

NOTES OF THE IDEAS MEETING ON TUESDAY 16TH MAY 2017

Present: Anne Hanson, Catrin Davies, Charles Denton, Charles Jolly, David Hanson, Elaine Hill, Guy Milner, Helen Davison, Ian Howarth, Iain Hawthorn, Janet Miller, Jean Ball, John Bishop, John Robertson, Ken Howarth, Mary Falby, Matthew Nuttall, Mike Badman, Philip Barton, Richard Silson, Steven Bell, Veronica Hawthorn

Apologies: Carole Rogers, Claire Millard, Derek Bodey, Jim Lowe, John Estruch, Lesley Caddy, Richard Lower, Roddie MacLean, Rosemary Wood, Steve Caddy, Sue Wolton, Suzanne Pearson, Tim Ball, Tina Heathcote, Viv Marriott

1. INTRODUCTION

Dick Silson chaired the meeting which started with a round of introductions.

He then introduces the latest Dick's Derivation: Raining Cats and Dogs.

Option 1: animals falling off a roof that is slippery from rain, or being washed out of a thatched roof.

Option 2: dogs associated with Odin god of storms, cats with witches flying around up above.

Option 3: T'Wikker joke - students suddenly showered by little bits of toothed metal ... it's raining Datsun cogs!

Agreed none of these are very convincing!

2. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting on 14th March were agreed to be a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

A presentation by Philip Barton on BIDs generally and Vision Buxton's recently commissioned Feasibility Study. See appended slides, but key points are:

- A BID covers a defined area, and all businesses in that area contribute to an improvement fund
 - There are over 300 BIDs in the UK, local businesses pay a levy of typically 1.5% of Rateable Value (RV)
 - The levy is collected by the local authority, but handed directly to the BID to spend locally
 - Each BID has a board, made up of representatives from local businesses, who agree a five year plan
 - The plan could include car parking, landscaping, litter-picking, way-marking, Wi-fi, central purchasing ...
 - A majority of businesses (over 50% by number and by RV) have to agree to set it up
 - Once set up, contributions are mandatory, but small businesses (typically RV < £5k) need not pay anything
- Vision Buxton have commissioned the Mosaic Partnership to carry out a feasibility study on setting up a BID in Buxton. They have a good track record, having led on 80 BIDs to date with a 100% success rate. They will talk to local businesses face to face and via questionnaire and recommend the boundary of the area; this could just encompass 'Main Street' or extend to include say Morrisons, the University, London Road ... They will also estimate the amount of money that might be raised and what it might be used for.

The feasibility study will cost £7,200, which is being paid for by Vision Buxton (though they are looking for contributions from other organisations). Later costs in actually setting up a BID would be funded by the levy once implemented. The total RV for Buxton is £20 million, a BID could be expected to raise £100-150,000 each year. The whole process will take 9-15 months, a BID could realistically be set up late 2018.

HPBC are very supportive of the proposal, and will be working with Mosaic on the initial desk study.

Noted that the re-opening of Crescent is a massive opportunity but the benefits will not arrive automatically, businesses need to act to take advantage of it.

Noted also that Buxton is a bit different to many towns; we already have a thriving volunteer sector carrying out a lot of the work that might normally be taken on by a BID, and we do not want to lose that volunteer ethos. On the other hand, a BID could provide long term, stable funding for Town Team projects, particularly provision of materials, and The Town Team may therefore wish to have official representation on the BID board, and a say in how the money is spent.

In the ensuing discussion the following points were raised:

- Pubs and hotels in the town have seen a massive hike in RV and could be contributing disproportionately, but there is no flexibility in the rules to allow for recent RV changes
- It is illegal for a BID to be used to replace the statutory obligations of the local authority, even so there is concern that the more we, or a BID, does, the less they will do. That said, local authorities have little if any money available for discretionary spending.
- Given that there is competition between different towns in the High Peak for limited funds, would a BID in Buxton just mean more High Peak funding being allocated to Glossop, hence no net benefit to Buxton?
- The money has to be spent within the defined BID area, it cannot be spent on improvements in the surrounding residential areas.
- There is concern over the impact on volunteering, and the sense of community and ownership.

Philip and Dick committed to ensuring that all these issues were passed on to Mosaic to follow up as part of the feasibility study.

4. PROJECTS - CLOSING REPORTS, PROPOSALS & UPDATES

4.1 Talking Signposts 2016

A closing report had been circulated. There were no queries.

4.2 Talking Signposts 2017

A project proposal had been circulated. Kate MacLean has offered to lead the project, some minor changes are proposed for instance starting the scheme at the end of May. It was suggested that a more distinctive uniform might be beneficial. It was also noted that the number of volunteers was lower last year than previously, and suggested that each of us should aim to recruit a friend to take part. Noted also that the Special Olympics takes place in Sheffield this year and that there may be a visit to Buxton on 10th August; that the disabled changing facilities at the university are frequently in an unusable state. It was agreed the project should be taken to the next Directors' meeting for consideration.

4.3 Utilising Corporate Volunteer Hours

A project proposal had been circulated. It was explained that Tina has been in discussion with Cemex, who have 140 employees, who are expected to do a day's voluntary work in the community every year; they are always on the look out for suitable assignments. A list of possible jobs has been agreed and Jim Lowe has offered to co-ordinate the work and lead the project. It was agreed that this could make a significant contribution to improving the town and the project should go to the next Directors' Meeting for consideration.

4.4 Buxton Railings Clean

Suzanne had sent a report stating that the event on 25th April had gone very well; three students had taken the lead in planning and organising, thanks to them, to their tutor and to the Town Team members who helped. Around 300 young people from Buxton Community School, Fairfield Endowed Juniors, Burbage Primary and St Anne's Primary came to clean, along with extra students from the College and University; staff from Interserve at Harpur Hill gave us their 'community help' day; the fire service supplied water from their engine and even cleaned the top of the promenade gates; Mayor George Wharmby, B&L College Principle Len Tilsley and Town Crier Bill Weston all attended. The traditional snow storm conveniently took place over the lunch break!

4.6 Market Place Enhancement

We have been given £500 from the University of Derby to be used to enhance the Market Place. Ideas were sought - see appended slides for a short introductory presentation - and small groups marked their suggestions on maps of the area as follows:

Grp 1: Colourful planters all year round; painted benches or local art on boards; do up the well. Plus water feature?

Grp 2: On the area opposite Mycock's - movable planters with artificial hedging; information boards (history, geology, pastimes); paint the benches. Plus a 'wayfarer' orientation table in the main market area.

Grp 3: Combined planter and bike lock system (£155 from Front Yard Company); paint benches red.

Grp 4: Planters and seating along the walls, for continuity on Scarsdale Place and also outside New Inn; uniformity of colour; knitted and woven covers for the electrical boxes.

Grp 5: Sculpture benches (similar to one in Macclesfield) in area opposite Mycock's also on pedestrianised area opposite.

Grp 6: Decorate the bus shelters; trees/shrubs in tubs (colour); improve bus seating and waiting areas

Grp 7: Planters outside Kings Head, at top of Terrace Rd, along length of street between bus stops; repaint the benches; art mural around both market cross and market place well.

Grp 8: Planters along all the low walls, interspersed with seating; possible additional low wall (with planters) along edge of Sainsbury' area parking; art work on the electrical boxes; paint all the benches.

The ideas will be considered further with a view to drawing up a project proposal soon.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None raised.

6. FUTURE I&V MEETINGS

Dates for upcoming meeting were agreed as follows:

Monday 12th June

Thursday 13th July

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

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