

NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON TUESDAY 14TH MAY 2015

Present: Caroline Hall, Derek Bodey, Joe Dugdale, John Estruch, John Jansen, Karen Hyde, Mike Bryant, Richard Silson, Tina Heathcote, Steve Caddy, John Fairbrother, Gareth Sumner, Iain Hawthorn, Veronica Hawthorn, J Davy, Viv Marriot, Claire Millard

Apologies: Andy Parker, Alan Thompson, Janet Miller, Janine Morris, Jean Ball, Linda Baldry, Liz Mackenzie, Mike Badman, Mike Monaghan, Pat Hobby, Phillip Barton, Richard Lower, Roddie MacLean, Simon Fussell, Steve Taylor

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 April were passed as true record.

2. PROJECTS

2.1 Project Proposal for the Regeneration of Ashwood Park

The formal proposal to improve Ashwood Park was submitted and circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The project is aimed at restoring the park back to some of its former glory, including a general tidy, planting, cleaning and painting. Dick moved that the project should be submitted to the Directors and seconded by Joe. Claire said that more volunteers were required to help with the project, especially once the students had broken up for the summer.

2.2 Big Spring Clean 2015

This had taken place on Saturday 25th April and had been a great success with many volunteers focusing on cleaning what people see and touch, eg signs, parking meters etc. Two of the Buxton Lions had cleaned all the signs on the entrance roads into Buxton and the Friends of Pavilion Gardens had cleaned the Children's Well.

2.3 Big Buxton Railing Clean

About 300 young people cleaned the railings around the Pavilion Gardens in snow, rain, hail and wind! This had been organized by the Public Service students from Buxton and Leek College and Helen Davison, helped by members of the Town Team. There had been 30 to 60 pupils from schools in Buxton and they had such a good time that one school has already said that all their pupils wanted to take part next year! Tina said that a project proposal would be submitted for next year, which would include the Guinness Book of World Records attempt. Andy Parker had also put highly entertaining videos of the Spring and Railing Clean on Facebook.

2.4 Buxton Spring Fair

The interim project report had been received from Janet, summarizing the event and the lessons learnt. This third Spring Fair had been the biggest to date and was very successful, with a great community spirit. Janet had done a fantastic job and had even booked great weather! There had been much positive feedback on Facebook, Twitter, from stall holders and shops. There were lessons to be learnt, around litter, parking and electricity and these would be looked at by the Directors. The full report will be published on the website shortly.

2.5 Market Regeneration

John E explained that the tender to operate the Buxton market had been submitted to HPBC on 12th May and that if HPBC adhered to their timetable, they should hear the results by mid July.

2.6 Buxton in Bloom

Progress was being made. Tina reminded everyone that the theme this year is Buxton in the Pink. There was a new category this year for the Best Flowerpot Person(s) which could be placed anywhere about the town as long as it is safe and legal. The schools category included growing the tallest sunflower.

2.7 Winter Lights

A Christmas lights design is being put together as a competition entry to be submitted by end of June. The competition is being run by a light company and if successful the team will be awarded £10k of lights to fabricate the submitted design. The lights would be situated along the avenue up the Slopes as this area is visible from both the town and the Pavilion Gardens.

2.8 Welcome to Buxton Railway Station

Dave Carlisle was unable to attend so he submitted a written brief. The Friends group have made a lot of progress, including removing the trees obscuring the view of the fan-light and the purchase of 14 half barrels which are now ready for planting. Any free plants will be gratefully received. Permission has also been granted to paint an artist designed mural between the two platforms. They are still awaiting permission to paint a mural on platform 2. Much time has been spent negotiating with Network Rail, Northern Rail and DB Schenker and discussions are ongoing with DB Schenker about the use of their land as a car parking solution. Dick added that it was good news that the number of trains per hour will be increased to two which showed that there was investment in the Buxton line.

2.9 Serpentine Community Farm

The project is making great progress. Two people were sent by the Probation Service to do community service at the farm for a day. They worked really hard and cleared away all the rubbish and rebuilt a wall. Other progress includes building a second raised bed from donated scaffolding planks and the growing of salad crops in the greenhouse.

3 TOWN DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Station Rd Planning Application

Dick advised this is currently on hold as HPBC have requested more information regarding traffic and retail impacts from the applicants.

3.2 Crescent Development

The negotiations are ongoing as it is proving difficult to agree a price. This is not surprising as the project is very complex and involves agreement from English Heritage. Proposals about road closures and parking once the building work has commenced are also being discussed.

4. FOCUS ON LEISURE

4.1 Fairfield Skate Park – Gareth Sumner

Gareth said that there was an old existing skate park in Fairfield, but the community wanted to build a larger and more prominent skate park. The group decided that they wanted a concrete skate park costing about £100k, which would mean raising a large amount of funding. The community group applied to the Councilors Initiative Fund and was awarded small amounts of money which were used to fund events to raise more money. To apply for larger grants the group needed to be a constituted organization and had a lot of help to achieve this from Community and Voluntary Services (CVS). When applying for bigger grants the group also worked with the council, who supplied expertise in filling in grant applications. They applied to both Lafarge Tarmac and SITA and were awarded £50k from each. Gareth recommended that similar groups also used CVS, who give an invaluable service, and that it was important to have contact with relevant persons within HPBC. The park is now open and used by the young people as intended. The council is going to adopt the park and maintain it. Gareth said that once the grassing and landscaping was completed the fencing would be removed. He also hoped that the old skate park would be redeveloped as a 5-a-side all weather football pitch. Dick congratulated Gareth on providing a great community leisure facility.

4.2 Roller Disco – Claire Millard

The Friends of Pavilion Gardens were awarded a £Celebrate Your Space grant to be spent on events or fun days so they decided to hold a roller disco event in the Octagon. The costs included the hiring of the Octagon and the roller disco company (£820). Hunts Carpets donated the underlay to pad the pillars in the Octagon. The roller disco company provided all the skates and protective equipment, staff, insurance and first aid cover. The event held in January was very well attended. The Friends decided to repeat the event in August. The second event was not funded by a grant, so it was decided to run two sessions each of one and half hours and charge £3 per person. This roller disco was not so well attended, maybe because it was staged in August, and the event was run at a loss.

4.3 Mini Cinemas – John Estruch

John said that the subject of a cinema in Buxton had been discussed many times. However he and Philip has heard of a small cinema company who had set up a cinema in Wisbech. In order to attract new releases it is important that the cinema is full-time, multi-screen, to cinema specifications and that new releases are run for at least a week. This type of cinema requires an audience of about 30,000 visits per screen per year, so with a multi-screen you would need at least 60,000 visits. Therefore everyone in Buxton would need to visit the cinema at least twice a year. An operator might be persuaded to set up a cinema with a catchment of 35,000 to 40,000 but Buxton with a catchment of 30,000 was on the edge of these numbers. However the additional numbers of students and tourists could increase these catchment numbers. For anyone that is interested the link to the website about how to set up a cinema: <http://www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/resources/how-to-start-a-local-cinema>

John and Philip are in the process of setting up a meeting to discuss the feasibility of a cinema in Buxton.

4.4 Climbing walls – Steve Taylor

Dick said that Steve was unable to attend the meeting so he had interviewed him. Steve had said that the problem with setting up a climbing wall in Buxton was that you were in competition with the real thing and so it would become a rainy day activity. A wall would only be viable as part of a leisure facility. A minimum space of 200m² would be required, with very high specification mats. There was some discussion about the demand for a bouldering wall. Also the option of an ice climbing wall was discussed, which would complement rather than compete with the natural climbing in the Peak District. It was agreed that there are links to the University and outdoor pursuits.

4.5 Other leisure activities

Dick threw the meeting open to other ideas and the following suggestions were made:

1. Underground Buxton guided tours walking up the River Wye under the town.
2. Reopening the boating lake on the Pavilion Gardens . Is anyone willing to take this on as a project?
3. Buxton as the Centre of the Peak District . climbing, sailing, hang gliding, walking etc all in a radius of 10 miles.
4. Crazy golf in the Pavilion Gardens or Ashwood Park.

5. FUTURE I&V MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on:

Monday 15th June 7:30pm

Meetings until further notice will be in the Railway Hotel.

Future meeting dates: Tuesday 14th July, Thursday 13th August, Monday 14th September, Tuesday 13th October, Wednesday 11th November, Thursday 10th December.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Friends of Dementia

An awareness week was taking place in the 2nd week in June at Fire and Rescue Centres. Janet to email out information.

6.2 Questionnairing Young People

Both the Guides and the university were willing to run projects asking young people what leisure activities they would like to see provided in the town.