



## **Buxton Town Team sets out its stall to regenerate Buxton Market Place**

**Embargo:** August 20, 2015

Buxton Town Team have been given the go-ahead to take over the running of the town's twice weekly markets after pledging to bring new life to the area by bringing traders and the community together.

High Peak Borough Council have offered the Town Team a five-year licence to operate on the Market Place on Tuesdays and Saturdays, the culmination of a competitive tendering exercise, open to all, which started almost a year ago. The final terms of the licence are still to be agreed.

"We are thrilled that HPBC has given us this opportunity" said Roddie MacLean, Chair of Buxton Town Team. "It is particularly pleasing that the Council has demonstrated such faith in our ability to take up this challenge.

"The huge popularity of the Town Team's Spring Fair and the experience of the pilot artisan markets on the Market Place have demonstrated that we can attract large numbers of people to higher Buxton. We believe that a regenerated market will bring more people into Buxton which will benefit traders throughout the town."

The Team's plan is to re-launch the market in Spring 2016. The Tuesday market will be traditional, selling everyday items such as food, clothing, household goods and garden products. The Saturday market will combine the regular stalls with a rotating cycle of differently themed markets each week. Themes might include a specialist food market, fashion and accessories, gardens, arts and crafts and antiques and collectables.

Local people can have a real stake in the project by investing in the company which will be set up to run the new markets.

"We will be setting up a Community Interest Company so the markets will be owned by, and run for the benefit of, the people of Buxton," said John Estruch, who is leading the project for Buxton Town Team.

"Members will be able to elect a board and have a say in key decisions. Funds will be raised to buy equipment including robust and colourful stalls, hire staff and pay for advertising and promotion."

We are really excited about this, added Janet Miller, another member of the project team. In the three years we have been running the Spring Fair, we have built really strong relationships with hundreds of traders in the town and the surrounding area. We are looking forward to working with them, and with the Council, to ensure that the new markets bring real benefit to everyone in the town.

Councillor Tony Kemp, Executive Councillor for Economic Development and Deputy Leader of the Council, said: The Council recognises the value that vibrant and varied markets bring to towns and is keen to see new energy and life injected into Buxton's twice-weekly market.

We have undertaken a fair and transparent tendering process and I'm delighted that this has resulted in this opportunity for Buxton Town Team. They have a track record of delivering events which attract locals and visitors and I look forward to seeing them deliver their ideas to revitalise the town's market on the historic market place.

Any trader who is interested in trading at the new market please contact Buxton Town Team at [buxtontownteam.org](http://buxtontownteam.org)

**Notes to editors: For more details, contact Tina Heathcote on 01298 24219.**