

## NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016

**Present:** Charles Denton, Charles Jolly, Claire Millard, Dave Carlisle, Frances Allen, Helen Davison, Helen Haywood, Janet Miller, Jean Ball, Jean Todd, John Nuttall, John Robertson, Marc Haywood, Matthew Nuttall, Mike Monaghan, Pat Hobby, Phil Jones, Philip Barton, Roddie MacLean, Richard Silson, Simon Fussell, Suzanne Pearson, Tina Heathcote, Trevor Gilman, Will Blake

**Apologies:** Derek Bodey, Joe Dugdale, John Estruch, Linda Baldry, Richard Lower, Steve Caddy, 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 10<sup>th</sup> December were passed as true record.

### 2. DERIVATIONS EXERCISE

As a fun way to start the new year, Dick asked if anyone knew the derivations of various words and phrases; some were trickier than others!

SCUBA: Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus

Biscuit: French, twice cooked

Sold down the river: from slavery, down the Mississippi River to the slave market

Put a sock in it: the only volume control on old phonographs, stuff the horn with woollen socks

Hat trick: cricket, a player who scored three wickets was awarded a new bowler hat

Velcro: invented by a Frenchman, short for velour crochet

Hip hip hooray: from the middle ages, HEP for Hieroslyma Est Perdita, Hooraj a Slav word for paradise - Jerusalem is fallen, we're going to paradise!

Scot free: 1. from Skot, a Norse tax that those deemed worthy enough could apply not to have to pay or 2. the skot being a slate in an inn where what you drank was recorded, but if the landlord liked you he'd wipe the slate clean

Also put forward:-

Freezing the balls off a brass monkey: cannon balls were stacked on a brass stand called a monkey, if cold enough differential expansion meant the balls fell off the stand.

### 3. PROJECTS

#### 3.1 Winter Lights

A closing report had been circulated. There were no comments or queries, it will go to the Directors next week.

#### 3.2 Website Hosting

A closing report had been circulated. There were no comments or queries, it will go to the Directors next week.

#### 3.3 Buxton Markets

Roddie updates the meeting on progress. Since Christmas we have had a number of applications for the Markets Manager job and have arranged to interview five people over the next few days. The new market will start at the end of April with a 'soft launch' on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> and the main launch on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April; this is Spring Fair weekend, and there is also a Folk Festival and a beer festival in the Pavilion Gardens. Membership of Buxton Markets CIC is now open for a one off cost of £20 and members have the option of lending money to the company. Loans may be eligible for tax relief under the Social Investment Scheme, we are waiting to hear from HMRC on this. Instead of paying interest, every £50 loaned is an entry into a quarterly draw for £100, starting in June. The company does need to raise around £10,000 quite quickly to buy stalls and start paying employees. While various grants have been applied for, they will take time to come through. Membership and loan forms for individuals and organisations can be downloaded from the Town Team website (<http://buxtontownteam.org/working-on/buxton-market/buxton-markets-cic/>). Potential traders are being approached and many have expressed an interest in trading on the new market.

It was suggested that some funders might like their names to be published. Also noted that there is some risk, if the company were to fail, that loans could not be repaid, but that the liability on members is limited to a maximum of £1.

### 4. PARTNER ORGANIZATION PROJECTS

#### 4.1 Vision Buxton: Geotask

A Supporting Role proposal had been circulated. Geotask is an information gathering app devised by Indestinate, which records the movements of those who volunteer to be a part of it, via a signal sent from their phone every minute. All data is anonymised before analysis. How useful the information will be remains to be seen but the idea is that it will indicate relative footfall in different parts of the town, and how this varies, so could for instance be useful to estate agents marketing empty shops, or to assess the impact of specific events. Over 100 towns (and several thousand people) have signed up to the scheme so far and more are joining. Most towns are sponsored by their local authority, here Vision Buxton are taking the lead, but with support from HPBC, who have advertised the scheme to all their staff. There is no cost for the first year, but sometime in 2017 Vision Buxton will be asked to pay; at that stage they will know whether the information is useful or not and will take a decision on whether to fund it themselves as a service to members, pass the costs through to those members who want it or abandon it. There are concerns about privacy, but participation is entirely voluntary and we are assured the system is secure. There are also concerns that a small self-selected sample may not be representative, but the more people involved the better the data will be.

It was noted that there had been some criticism on the Geotask website about functionality, draining of battery power etc but Indestinate advise that these early problems have now been resolved.

All Buxton Town Team are being asked to do is to publicise the scheme to its members. It was agreed that the proposal should go to the Directors for consideration at the next meeting.

## **4.2 Buxton Civic Association: Places and Spaces**

Phil Jones presented this project on behalf of Buxton Civic Association. His slides are appended.

The aim is to identify places in the town needing attention, and make a small difference to key places. Noted that 'you don't know what you've got till it's gone'. Three areas have been identified as follows:-

**Town Gateways:** Looking at the A6, A515 and A54. They have taken photos of areas of concern eg litter at Lovers Leap, proliferation of wheelie bins, broken railings, likely housing development etc, and are either taking action on them or persuading the landowners or responsible authorities to do so.

**Heritage Trails:** They are developing booklets on a History of Coal Mining Trail and an Ashwood Dale Trail.

**Vulnerable Spaces:** They have identified hundreds of specific neglected locations in town, some as 'quick wins' (eg the Palace Hotel wall, Fountain St substation, Market Place walls) where they are lobbying the owners or responsible authorities to take action, others are longer terms projects like the Market Place well.

They are aware of similar projects undertaken by other groups and keen to work with them or defer as appropriate.

It was noted that we had managed to persuade NW Electric to renovate two of their substations, but had had no response from them on the Fountain Street one; it is possible it is a different distribution company.

Also noted that Market Place responsibilities are split between HPBC and DCC which is causing delay on some projects. Also that Local Authorities are very short of funding and we have to consider doing more work as volunteers; a more relaxed attitude to volunteer work would help with this. It was suggested that councillors might be able to assist on both these issues. Dave offered to help anyone with producing risk assessments if required.

## **4.3 Transition Buxton: Waterswallows Floating Solar Array**

Charles Jolly presented the project on behalf of Transition Buxton. His slides are appended.

Transition is about communities making the change to a low Carbon, low energy lifestyle, because of climate change, but also the impact of energy prices - though low now, it will not take much for them to shoot up again. With the cut in subsidies it might be thought that now is not the best time to develop a renewable energy scheme, but maybe it is best, so as to be ready to go when the economic environment improves. Transition has looked at the question 'how will Buxton feed itself?' and part of the answer to that is the Serpentine Community Farm and the Community Orchard. It is now addressing the question 'how can Buxton supply its own energy?' Wind energy is effective but not popular with planners and the Peak Park, so might solar be a possibility? It would need to be somewhere where it would not be an eyesore, and in a location where it can feed into the energy infrastructure.

Last autumn they heard about scheme at Godley Reservoir near Hyde, where United Utilities were installing a 3MW floating solar array. An array on water doesn't use up good land; they wondered if there might be a suitable location near Buxton. The Blue Lagoon at Harpur Hill was suggested, but it is too small, terribly polluted and not close to a major demand for power. At Waterswallows however there is a lake in the old quarry pit, in an area already zoned for industrial use, very close to not only one of the main incoming supplies to Buxton, but also the supply to Tunstead Quarry. They estimate that the lake is about 100,000m<sup>2</sup> and there could be space for panels generating around 6MW at peak, roughly equivalent to the requirement for the whole of Buxton. Tunstead's usage is much higher.

The technology has been developed by a French company, Ciel et Terre, who have 14 sites operating worldwide, and another 4 in construction including at Godley. Capacities range from 15kW (the original prototype) to nearly 8MW. For stability the panels have to be at a shallower angle than on land, the consequent loss of efficiency is partly offset by the cooling effect of being over water and it also means they can be positioned more closely and use less space.

All this indicated that the scheme might be viable, but a detailed feasibility study is needed. Regen Southwest are assisting the team to draw up an application to WRAP, who offer funding of up to £20,000 for the development of rural community energy schemes. It is important that there is a benefit to the community, and the plan is for the profits to fund sustainable projects in and around Buxton. There also needs to have been consultation with the community. The meeting discussed the project and was enthusiastic about the potential.

The meeting thanked both Phil and Charles for their very interesting presentations.

## **5. TOWN DEVELOPMENTS**

Work on the pump room has started, it should be complete by the end of May.

The impact of developments in and around Buxton is the theme of the Buxton on the Move Conference on 9<sup>th</sup> March. Space at the conference is limited but there will be a public lecture by the keynote speaker in the evening, and this may be preceded by a film. More details will be announced soon.

The Station Rd Group (Buxton Town Team, Vision Buxton, Transition Buxton, Buxton Civic Association and the Buxton Group) have drawn up a policy statement, which they are now tweaking, following wider consultation with other groups in the town. They hope to meet Nestle again soon. It was noted that Nestle's land agents are demonstrating a much more sensitive approach and are in active discussions with Peak Rail about their requirements on the site.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Working with Youth Volunteers**

A policy was adopted which has now been accepted by the insurance company; youngsters from 14 to 17 years old can join in Town Team activities independently so long as their parents consent. The policy is appended.

### **6.2 Friends of Buxton Station**

Dave reported that the loco shed demolition had been delayed but would start imminently. Also that they were looking to twin Buxton Station with the very busy Shibuya Station in Tokyo.

### **6.3 Past Lives Project**

The showing of the Past Lives film has been changed - now Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in St John's Church.

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

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on: **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 7:30pm VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED**

20Jan15

**BuxtonTownTeam**  
*All together, better*