

Buxton's Town Team is on the way!

Buxton's bid to become a Portas Pilot town was unsuccessful - though we could still be selected in the second round - but setting up of a Town Team is going ahead regardless. Its remit? 'To revitalise the town centre and improve the economic well-being of the whole town'.

Two meetings have been held to work out the details, on 28th May and 19th June. Both were well supported by representatives from a wide range of individuals and groups with an interest in the town, and both officers and councillors from HPBC. Janet Miller, one of the organisers, said "We are very keen to ensure that anyone who has a genuine interest in making positive things happen in the town, that will regenerate the local economy, can be part of the Town Team. This is not going to be a small circle of people deciding what's good for everyone else. So we have agreed a structure that has several working groups with specific tasks, such as ideas and vision, communications and marketing, fundraising, project management and so on, overseen by a Town Team Board made up of representatives from each working group. The more people involved, the more we should be able to achieve."

The next stage is to set up the working groups. The last meeting decided to convene a 'Setting Up Group' as soon as possible, to be followed closely by the Communications Group and Ideas & Vision Group, and volunteers came forward for each of these groups.

The Setting Up Group will work on the membership scheme and the constitution of the Town Team as priorities, with a view to it becoming a Community Interest Company in due course. The Communications and the Ideas & Vision groups will, among other tasks, collect ideas from people in Buxton, to add to those included

in the Portas Pilot bid, and will inform and work to the direction of the Setting Up Group.

Another of the organisers, Tina Heathcote said "There are exciting times ahead for Buxton, already businesses, organisations, individuals, are working together more closely than ever before. Everyone who cares about the future for Buxton and wants to make a positive contribution is welcome to join in ; just make contact through pilotgroup@buxtontownteam.org.uk".

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Note to Editor

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Portas Pilot Group

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