

NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON TUESDAY 14TH JULY 2015

Present: Bob Fox, Claire Millard, Derek Bodey, Helen Haywood, Janet Miller, Jean Todd, Jim Marriott, John Estruch, John Robertson, Lynda Barker, Marc Haywood, Mark Ellison, Mike Bryant, Nic Barfield, Richard Lower, Richard Silson, Roddie MacLean, Simon Fussell, Viv Marriott

Apologies: Dave Carlisle, Helen Davison, Janine Morris, Jean Ball, Joe Dugdale, John Jansen, Lesley Caddy, Linda Baldry, Mike Monaghan, Phillip Barton, Sue Mellor, Steve Caddy, Tina Heathcote, Zena Bishop

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 15th June were passed as true record.

2. PROJECTS

2.1 Buxton in Bloom

The East Midlands in Bloom judging took place on 8th July, two judges were taken round the town including Ashwood Park, Pavilion Gardens, the Serpentine Community Farm, Burbage School, St John's Church, Green Man Gallery, Railway Station, Pooles Cavern and more. We will not know till September how well we did but they seemed to enjoy themselves and to be impressed with the community co-operation. Entries for the local competition closed on 26th June with a total of 68 entries, well up on last year; the flowerpot people category was popular and grabbed people's imagination. Judging is almost complete and the prize giving will be on Sunday 26th July.

2.2 Talking Signposts 2015

The Talking Signposts project was signed off and started on 8th July. Members are encouraged to sign up for a few shifts during the period between now and end of August. If you don't already have joining instruction and a link to the doodlepoll rota, please contact Janet or Tina.

2.3 Market Regeneration

We understand that the officers recommendations were taken to the Select Committee on Monday night and will go to the Executive on Thursday, we should hear what the decision is sometime soon after that. Because of the way the procurement process works we are still unable to publicise any details of our bid, but as soon as we allowed, the full business plan will go on the website.

2.4 Artisan Market Trials

Following the original trials in June to September last year, we concluded that the Market Place was the preferred site; the market continued there to the end of the year but unfortunately the visiting traders were adamant they would prefer Spring Gardens. The Market Co therefore applied for a license there, and ran two markets, in June and July. They have not applied for any further licenses pending the outcome of the regular market procurement process. Meanwhile John has been gathering 'hard data' about the effect of the market by measuring footfall in both locations with and without the Artisan Market. He will publish a report in due course, but the findings are in essence that:

- an Artisan Market in the market place is very good for the Higher Buxton traders (footfall increased by 2-3 times), and neutral for Spring Gardens traders (a very small increase in footfall that may be coincidental)
- an Artisan Market in Spring Gardens brings some increase in footfall in Spring Gardens (20-30%, probably too small to offset the effect of competition) but is very bad for traders in higher Buxton (20-30% reduction in footfall).

This confirms the Town Team view that to benefit the town, the market should be sited on the market place.

Noted that footfall is always higher in Spring Gardens so better from the stallholders' point of view; noted also that a large number of traders in Spring Gardens are vehemently opposed to the Artisan Market being held there, claiming serious loss of trade, and have written to the Council about it. It was suggested that we look at what we can learn from experience in other towns. Discussion about how pro-active we should be in advancing the information was inconclusive, pending the outcome of the regular market procurement process.

2.5 Ashwood Park Regeneration

Further improvements are being made, with a small team working there regularly. Currently they are engaged in clearing ivy and other vegetation off the back walls, but want to work clearing the sides of the river later in the summer, and will be meeting with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and the HPBC tree officer soon to discuss clearing overgrown saplings. Volunteers are very welcome, please contact Claire (c.e.millard@sky.com).

2.6 Winter Lights

The entry form was submitted, we will find out around 18th July whether we have been short-listed.

2.7 Pavilion Gardens Boating Lake

Dick has been in touch with Terry Crawford, who has produced a long list of issues that need addressing.

2.8 Welcome to Buxton Station

Dave reported that Friends of Buxton Station (FoBS) had made significant progress, with overgrown vegetation cleared and planters, hanging baskets and a mural installed. They have submitted a planning application for lighting the fan window from the inside using LED lights; this idea was received enthusiastically, they will keep us informed.

3 TOWN DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Station Rd Planning Application

The CPG application for a hotel and supermarket was withdrawn shortly before the hearing date. The developers still believe retail is the only possible option but have expressed an interest in consulting with groups in the town. It was agreed that Dick would make contact and try to set up a meeting to discuss our ideas and concerns.

3.2 Crescent Development

Still no confirmation of when work will start on the site, but we are assured that they are very close to finalizing the contact. It was suggested that the legal arrangements between the various parties (HPBC, DCC, developers, operator, heritage trust etc) might also be taking longer than anticipated.

3.3 Palace Hotel

Noted that the Palace has been sold to Britannia Hotels; little is known about them other than that they own The Adelphi in Liverpool and The Grand in Scarborough.

3.4 Premier Inn

Noted that construction has started on the London Road site.

3.5 Otter Controls

Noted that surveyors have been working on the site.

4. FOCUS ON IDEAS

4.1 Project Management

John outlined the process for managing projects - ideas for projects are generated and discussed in the Ideas Meeting, if a team is keen to take it on they write a project proposal for approval by the directors, John monitors progress against the agreed remit and budget, at the end a closing report is written looking at how well the aims and objectives were met and at learning points for the future. Noted that as well as Town Team led projects, we do occasionally have 'In Support Projects' like Welcome to Buxton Station, where another group (in this case FoBS) takes the lead and we lend support and assistance. Noted also that projects as a rule are expected to cover their own costs or raise their own funding; the project proposal will often include a small budget but with the request to try not to spend it.

4.2 Schedule of Ideas

The schedule was developed in the early days and should include all the ideas that have been suggested to us. The ideas are now prioritised according to their perceived benefit as well as how likely we are to be able to achieve them in a reasonable timescale. The meeting split into small discussion groups to work through the list, checking for ideas that are missing as well as reviewing the prioritisation.

A quick feedback from the groups generated the following comments:

- the wayfinding scheme is one of the most important projects
- a simplified bus timetable should be easily available, especially for buses in the town
- improving bus and rail services should be listed as two separate projects
- transport up and down Terrace Rd is important
- press releases should be higher priority so people know what we are planning (as well as reports on past events)
- wearing jackets which say 'Volunteer' on the back would encourage people to engage
- the concept of Main St is an over-riding objective and every project should consider how it will contribute to this
- Higher Buxton - the market, bringing the Library back, a second TIC should all be priority
- The Slopes is the key to joining up the different parts of the town
- the wifi in the Octagon is inadequate for the events they hold, though the Arts Centre seems to be fine

The full list including the suggested amendments is included in the Appendix.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Youth Gangs

John Robertson noted that at the end of last year there had been trouble with gangs of youths harassing shops on Spring Gardens, but that the Police had been alerted and appeared to have resolved the problem.

6. FUTURE I&V MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on:

Thursday 13th August 7:30pm in the Railway Hotel.

JCMM

15July15