

Buxton Town Team
Ideas and Vision Group
NOTES of the meeting on 3rd December 2012

Present: Janet Miller, Mike Bryant, Julian Cohen, Roger Floyd, Judith Milling, Linda Baldry, Rachael Quinn, John Hudghton, Sarah Rawlinson, Alan Thompson, Bill Barratt, Rachel Hoodith, Pat Chapman, Roddie MacLean, Joe Dugdale and Sam Copley.

Observers: Charles Jolly (as a representative of the Scrutiny Group), Jean Todd and Damian Payton.

Apologies: Adrian Brown, Tom Rhodes, Neil Scowcroft, Carlon Stewart and Claire Hoodith.

Facilitator: Roddie MacLean.

Previous meeting: The notes of the meeting on 22nd October were approved. There were no matters arising.

Progress reports

1. Setting-Up Janet Miller reported that the Town Team was now registered as a Community Interest Company. The six founder members were now Directors and would have their first Board Meeting in January. It was anticipated that the first Annual General Meeting would be held in the latter part of next year when a further three Directors would be appointed. Subsequently, three Directors would retire in rotation each year. Precise details with regard to re-election for further terms of service were still to be worked out.

Buxton Town Team CIC is registered with Companies House as number 8304388. The Registered Office is at Brooke-Taylor's Solicitors, 4 The Quadrant, Buxton, SK17 6AW.

The completion of the registration process meant that a wider membership could now be recruited. The requirement was that recruits should sign a membership form agreeing to support the objective of the Town Team, abide by the Code of Conduct and contribute in some way to its work. There was a one off joining fee of £1.00. Membership forms were made available at the end of the meeting.

2. The Communication Group Janet reported that the group was doing well. Progress was being made with the website which would be accessible to members as soon as the group was satisfied with it. New arrangements for hosting it were being made. Detailed consultation was being undertaken regarding the Town Team identity (letterhead etc.). A smaller sub-group were working with Vision Buxton to make the Visit Buxton website even better for promoting the town to visitors.

3. The Scrutiny Group Charles Jolly reported that the group was continuing to monitor all the groups and their activities.

Change of Terminology Mike Bryant announced that the term "Task Force", for the people undertaking work on particular Town Team projects, would be replaced by "Project Team". At his suggestion, the Setting-Up Group had agreed that this should be the standard term used throughout the Town Team in future.

Project Approval Following the discussion about managing Project Teams at the last meeting, Janet had drafted a Project Proposal Form for gathering information about new projects. This had been trialled with the details of the Shopping Crawl and minor changes had been made. Alan Thompson had tried it out with a project, to establish a rolling programme of Retail Incubators and Pop-Up Shops, which was in the early concept stage and reported that it could be used to develop ideas into projects. Those present either had a blank form or the one with Alan's project entered on it to review. It was pointed out that several slightly different versions were in circulation and Janet stated that all were much the same in content but had the questions in a different order. The final version will be made available to download from the website. This form was accepted.

The Directors present clarified that the Ideas and Vision Group would be responsible for oversight of the preparation of all proposals, the completion of the forms and the necessary business planning. When enough information was available the forms would be submitted to the Directors either for "In principle" or "Complete" approval. The latter would require full budget figures for expenditure and any opportunity to offset this with income. In cases where projects were contentious or where there was competition between projects for resources, the Ideas and Vision Group should establish the details and recommend priorities and submit the information to the Directors for adjudication.

It was pointed out that currently some projects were under way or well developed before coming near the Ideas and Vision Group. At this early stage, opportunities had to be grasped when they became available but it was desirable, now that the procedure had been clarified, that all projects should follow it.

Ideas already under way

1. Christmas Shopping Crawl This was going well. A full complement of traders had been signed up and a large number of maps had been handed out at the Christmas Lights Switch-On. The traders were pleased with the response so far. The deadline for entries to the draw is 31st December. The prizes will be presented in the week commencing 15th January with the University catering for the event.
2. Green Man Gallery The gallery was due to open on Saturday, 8th December, having already had a successful preview evening. In the absence of Neil Scowcroft, it was not clear what progress had been made with the lease. Some mentoring was going to be provided for the artists. The Directors had not adopted this as a Town Team project yet because they needed to see a detailed business plan and budget.
3. Pop-up market within existing shops This project was being run by the Buxton Traders independent of the Town Team. From Saturday, 15th December, there would be 15 stalls set up inside 10 shops. There was also going to be a special street market on both Friday, 14th December and Wednesday, 19th.
4. Update on Nestlé Linda Baldry reported that the council was not aware of any current commitment by the Nestlé over the future use of the former bottling works site. Regarding the contract for using the water, this had been drawn up without the benefit of any precedent. The precise details of what payments are received by High Peak are commercially confidential, on the insistence of Nestlé. However, the sum does reflect the quantity of water used. There was an overall limit on this amount set by the abstraction licence from the Environment Agency.

Julian Cohen said he was trying to obtain details of the contract through a Freedom of Information Application. He was in touch with the Information Commissioner in an attempt to overturn initial refusal to provide information. He reiterated his call for someone to stand up to Nestlé.

Roger Floyd raised the concern about Threadneedle and their intentions regarding the Spring Gardens Centre. No effort seemed to be being made to fill the vacant units and this raised the possibility that they might be thinking of rebuilding on that site. He also raised the point that Threadneedle were currently investing heavily in Tesco but this was not regarded as relevant to our local situation.

The broad concerns about retail decline are to be tackled at a special Town Team meeting; see dates below. In the mean time Julian, Roger and Bill Barratt were authorised to meet Carlon Stewart, Manager of Spring Gardens Centre, to explore possibilities for cooperation.
5. Shop Local Scheme The scheme was currently on hold because of the Christmas Shopping Crawl. Roger said there was some difference of opinion about the shape of the scheme with him favouring the format already established by High Peak Borough Council and Neil wanting to use Totally Locally as the pattern. This is to be explored further at the next Ideas and Vision Group, in the New Year.
6. Parish Map A draft proposal form had been completed by the Project Team and would be forwarded to Mike.
7. Town Branding Discussions were ongoing with Vision Buxton but this was not a project as such.

Projects needing a Project Team

1. Retail incubators Alan Thompson had submitted a Project Proposal Form for a rolling programme of pop-up shops with mentoring and support. Initially this required research to establish the precise needs. As yet he had no team to support him and only had very limited time himself. This project needed some more work on it before being sent to the Directors for approval. Adrian Brown, who is away for most of the winter, is interested in helping develop this and Pat Chapman, Roger and Sam Copley agreed to be part of the team.
2. Way marked visitor tour Roddie MacLean had offered to lead on this to reinforce his concept of a single "Main Street". Initial discussion of what was involved was to take place between Roddie, Pat and Mike.

Clarification was needed to avoid duplication with the plans of Netta Christie who had offered (rather expensive) walking tours and now was proposing some sort of ride on a converted milk float.

Linda had established that it might be acceptable to mark out a tour route on the pavement providing planning permission was obtained.

3. Town Team Spring Fair Janet reported that a meeting was to be held soon to initiate arrangements. The Project Team so far assembled was: Janet, Joe Dugdale, Jean Ball and Suzanne Pearson. Sarah Rawlinson and Sam Copley offered to join them. Mike asked for an early decision about the date because some potential participants were already well advanced with their programme planning.

4. Public Transport and Parking Linda had been following up some of the concerns with Derbyshire County Council. Bill Lear, who is responsible for Public Transport is prepared to come to a meeting with Town Team representatives as soon as we are ready. Those responsible for parking are also willing to meet us; in this case, they will make contact through Paul Armstrong. In order to prepare for these discussions, another special Town Team meeting has been arranged, see below.

Any other business The items notified at the beginning had been covered in the above discussions and nothing else was raised.

Future meetings The following meetings will be at 7.30 pm, in the Cavendish Room (the big one looking out at the front) of the Buckingham Hotel.

Monday, 21st January 2013 Special Meeting* of those concerned about **retail decline**

Monday, 4th February Ideas and Vision Group Meeting

Monday, 18th February Special Meeting* of those concerned about **transport and parking**

*These meetings are to carry forward the business of the Town Team and are open to all Town Team members but not to the general public.

Mike Bryant

6th December 2012