found on campus for the time being.

This led on to a discussion about the departure of the Gilbert and Sullivan Festival, which was booked into Harrogate for 2014 without a longer term contract. One thing which might bring them back to Buxton was finding a permanent home for the G & S Museum. Currently there was a vast quantity of G & S material in storage.

5.6 Parking and Transport This issue needed to be grasped properly as the Town Team had made little progress with it. It was agreed that it should be the main business for the July meeting. While everyone seemed keen to provide more and more parking, it was pointed out that user friendly public transport would be a much "Greener" means of reducing demand for road and parking space.

It was unfortunate that the Borough Council had become so dependent on the income from parking charges. This situation needed to be addressed as it was not sustainable in the long term.

5.7 Planning Issues Mike pointed out that because there was no up to date Local Plan, numerous speculative planning applications were going to be made in an attempt to beat the system. The first had materialised, for 32 houses on the site of the kennels on Macclesfield Old Road. Another was on the way for a much bigger development off Ashbourne Road. Mike wondered if there was a role for Buxton Town Team in dealing with this. It was stated the Town Team would find it difficult to establish a consensus on these issues and so could not adopt a corporate view. Individual members should be encouraged to express their personal views.

5.8 Town Team Website Mike had put this on the agenda because it seemed to be underused. Janet stated that the Town Team needed someone to manage it more proactively. Adrian pointed out that Vision Buxton had offered to arrange for Zoe, their administrator, to provide some professional input but this had not been taken up. Carlon Stewart pointed out the advantage of links between the various Buxton sites. Peter confirmed that the University would provide the relevant training if required in order to get more people competent to contribute to the online material.

6 Other Business/New Ideas

6.1 Community Voice The latest meeting had been held the previous week. Janet and Mike had explained the nature of the Town Team and presented its recent activities. Roddie had presented his view on the Market. There was a significant contingent from Fairfield Dream Scheme, which arranged opportunities for teenagers to work to improve their community. There was also a presentation from the group raising funds to renew the Fairfield Skate-park. This group was planning a Party in the Park on Saturday, 3rd August. This self help effort within the community seemed worthy of support.

6.2 Ideas from VB Vision Buxton had now collated the ideas which they had collected at the Spring Fair and Rotary Charity Bazaar. One of these was to make provision for Weddings at Buxton Town Hall. It will be interesting to compare these with the Town Team's Schedule of Ideas.

6.3 Retail Strategy Alan highlighted the need for a retail strategy for the town. This needed to be included in the new Local Plan. Linda Baldry said this should be put to the officers responsible, Perry Wardle and Gavin Clarke. The initial approach should be through Dai Larnar.

However, it was reported that there was a more positive feeling about retail with some new shops due to open.

6.4 Health and Wellbeing It was suggested that Buxton might benefit from a Health and Wellbeing Fair in the autumn each year.

6.5 Regional Funding Peter Dewhurst stated that funding for any projects which contributed to the visitor economy might be available through the Local Enterprise Partnership, D2N2.

7 Future meetings The Ideas and Vision Group will meet at 7.30 pm, at The Buckingham Hotel on the following dates: Monday, 29th July and Wednesday 28th August. These dates are a week later than previously proposed. The August meeting will be a less formal one. Dates for the autumn will be agreed at the next meeting.

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18th July 2013