

**IDEAS AND ACTION GROUP
NOTES OF THE MEETING OF MONDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2014**

Present: Jean Todd, Philip Barton, Kathryn Barton, Richard Lower, Steve Caddy, Tina Heathcote (part), John Bishop, David Jones, Joe Dugdale, John Estruch, Richard Silson, Matt Nuttall, Vernon McGarrey, Elaine Jones, Steve Bradshaw, John Robertson, (plus one other)

Apologies: Janet Miller, Roddie MacLean, Viv Marriott, Simon Fussell, Suzanne Pearson, Derek Bodie, Jim Lowe, Sue Read

Introductions: Richard Silson chaired the meeting, which started with a round of introductions.

1 NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the meetings on 13 July and 15 August were passed as true record.

2 PROJECT UPDATES

2:1 SLOPES: More work to be done to re-edge around the trees and plant more bulbs. Rotary Club want to supply more bulbs.

2:2 ASHWOOD PARK: Tarmac have landscaped around the Quarryman statue with stones and chippings. Plans to remove scrub and plant wildflower bulbs on sloped ground. Anyone willing to help should meet at Ashwood Park on Friday 22 and Sunday 24 September to clear the scrub and on Saturday 14 October to plant bulbs. The structure of closed bridge is to be surveyed at the end of September with a view to it being repaired and repainted.

3 THERE WERE NO CLOSING REPORTS.

4 PROJECT PROPOSALS

4:1 DRESSING BUXTON FOR CHRISTMAS – Tina Heathcote

Buxton Sparkles has agreed that, with support, they will take on organization of the Christmas Parade. Tina suggested that BTT should again use the WI Christmas bunting; make more can stars and red ribbon bows; promote “adopt-a-spot” and Christmas Flowerpot people but this year suggests putting white lights in the trees down Spring Gardens.

The main points:

10 trees at approx. £100 - £120 per tree.

Funding would be a mixture of Waitrose Green button scheme; Buxton WI have promised a fund-raising coffee morning with Tombola and donations from businesses. (the lights can be used in subsequent years).

Trevor Zoppi has offered to put the lights in place.

Need permission from DCC to connect to street lights.

Volunteers will be required to speak with businesses.

The meeting agreed in principle for this to be taken to next stage. Tina will write a project proposal.

4:2 BTT SHOULD BECOME THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY FORUM TO MOVE FORWARD A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR BUXTON – Joe Dugdale

A Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory instrument which can put detail into a Local Plan. HPBC’s local plan has earmarked sites for 815 houses to be built over the next 20 years within Buxton. A Neighbourhood Plan cannot challenge or change this but can give local people a say in how this can be best achieved for the good of the town.

NPs are often drawn up by Parish or Town Councils but as Buxton has neither it would need a group of local people able to fulfil the strict criteria. BTT’s constitution complies with all the criteria making BTT ideal to be the Community Forum to front the NP for Buxton.

Although BTT would be the Forum it is necessary and desirable that every interested Buxton person should be involved in this project. Evidence needs to be collected from demographic data, residents and businesses that will show what is the best Buxton could be in 20 years’ time, and from this a Neighbourhood Plan can be drawn up

What needs to be done?

1. Establish BTT as Community Forum

2. Cast net for volunteers to go out and find the relevant evidence (it's preferable to have a minimum of 21 people involved in this stage)
3. Establish the boundaries of the neighbourhood. (this could be drawing a line inside where all the neighbouring parishes finish or with consultation it could be a smaller area)
4. Organize consultation events.

An amount of grant is available to set up a Neighbourhood Plan.

Buxton would not need to pay a consultant to oversee this process because Joe is a Neighbourhood Plan consultant and would be willing to do the work pro bono. Also, Richard Silson indicated that should his expertise as a town planner be needed he too would not charge for his services.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

1. **How much effort is involved?** It would involve a lot of work but with enough people it can be broken down into small chunks.
2. **How would this dovetail with the proposal for a Business Improvement District (BID) in Buxton?** The BID and the NP could cross reference evidence and information and businesses will need to be consulted but it won't slow down the BID.
3. **Are there any Neighborhood Plans that can be accessed on line to get a feel for them?** Go to mycommunity.org and click on Neighbourhood Plan tab along the top. Perhaps look at Norwich or Shrewsbury. Locally try Erewash, Ripley or Bradwell.
4. **Could grant be used to help anyone with accessibility issues to attend consultations?** This will be written into grant application.

The meeting agreed in principle for this project to go forward to the next stage.

Joe will write the project proposal

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5:1 Once the Crescent has been finished does anyone know of any plans to tidy up George Street and possibly make it a pedestrian only street.

5:2 Once the Crescent has been finished wouldn't it be better not to reopen the road. Can this be raised at the next transport meeting?

FUTURE I&A MEETINGS

The next meetings will be on: **10 October, 15 November, 11 December**