

NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON THURSDAY 13TH JULY 2017

Present: Bill Fiddy, Clare McGarey, Clive Howell-Williams, Dick Silson, Derek Bodey, Elaine Hill, Janet Miller, Jean Todd, Jim Lowe, John Bishop, John Robertson, Richard Lower, Roddie MacLean, Rosemary Wood, Simon Craddock, Steve Bradshaw, Tina Heathcote, Vernon McGarey

Apologies: Carole Rogers, Dave Carlisle, David Holdway, Helen Davison, Jo Holdway, , Lesley Caddy, Matthew Nuttall, Mike Monaghan, Philip Barton, Simon Fussell, Steve Caddy, Sue Mellor, Susan Read, Susan Wolton, Suzanne Pearson, Viv Marriott

1. INTRODUCTION

Dick Silson chaired the meeting which started with a round of introductions. A special welcome to four new members attending the Ideas Meeting for the first time.

2. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting on 12th June were agreed to be a true record.

3. PROJECTS - CLOSING REPORTS, PROPOSALS & UPDATES

3.1 Buxton Spring Fair Closing Report

The final closing report had been circulated. Richard and his team were thanked for the huge amount of effort involved in this project.

3.2 PDBW Grand Opening

A draft closing report had been circulated. This had been a successful event, with an impressive list of civic dignitaries attending. Noted that layouts for such events need to take account of access for wheelchairs.

3.3 Open Gardens Trail

It was suggested that the price of the maps was too cheap, other garden trails cost a lot more for fewer gardens. On the other hand it was suggested that if people pay less for the maps they might be more willing to be generous to the many charities soliciting donations on the trail.

3.4 Buxton in Bloom

Entries are now closed, with over 60 entries. Judging will take place in early August and the awards ceremony will be on 3rd September, hopefully in the Pump Room if available. The Flowerpot Person Trail Map is now on sale with 36 locations and a bird-spotting competition; it was suggested the price (£1) is too cheap for this as well, but noted that using collecting tins for the money is likely to encourage people to pay more. Viv has run a number of workshops in schools, care homes and elsewhere, and the shrubbery at the bottom of Spring Gardens has been decorated.

3.5 Talking Signposts 2017

The Talking Signposts have started work, and have been very busy so far. There is plenty of space on the rota for new volunteers to join them, and Kate has made up 'Can I Help You' badges for Town Team members to wear when out in the town generally, not on a shift. Anyone who is interested in getting involved should email Kate - director@creative-heritage.net

4. IT'S YOUR TOWN EXERCISE

Five groups of people went out to defined areas of the town, to look at it critically, note its feel and functionality, the Good the Bad and the Surprising and Ideas for Improvement. They then reported back to the rest of the meeting, with general discussion of the ideas put forward. A full record of the findings in each area is included in the appendix, a summary of suggested improvements is:

- Cleaning, repainting of benches, lampposts, signs, railings, and repair damaged railings and street furniture.
- Murals in various places - to a common theme - ask local artists, hold a competition, part of Buxton Spa Prize?
- Modify George Street road junction to make safer.
- Pedestrianise a lot of the area round Water St, George St, Crescent, The Square - large piazza. (NB parking)
- New toilet block where old Water St one demolished, roof as sitting area accessed from St John's Rd.
- More flowering plants especially on the Slopes. More hanging baskets/planters on lamp posts. (NB watering)
- Containers with plants outside Vinci offices.
- Plan for the trees on the Slopes - thin out? Fell and replace? Pollard?
- Trees along Station Rd to screen and brighten up.
- New garden areas in North West corner of Springs car park, and west of Station Approach.
- Clean up the river and areas where litter and shop rubbish accumulates.
- Rid Spring Gardens square blocks - or paint them to brighten the place up eg water & fish round Children's Well.
- Improve Spring Gardens shop frontages, make more of the architectural features, repair badly kept buildings.
- Declutter, provide paid for advertising space as a replacement to A boards. As extension to the square blocks?
- Improve disabled access at The Springs back entrance - access ramps? All one level with bollards?
- Some way to hide bins - screening, or a completely different design? Note new service provider starts in August.
- More bands etc on Pump House roof, light shows against the Crescent building.
- Chop down hedge along bottom of University grounds to give a better view of the building.

These ideas will be sent to the Directors, with a view to identifying which might form the basis of new projects, and which we might take up with the relevant authorities.

5. TOWN DEVELOPMENTS

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study: HPBC have commissioned a consultancy firm to carry out a study of provision and need across the borough, we will try and find out more, but if anyone has any thoughts they should let Roddie know - roddievm@mac.com.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Wye Street Car Park: The damaged trolley shelter has been removed at last and replaced with a timber compound.

High Path: Noted that the work on the retaining walls is now complete and we need to encourage DCC to reopen the path. It was pointed out that this is the safest route between the town and Morrisons for people in wheelchairs, the pavement on the other side is too narrow.

7. FUTURE I&V MEETINGS

Dates for upcoming meeting are as follows:

Tuesday 15th August

Monday 11th September

Tuesday 10th October

Wednesday 15th November

Monday 11th December

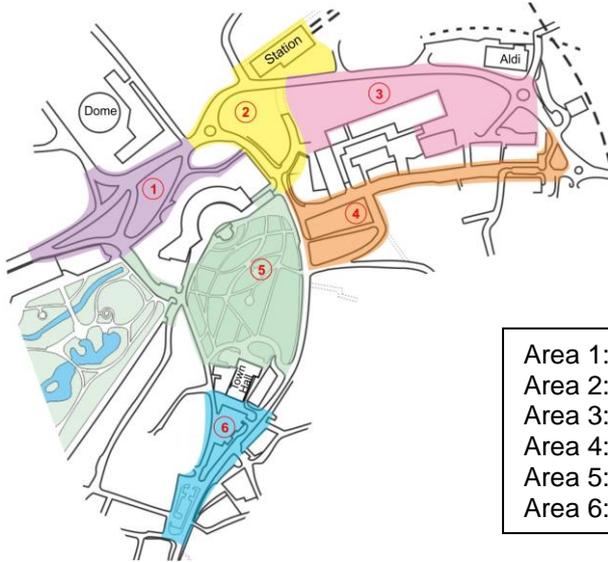
All at 7:30pm, Dick will arrange rooms at the Dome or elsewhere.

JCMM

14July17

I & A MEETING 13TH JULY 2017 - APPENDIX: IT'S YOUR TOWN EXERCISE

THE AREAS LOOKED AT:



General Feel: is it well-kept, friendly, threatening, filthy?
Functionality: consider accessibility, way-marking, does it fulfil its purpose, could it do more?

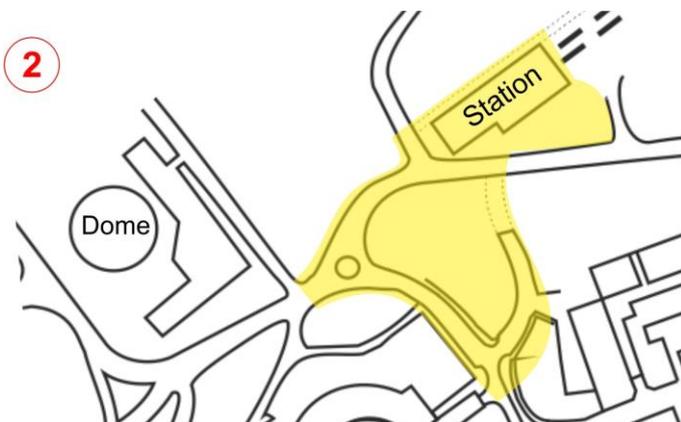
Area 1: Richard Lower, Elaine Hill, John Bishop, Steve Bradshaw
 Area 2: Bill Fiddy, Simon Craddock, Tina Heathcote
 Area 3: Jean Todd, Derek Bodey, Clare McGarey
 Area 4: Dick Silson, Janet Miller, John Robertson
 Area 5: Jim Lowe, Clive Howell-Williams, Vernon McGarey
 Area 6: Postponed to a later date!



General Feel:
 Hopeful, Old, Curves!
Functionality:
 Disabled access - slopes/crossings/A boards make it a nightmare.
Good Thing(s):
 Lovely vista of Opera House & St Johns Church. Old Courthouse building is a lovely area.
Bad Thing(s):
 Bins at back entrance to Crescent makes area of George Street look like a dirty back alley - although it's a major thoroughfare between the Opera House and the town. Damaged railings outside Penny Post. No flower decorations. Pavement parking. A board junk. Litter in between George Hotel and St John's Rd.
Something Surprising:
 A concrete block wall on the back of the George Hotel.

Ideas for Improvement:

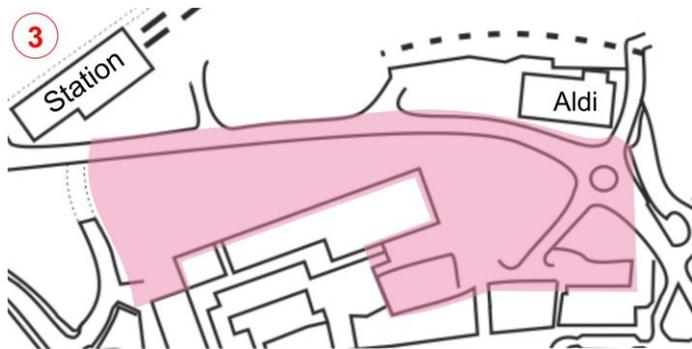
1. Square off the left turn off the A53 into George Street to slow down turning traffic
2. Pedestrianize George Street - café land - or at least install bollards to stop through traffic
3. Pot plants outside Vinci offices (George Hotel) to brighten them up a bit.
4. Pelican crossing across A53 just west of George Street.
5. Where old toilet block demolished, build new disabled toilet, in historical stone, with a meeting place/ viewing platform on top accessed from St John's Road.



General Feel:
 Welcoming, fairly well kept, free of litter
Functionality:
 Practical and adequate
Good Thing(s):
 Roundabout well planted
Bad Thing(s):
 Bins on Quadrant Mews. Station visitor information sign - needs replacing. Station fence needs cleaning up. Lack of litter bins (and the ones on the station are hoops with hanging bags). Plastic plants outside station look tacky.
Something Surprising:
 All the artwork on the platform!

Ideas for Improvement:

1. Station Approach needs gardening.
2. Remove hedge at foot of the University grounds (St John's Rd) to give better view of the building.



Ideas for Improvement:

1. Signpost at steps needs new paint (it's better on the car park side), maybe is in wrong position.
2. Trees could be planted outside car park along south side of Station Road.
3. River needs clearing of plants.
4. Screening required at the side of Waitrose.
5. Murals on concrete walls, or hanging garden walls.
6. North West corner below Station Approach could be cleared of trees and made into a nice garden area.

General Feel:

Bleak and uncared for.

Functionality:

Reasonable. No dropped kerbs onto pavement along the river and bad corner around rear of Waitrose.

Good Thing(s):

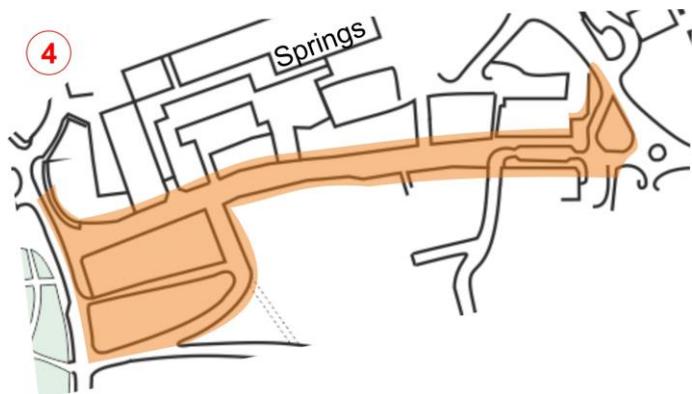
Gardens around The Springs have been re-done. Car park just south of Aldi roundabout is best kept car park.

Bad Thing(s):

Conway's walls are dreadful. Sign could be repainted. Light required on steps and ramps. Central lights need maintenance. Litter in SW corner by Station Approach.

Something Surprising:

Dubious congregations.



Ideas for Improvement:

1. Shop signage - eg Thomas Cook, remove wooden boxing covering up the stained glass arched windows.
2. Murals (on a theme) painted on side street blank walls
3. Concrete blocks - get rid, or paint them, themed eg fish and water plants round well - have a competition?
4. Clean, paint and varnish all the benches, clean the signs.
5. Tidy up all the accumulations of rubbish on Lower Hardwick Street.
6. Children's Well - get water flowing, clean plaque and reposition somewhere you can read it.

General Feel:

A cluttered mess.

Functionality:

It works. Just needs decluttering and sprucing up.

Good Thing(s):

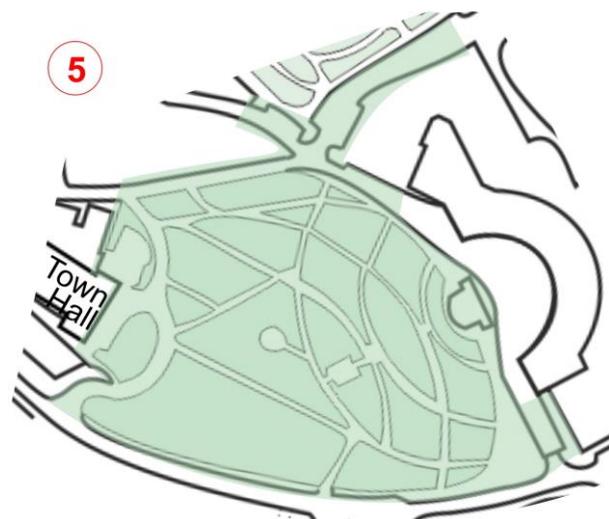
Wide variety of interesting buildings - O2; Greggs to Nat West terrace; Hawkshead; Boots; The Source. White Stuff have done an excellent job on their shop frontage.

Bad Thing(s):

Argos - hideous, demolish it! Benches & signage filthy. The Springs Centre back yard (like an industrial estate). Concrete blocks. Building above Mountain Warehouse. Lots of rubbish behind Bramwell and Singleton.

Something Surprising:

Lovely roof garden at the corner of Lower Hardwick St.



Ideas for Improvement:

1. Possible wildflower area - more flowers generally for colour.
2. More music and bands on the Pump House roof.
3. 'Light shows' onto the Crescent building, possibly as part of the opening event?
4. Flower pots on lampposts on Slopes and in The Square.
5. Pedestrianise the area outside the Old Hall Hotel.

General Feel:

Clean, tidy, no litter, nice area, well kept.

Functionality:

Forms link between upper and lower town; thoroughfare, picnic site, relaxation area.

Good Thing(s):

Its height, views of the town, calm area. Trees & greenery, linking all areas of town centre.

Bad Thing(s):

Dark, too many trees, needs more light in the evening. Lampposts need painting. Disabled access not good. No signage.

Something Surprising:

In a spa town - there is no water feature!