

Buxton Town Team

Ideas and Vision Group

NOTES of the inaugural meeting on 19th July 2012

Present:

Janet Miller	Joe Dugdale	Durham Grigg	Mike Bryant
Peter Dewhurst	Tina Heathcote	Julian Cohen	Nina Lubman
Tom Rhodes	Alan Thompson	Roger Floyd	Judith Milling
Roddie MacLean	Neil Scowcroft	John Hudghton	Rachael Quinn
Emma Fairbrother	Nicky Kierton	Marie Cooper	Ian Howarth
Alan Howarth			

Objectives: It was agreed that the group's objectives should be:

- 1. to collect ideas, either generated within the group or contributed by others, for action to promote improved prosperity and quality of life within the town;**
- 2. to evaluate their costs and their benefits and to set priorities for action;**
- 3. to work up detailed plans for implementation of those ideas assessed as viable;**
- 4. and to make recommendations to the Town Team Board.**

Working Structure: It was proposed that the group should have a Chair and Secretary but after some discussion it was agreed that, at least initially, each meeting could be chaired/facilitated by different members. This would provide the opportunity to identify members with particular strengths. Joe, who had come prepared to do so, undertook to facilitate this meeting and Durham was to take this role for the next one.

The continuity of the Secretarial role was considered essential but no appointment was made. Joe captured the thinking of the meeting on a flip chart and Mike undertook to put this into some typed notes.

It was agreed that until patterns of work became established we should work flexibly and openly. The whole group would undertake the initial evaluation of all ideas and would refer those considered worthy of more attention to a smaller sub-group for more detailed development.

Idea gathering: The bulk of the meeting was spent on gathering ideas from the assembled group members. Some ideas sparked immediate discussion and some were presented with lengthy supporting arguments. All were eventually captured in note form by Joe and are listed in a schedule appended to these notes.

Much concern centred round the management of rental properties and Nina Lubman agreed to make a short presentation to the next meeting to provide insight into the real situation between landlords of business premises and their tenants.

Tina pointed out that views could easily be based on anecdotal observation and said that any action by the group should be backed up by real information. To this end, it was suggested that we should tap into the data gathered by High Peak Borough Council comparing Buxton with nearby towns, like Leek and Bakewell. Rachael offered to ask Dai Lerner if he would present them to the group.

Moving on: It was proposed and agreed that the bulk of the next meeting should be a workshop session, to develop priorities, both in terms of importance and deliverability, from the ideas gathered so far.

Everyone was happy for their e-mail addresses to be shared within the group so information would in future be open copied to members. This would facilitate interaction between individuals if necessary.

It was agreed that the Town Team needed a presence on Facebook. Neil will sort this out in conjunction with for the Communications Group.

The next meeting: This was arranged for Thursday, 9th August, at 7.30 pm. Peter indicated that Derby University would provide a room for this.

The meeting closed at about 9.00 pm.