

## NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015

**Present:** Ali Quas-Cohen, Caroline Hall, Claire Millard, Derek Bodey, Gina Sheppard, Helen Davison, Janet Miller, Janine Morris, Jean Ball, Jean Todd, Jean Southland, Joe Dugdale, John Estruch, John Fairbrother, John Jansen, Karen Hyde, Kathryn Barton, Mike Badman, Mike Bryant, Mike Monaghan, Pat Hobby, Paul Huedl, Phillip Barton, Roddie MacLean, Richard Silson, Simon Fussell, Tina Heathcote, Wendy Wardle, Zena Bishop

**Apologies:** Andy Parker, Charles Jolly, John Phillips, Linda Baldry, Richard Lower, Sarah Rawlinson, Steve Caddy

**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 11<sup>th</sup> March were passed as true record.

### 2. PROJECTS

#### 2.1 Big Spring Clean 2015

This has been approved and will take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Spring Clean Saturday. Meet at 10am by the Turner Memorial, to then disperse through the town, all are welcome. Theme is to clean the things that people see and touch, so signs, parking meters etc. The Saturday followed up by the Buxton Railings Clean on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>, from 11am to 3pm. All bar one school is participating so over 200 children, plus the College students. Again all are welcome to come and help at any time.

#### 2.2 Buxton Spring Fair

Around 150 entries are in or due, so even though past deadline we expect latecomers will mean more stalls than last year. As previously there will be four performance venues. We do still need help on the day, please let Janet know when you are available.

#### 2.3 Buxton in Bloom

Leaflets are out and about, posters up, webpage created, entry forms can be downloaded from the website. New categories this year include Best Flowerpot Person. Closing date 26<sup>th</sup> June, judging to take place early July, volunteers to act as judges are needed, please let Janine know if you can help.

#### 2.4 Winter Lights

The project team have registered an interest and are developing their ideas further re which area of the town would benefit most from what sort of lights. Anyone who wants to be involved in this get in touch with Roddie. The closing date for entries is 26<sup>th</sup> June.

#### 2.5 Market Regeneration

No progress with the HPBC procurement process, it has been delayed, but we expect the formal invitation to tender next week. There was some discussion re the best location for the market, the Town Team view remains that one of our main objectives is to revitalise the market place area.

#### 2.6 Buxton Carnival

Suggested that we could have a walking presence at the carnival this year, with people dressed up enacting various of our projects - litter picking, spring clean, bottle bunting, flowerpot people and so on. General support for the idea, ideas to Tina who will draw up a draft project proposal.

### 3 TOWN DEVELOPMENTS

#### 3.1 Station Rd Planning Application

Advised this is currently on hold as HPBC have requested more information from the applicants. Report from HPBC's consultants about the retail impact still in preparation. Response from DCC Strategy Group not helpful, they see no conflict from the proposal, even though DCC Highways raised issues with traffic that need addressing. Peak Rail are still holding their line regarding their right to re-open the railway on part of the land and their intention to have trains into Buxton by 2025. Dick will continue to monitor progress and let everyone know if there are any developments.

#### 3.2 Crescent Development

The surveyors are still working on site, due to finish by end April, after which the price can be fixed and contracts signed. The developers still hope that construction work will start later in May.

#### 3.3 Other Town Developments

Mention made of plans to build 300 new houses in Fairfield above Ashwood Dale, near an SSSI, with conflicting plans from the quarry expansion and distance from the new quarry edge. Dick will look into this. Also noted that Premier Inn intend to open their new hotel on London Rd in February 2016 - 60 beds plus small restaurant.

#### 3.4 The Local Plan

The Plan went to examination, and was expected to be adopted later this year. Meanwhile the government revised all their housing forecasts, and the requirement in Buxton reduced by more than 30%. While this means the target is much easier to reach, and some sites allocated for housing may not be needed, the plan does have to be reworked, and will not now be adopted until sometime in 2016. Concern was expressed at the delay but noted that this is not HPBC's fault, the system is flawed and the vast majority of local authorities are in the same situation. The good news is that the Secretary of State has formally instructed that due weight must be given to the emerging local plan when determining planning applications.

## **4. FOCUS ON OUR GREEN SPACES**

### **4.1 Buxton Civic Association - Mike Monaghan**

The Civic Association is one of Buxton's best kept secrets, people assume that the Council own the woods. It was set up 50 years ago, looks after 200 acres of woods, brings 60,000 visitors a year to the town and has 350 members and growing. They have a £500,000 a year turnover and employ 20 staff. Early activities included saving Solomon's Temple from demolition, then the Pavilion Gardens and Octagon buildings, and acquiring and developing the cave and visitor centre. More recently they have developed the 'Ring of Trees' 9 mile walk round Buxton, converted the cave to LED lighting and carried out a lot of improvement works on the woodland paths. Looking to the future, they want to be more effective in the town, by for instance commenting on planning applications whenever appropriate. They are working with other groups to restore the urn to the Market Place well, are helping fund the re-development of the Serpentine Nursery as a community farm and are looking into restoring the Spring Gardens colonnades. They will focus on environment, energy saving, water, bio-diversity and education and aim to work more closely with other voluntary groups in the town.

### **4.2 Serpentine Community Farm - Joe Dugdale**

The project has now been incorporated as Serpentine Community farm CIC, and has a license from HPBC to develop the site into an educational and food growing centre; they hope to sign a five year lease with the council soon. Volunteers have made good progress clearing the site of undergrowth and accumulated rubbish, the greenhouse has been refurbished and is in use, seeds have been sown. They need more volunteers and more funding, donations can be made via <http://www.gofundme.com/lewb9s>

### **4.3 Granby Road Play Area aka 'Parklife' - Caroline Hall, Karen Hyde and Jean Southward**

The initial idea was to refurbish the old wildlife area off Granby Road; plans now include a wildflower meadow, a mammal mound and an orchard, as well as a safer place for children to play. They are working with HPBC to get the necessary permissions - public liability insurance will be the big issue if HPBC won't cover them. They are also in discussion with the University re restoration of the dry stone walling. They are keen to involve the children in developing the area so they own it and will look after it; the Junior School are involved and keen to use it as an outdoor classroom. They are also in discussion with the local quarries, Veolia, Sita and Nestle regarding possible funding.

Janet will forward details of local grant giving bodies.

It was suggested that BCA might be able to help providing tree stumps for seats.

The issue of dog mess also was raised, the team are in discussion with HPBC about this.

### **4.4 Ashwood Park - Claire Millard**

The Ashwood Park used to be as splendid as the Pavilion Gardens, but is now sadly neglected. Students from Buxton & Leek College have been helping with initial restoration work, eg cleaning muddy paths and trimming lawns. Future work plans include cleaning the railings, cleaning and painting the benches, weeding and replanting the beds, clearing overgrown trees and saplings to allow more light, cleaning and tidying the river banks, repairing the tennis court and refurbishing the play area. They will probably zone the park, into play area, formal garden and wildflower area, but will have a better idea of the possibilities once some of the trees have gone. They are working closely with HPBC and are also in discussion with the Wye Bridge regarding possible funding. They will need help, both in volunteer time and with donations of plants and bulbs. They hope to establish a Friends of Ashwood Park. A crazy golf course was suggested.

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

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on:

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 7:30pm**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 7:30pm**

**Meetings until further notice will be in the Railway Hotel.**

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

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Youth Hostel**

Noted that there is a need for a Youth Hostel or backpacker lodge in Buxton, Ali and others have been working on this but need a building. It was suggested the Bedford might be worth looking into.

JCMM 23April15

Revised 11May15