

NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2015

Present: Ali Quas-Cohen, Andrea Lewis, Charles Denton, Charles Jolly, Dave Carlisle, Frances Allen, Helen Davison, Janet Miller, Jean Ball, Jean Todd, Jim Marriott, Joe Perry, John Estruch, John Moss, Kate Dickson, Liz MacKenzie, Matthew Nuttall, Marc Haywood, Margaret Elaine Hill, Mike Badman, Pat Hobby, Richard Lower, Richard Silson, Roddie MacLean, Simon Fussell, Tony Hatton, Trevor Gilman

Apologies: Alan Thompson, Claire Millard, Derek Bodey, Helen Haywood, John Jansen, Lesley Caddy, Lynda Barker, Philip Barton, Steve Caddy, Sue Mellor, Tina Heathcote, Viv Marriott

Introductions: Dick Silson chaired the meeting, which started with a round of introductions. He apologized for the last minute change of venue, due to the Railway having been double booked.

1. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting on 14th September were passed as true record. The meeting was reminded that if they are not being emailed the agenda and notes to please ask Janet to add them to the list.

2. PROJECTS

2.1 Welcome to Buxton Station

The LED lighting of the fan window has been approved, and the team hope to have this operational before Christmas. New seats (surplus from Liverpool Lime Street) have been installed as well as sleepers to make raised beds. They hope that work to demolish the old engine sheds will also be starting soon. Friends of Buxton Station were congratulated on the fantastic progress they have made.

2.2 Buxton Sparkles

Andrea advised that while the University and Pavilion Gardens are organizing the Christmas Lights Switch-on this year, on 20th November, Buxton Sparkles will be running the lantern procession and sculptures in the park as usual.

2.3 Buxton Markets

The project team are working on setting up the new Buxton Markets CIC, and will be approaching people soon to join as members and potentially also to invest in the company. In the meantime they are talking to existing traders, researching stalls, developing a marketing plan and finalizing the contract with High Peak Borough Council. The aim is to launch the new market in March 2016, just before Easter.

2.4 Ashwood Park Regeneration

In the last week 2,500 bulbs have been planted alongside the A6. A lot of clearing work has also taken place to open it up and give a view of the river. A kingfisher was spotted there on Saturday!

3 TOWN DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Station Rd Development

Dick said that several of the town's voluntary organisations have agreed to join forces to develop a viable plan for the site, that they could present to Nestle.

4. FOCUS ON BUXTON'S HERITAGE

4.1 The Crescent Development - Liz MacKenzie

Liz started as Community and Development Officer for the Crescent in September. She is passionate about Buxton, having lived here most of her life. She has worked in PR and Communications at the Opera House; in community liaison for the University when they moved into the Dome; as PR manager for Buxton Festival. She is also on the board of Vision Buxton and co-chairs their Marketing Group.

She realises that what everyone wants to know is when the cranes will roll and work start on the Crescent. Work on the Pump House will start in November, and on the main building in the spring. She assures us that there is constant activity and that major decision making meetings will take place in November. There is still a funding gap, but she could not confirm how big it is. She assured us that she would not have been appointed if the funders and developers were not confident this would be resolved.

Part of her role is communications between the development team and the town. She will be issuing more press releases, a website and social media presence will be in place by the end of the year.

She is also working on an oral history project, alongside Discover Buxton, the University, Buxton Museum and the Past Lives Project. The Pump House will become an information and visitor centre plus café, there will also be four rooms in the main Crescent building set aside as interpretive space. She is calling for any 'memories' people have of the Crescent.

A lighting project of the Crescent is also in development, funding is in place and 'Glow' should launch on 20th November. It will feature internal and external lighting, with silhouettes in the windows, as well as a soundscape from the pump house roof, and will run until the end of the year.

She is already running tours for various groups in the town and would be happy to organize one for Town Team members in December or January. She is meeting the heads of local schools soon, regarding projects for next year, and is keen to work with Pooles Cavern as well. A Friends of the Crescent group will launch in the spring, she expects this to be especially popular with people from outside Buxton. She hopes to set up a consultation group involving key organisations in the town in the next 2-3 months.

They intend to continue to use the Pump House roof for concerts, with a programme of events hopefully starting around the Spring Fair time. The ballroom in the Crescent will also be available for 60 days a year for public events - this will include for instance concerts and fundraising events, as well as exhibitions, so entry will not always be free.

As well as our memories, Liz is keen to hear any ideas people have for projects, and she will pass on our frustrations and try to answer our questions. Her contact details are: lmackenzie@buxtoncrescent.com or 07832 213665.

4.2 Buxton Museum: Collections in the Landscape - Joe Perry

Joe spoke to the Ideas Group in 2014 when they were exploring the concept, and Town Team members helped with trialing prototype apps. They now have £869,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for Stage 2 of the project, which aims to improve public access to Buxton Museum's collections, by a range of means. This will include:

- Huge physical changes at the Museum. They will be updating and modernizing the display space, completely refurbishing the main gallery and ridding the false ceilings, as well as installing a new lift and stairway at the back of the building. The new lift will only access between the ground floor and the first floor, the future use of the upper floor is still uncertain. It is unlikely the rear doors will be opened as a second entrance, because of security and insurance implications.
- On-line Displays. They have a huge amount of material and cannot display all of it, but it is available for research. Content is key, they want a rich collection in a form that can be transferred as technology and fashions change. They have regular enquiries about the bear and cave site materials and good links with Manchester and Sheffield Universities, but they also have a lot of geology and minerals and social history, with new collections coming in all the time, and they want to advertise what they've got.
- Pocket Wonders, the mobile phone based virtual trails. The four prototypes (which are still available) included two in Buxton, featuring 'waters' and 'shopping', they are developing the concept and about to go out to tender for someone to build 'Museum in your Pocket' apps. Some but not all of the original content will be retained. They are aware of the signal issues in the town. There is some overlap with what Liz is doing with oral histories on the Crescent, so they are working together. It is likely that the waters app will focus more on the spa element, and they may add a new app on the town's Roman heritage. All the apps will include both oral, text and visual content, possibly videos depending on download size, if so then with subtitles and signing.

They hope that much of the material will be released under creative commons rights so freely available to all. They want to involve the community and be sure the product is right for the town and the Peak District.

The museum will be closed during refurbishment, but for much of the time there will be a 'project space' open where people can engage and they can test ideas and assess preferences. They may also be able to arrange tours of the empty building during the refurbishment period, and will be holding family and school events to promote the changes. The work will be completed and the museum fully re-opened during 2017.

Joe's slides are appended. His contact detail are: Joe.Perry@derbyshire.gov.uk or 01629 533549.

4.3 Past Lives Project - Tony Hatton

The Past Lives Project takes amateur cine footage from around 1930 to 1980, digitizes it and creates a film with a specially written soundtrack. It is run by Free Fall Arts, funded by the Arts Council and HLF. So far they have produced films for Bolsover, Nottingham, Ironbridge, Mansfield and Derby. The Buxton project will be completed early next year with a public performance on 27th January in the Dome, involving local students and musicians alongside Symphonia Viva who work with them regularly. A dvd will be produced for sale.

They are looking for people with cine footage (any format) of Buxton and the surrounding area, to a radius of about 5 miles. If they can use it they will pay for it to be digitized, and contributors will receive a free copy of the dvd. They can make some digital improvements during editing if necessary - reducing shake, re-colouring and so on. Cine film on VHF can be converted to digital, they are also interested in still photos and oral recordings and memories. They are looking for material for an exhibition which will run from 14th November for 6 weeks.

Tony showed us a part of the Nottingham film, and some of the footage they have collected of Buxton so far.

Several of those present confirmed they had material that might be suitable and there were a number of suggestions as to who else might be able to help.

Tony's contact details are: info@pastlivesproject.com or 07890 21524. See also pastlivesproject.com.

4.4 General Discussion

There is likely to be a joint event, probably in the Old Hall, in late November or early December.

The Town Team will encourage its members to take part in all these projects and to help promote the events.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ideas Meeting Survey: Another reminder of the Survey Monkey, we need as many people as possibly to complete this, the link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QR83LRL>

Skills Audit: We have identified that there is a lot of talent, specialist skills and useful equipment among the membership, but we don't know who has what where, so will be asking members to complete a 'skills audit' soon.

Methodist Church Roof: A Planning Application has been submitted to install solar panels on the roof facing Chapel Street, if members wish to comment they can do so via <http://planning.highpeak.gov.uk/portal/> - the application number is HPK/2015/0526.

6. FUTURE I&V MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on:

Wednesday 11th November 7:30pm. VENUE TO BE ADVISED.

JCMM

16Oct15