

## **NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

**Present:** Beth Eaton, Carole Rogers, Charles Denton, Dave Carlisle, Elaine Hill, Francis Allen, Janet Miller, Jean Todd, John Estruch, John Robertson, Kathryn Barton, Marie Butler, Philip Barton, Richard Silson, Rosemary Wood, Sarah Wynn Jones, Steve Bradshaw, Susan Wolton, Tina Heathcote, Viv Marriott

**Special Guest:** Ushie

**Apologies:** Claire Millard, Frieda Willis, Geoff Willis, Helen Haywood, Jim Lowe, John Jansen, John Phillips, Lesley Caddy, Marc Haywood, Mike Monaghan, Richard Lower, Roddie MacLean, Simon Fussell, Steve Caddy, Sue Mellor, Suzanne Pearson, Trevor Gilman

**Introductions:** Tina Heathcote and Dick Silson chaired the meeting, which started with a round of introductions.

### **1. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The notes of the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January were agreed to be a true record.

### **2. PROJECTS - CLOSING REPORTS, PROPOSALS & UPDATES**

#### **2.1 Regeneration of Ashwood Park**

A closing report had been circulated. The project is being closed not because work in the park is complete, but because Claire, who has led the project, is moving away from Buxton; she was thanked for her contribution. A lot of the work that can be done easily without funding has been completed, and we are now looking at needing to raise funding for specific things like re-opening the central bridge. Richard Lower has agreed to co-ordinate further work while the best way forward is agreed.

#### **2.2 Peak District Boundary Walk Launch Event**

The project was approved at the last directors meeting. The launch will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June, on Buxton Market Place, and is being organized by the Town Team in collaboration with HPBC, Friends of the Peak District and Buxton Markets. Emma Bridgewater (President of CPRE) will attend, and other dignitaries are being invited. There will be an extended market with outdoor activities stalls, it is a good opportunity to promote Buxton as a centre for the outdoors. We need people to join the project team and help with planning the event, as well as to help out on the day, volunteers should contact Tina. An orientation table to mark the start of the walk will be the subject of a later proposal.

#### **2.3 Buxton Spring Fair 2017**

The project was approved at the last directors meeting. Fliers and posters have been printed and need distributing, offers of help to Kathryn.

#### **2.4 Open Gardens Trail 2017**

The project was approved at the last directors meeting. The event will be on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June to coincide with the RHS Show at Chatsworth. A leaflet has been produced to recruit people willing to open their gardens. Noted there will be garden themed market on the market place on the Saturday and in the Pavilion Gardens on the Sunday.

#### **2.5 Buxton Railings Clean**

The project was approved at the last directors meeting.

#### **2.6 Buxton in Bloom**

We are still looking for a team of volunteers to run this project. Noted that stripping out entering Buxton into the East Midlands in Bloom competition makes the project a lot less onerous.

#### **2.7 Monthly Craft Group**

The idea would be for people to meet monthly to make things for our various projects - the Spring Fair, Buxton in Bloom, Christmas Decoration etc - as they are needed. There would be a social element to the project, it might encourage different town team members to get involved who had not been before, and could act as a means of outreach to for example schools and care homes. The Green Man Gallery have offered to host the sessions but would make a charge for this; alternative venues were suggested (the Railway, Pooles Cavern, Cheshire Cheese, Grapevine Café, Staden Lane Fire Station). The consensus was that it was a good idea and worth pursuing further.

#### **2.8 Women's Tour of Britain**

Noted that the race is passing through Buxton on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June, and we may want to set out the bikes again.

### **3. TOWN DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

#### **3.1 DCC Parking Proposals**

DCC had published a Road Traffic Order designating a large amount of what is currently free roadside parking as restricted or metered bays. There would be an overall reduction in the amount of parking for both cars and coaches. The Town Team have submitted a formal response requesting the order be withdrawn for proper consultation (available on the website). HPBC have done the same, as have individual councillors and various other community groups. We are advised that the proposals are on hold at least for the remainder of this financial year and that nothing will happen without full consultation with HPBC and all other interested parties.

#### **3.2 Townskeeping**

Buxton Town Team directors had met with Dai Lerner (HPBC Executive Director (Place)), along with representatives from the Civic Association, Vision Buxton and the Buxton Group. The list of issues identified at the last Ideas Meeting was discussed. It was agreed that the way forward is to work together, and it is hoped we can reach agreement as to which jobs can sensibly be done by community groups. Realistically, the Councils are only in a position to carry out work that they are statutorily required to do, or where there is a health and safety risk; there is no budget for discretionary work. That said they have found money to repair the boxed up urn on The Slopes. Simon is setting up a shared spreadsheet to enable the four community groups to work closely together, this will be shared with HPBC as well. Dai was keen for us to report issues that need attention, via our ward councilors. Noted that DCC Highways have a website where you can report faults and they are usually very quick to respond and take action.

#### **4. FOCUS: MAKING BUXTON ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL**

##### **4.1 Visual Impairment - Presentation by Sarah and Ushie**

Sarah and Ushie demonstrated the very structured decision making process that guide dogs are trained to follow. They need very definite demarcation between roadway and pavement, and adequate spacing (at least 1.5m) between obstacles. Spring Gardens is not fully pedestrianised even between 10am and 4pm because of right of access for businesses and residents in adjacent courtyards; it is in effect shared space, which is challenging, for people with hearing as well as visual impairment. The demarcation of the 'roadway' is not strong, high colour contrast is needed or a tactile surface strip. Additionally, café seating and shop displays extend right up to the 'roadway' edge, and there is masses of 'clutter' - trees, street furniture, litter bins and A boards. Bicycles using the space are also problematic. Buxton has been described as the most challenging town in Derbyshire for visually impaired people. Complaints to DCC have elicited very little sympathy, and the responsibility for many of the contributory issues is split between DCC Highways, HPBC and the Police.

Noted that Bakewell have developed a protocol for A boards, suggested we should look at that and see if it is applicable for Buxton.

##### **4.2 Dementia - Presentation by Carole**

Dementia is a general description of the symptoms of brain damage, there are over 100 different types; Alzheimers is the most common accounting for 62% of cases, but others include Vascular dementia, Lewy bodies, Parkinsons disease, Huntingdon's chorea, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and many more. There are at least 850,000 people with dementia in the UK, so proportionally around 270 in Buxton, and almost as many people again affected by it as carers. Whatever the cause, it can result in anxiety, depression and loneliness, it can affect speech and the ability to self care, and can lead to personality changes, hallucinations and delusions. People living with dementia can still be useful members of the community, in the right environment. Seemingly innocuous things can make this difficult, including for instance in a shop: black mats at the entrance (can look like gaping holes); changes in shelf layouts; things being out of stock; baskets all higgledy piggledy. The key is awareness, and for people to modify their attitudes.

The aim of the Buxton & High Peak Dementia Action Alliance is for people to be able to live well with dementia. Dementia awareness week is 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May, Carole is keen for as many people as possible to attend an awareness raising course on the issue. The answer is not simply to provide more hospital beds. It is better for people to be integrated in the community, with the right support from the NHS and specialist hospital beds available for when needed. For that to work, a cultural change is needed, we need people to be willing to engage with someone who appears vulnerable, and not be frightened to offer help. Safe Spaces are a useful initiative, people can carry a card with their name on and the location of a safe space, where people will know how to take care of them if they get into distress; the Grapevine Café and Marks & Spencers are two of the safe spaces in Buxton.

The Dementia Action Alliance is working towards communities in the High Peak gaining 'Dementia Friendly' accreditation. Suggested we investigate what is required to achieve this.

##### **4.3 General Discussion**

Noted that to a large extent, the same solutions can improve things for people with very different impairments. For instance adequate spacing between obstacles is needed for a blind person with a dog exactly as it is for a wheelchair user; safe spaces and a change in attitude from the public are general requirements regardless of the nature of the impairment. Noted also that some actions that might seem quite trivial can have a big impact - quick wins.

Suggested we could usefully generate a list of key actions that would help a number of people from different groups. Agreed that the directors should discuss how we might move forward on this issue.

#### **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None raised.

#### **6. FUTURE I&V MEETINGS**

Dates for upcoming meeting are:

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March** - Venue and topic tbc

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April** - Buxton Town Team General Meeting, venue tbc

JCMM

19Feb17