

BUXTON TOWN TEAM

NOTES ON THE DIRECTORS' MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Present: Janet Miller, Jean Ball, Joe Dugdale, John Estruch, Philip Barton, Rachel Hoodith, Richard Silson, Roddie MacLean, Tina Heathcote

Apologies: Sarah Rawlinson

1. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was agreed that the notes of the meetings on 18th August represented an accurate record, and can be posted on the website.

JM

2. BOARD, DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

It was noted that we will need to start planning for the general meeting early in the new year and that we should consider whether we wish to propose a ninth director to join the board. It was also noted that the business plan was due for review quite soon. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

RM

3. IDEAS & VISION GROUP

Notes of the last meeting on 9th September have been circulated. There were no issues arising.

4. COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The group met on 2nd September, the notes will be circulated.

It was suggested that the Group should develop a policy on Facebook page 'likes', this will be looked into.

**JM
JM/TH**

5. SCRUTINY GROUP

No report received.

6. MEMBERSHIP & FINANCES

6.1 Current Position

The number of members is now 167, and we have 407 'Likes' on Facebook.

Philip had circulated a financial report, cash assets now total £9,765. We have spent all of the original £10,000 DCLG grant, but recovered more than that amount as income.

6.2 Manchester Credit Union

£4,000 is now deposited with the Manchester Credit Union; Roddie will let Caitlin know this, and Janet will post something on the Facebook page.

RM/JM

7. TOWN MATTERS

7.1 Nestle Site Proposals

The new developers (CPG) contacted the Town Team, Vision Buxton and others offering to consult but have not yet replied to emails requesting dates to meet up. There is a public consultation in the Old Hall on 25th September. Richard has written a short guide to the planning issues associated with the new proposals for the Nestle site, Janet will circulate this to all directors' and other interested parties. Richard has also spoken with the HPBC planner regarding using the new Local Plan (under which the site is not part of the town centre) as the basis for their response to the proposals - it is hoped this might be adopted by the end of February. The developers will have to submit both an impact and a sequential assessment with the application, demonstrating that the proposals will not have an adverse impact on the vitality of the town centre and that there are no alternative sites that could be used instead. The CPG press release stated they would be submitting an application by the end of September but this does not seem very likely, particularly in view of the requirement for meaningful consultation.

JM

7.2 Proposals for Crescent Heritage Trust

The proposals for the organisational structure have been revised, the pump room and heritage tours will now be run by a charitable trust. It was agreed this is an improvement over the previous proposal whereby the hotel management company would be responsible for these. The Town Team's possible role in this was discussed, it was felt that we could be involved in setting this up but would expect it to then operate independently.

8. PROJECTS UPDATES & PROPOSALS

8.1 Artisan Markets

Our recommendations following discussion at the last meeting have been sent to HPBC. These have not yet been formally accepted pending consulting the Regeneration Committee, they are not expected to disagree. Assuming the markets continue, it was agreed that we would help with publicity, and with signage and handing out leaflets on the day. It was also agreed that for October this was the priority and we would not therefore have a Town Team stall, but would look to have one in November and December - John will arrange this with Denise. John will also ask Denise for A4 posters that we can put up around the town, Janet will provide a list of sites. Rachel will take leaflets round the local caravan and campsites.

**JE
JE/JM
RH**

It was noted that the scheme for a special reduced taxi fare had not generated much interest, people walked. It was agreed that the University report and our recommendations will be posted on the website.

JM

8.2 Buxton in Bloom

The Awards Luncheon will be tomorrow, Roddie and Janine will be going.

8.3 Illustrated Map

It was agreed that now we have fliers and an insert, the push to have maps on sale should be resumed; Joe will take this up and also chase Zoe to get the remaining artists to sign the copyright agreement.

JD

8.4 Vox Pops

A project proposal had been circulated. Tina confirmed that she and Andy had run a couple of pilots, in Spring Gardens and on the Market Place, and found that the majority of people were willing to speak to camera, and were coming up with an interesting and useful range of comments. The project was approved, with zero budget.

8.5 Buxton Conference

A project proposal had been circulated. The concept was discussed and the project agreed in principle, but can not be formally approved until we know the likely cost and sources of funding, and that HPBC in particular will be supportive - Roddie will discuss with Caitlin. It was also suggested that Vision Buxton might organise this with us jointly, Roddie will ask Adrian for his views on this. A revised proposal will be submitted as soon as possible.

RM
RM/TH

8.6 Merchandise

A project proposal had been circulated, for the production and sale of tea-towels and jigsaws. It was agreed that a single colour cotton tea-towel, without poem, was preferred. After some further discussion of the costs and prices, which are still being refined, the project was approved with a budget of £1,150. The expectation is that the costs will be recovered within 6 months, with a likely profit thereafter of around £500.

8.7 Street Art Phase 2

Some possible designs were presented, for painting the Arts Centre window panels. It was agreed that Tina and Janet could approach relevant people in HPBC to discuss the concept, with a view to submitting a project proposal in due course.

JM/TH

8.8 Market Regeneration

Janet reported on discussions with the representative from NFMT who visited Buxton on 6th September; he has a lot of experience, and credibility with traders, and is willing to assist. Roddie has identified the couple who have been leafleting the Market Place in support of regenerating the market and will arrange to meet and discuss ideas soon. Meanwhile there will be an internal planning meeting at 7:30pm on 24th September for those interested in forming a project team.

RM

9. PLANNED TOWN TEAM MEETINGS

9.1 Ideas & Vision Meetings

Both Richard and Janet will be away on 8th October so we will need a replacement chair and note-taker. The theme of the meeting has also still to be agreed. This will be dealt with via email.

RS

9.2 General Meeting

As with Item 2., this will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

RM

10. MEETINGS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

10.1 Meetings with HPBC

Roddie will arrange a date for a meeting with Dai Lerner.

RM

Tina is meeting Carlyn Botham, TIC supervisor, via Terry Crawford, who is hoping the Town Team will organise a town fair in August 2015.

TH

10.2 Other Meetings

Heritage Lottery Fund - Roddie as BTT and various other organisations were involved in the meeting on 10th September between HLF and the Crescent Development team.

Buxton Traders - Roddie attended the first part of a meeting on 11th September; a resolution was passed that in future, with the exception of the Spring Fair, all markets should be held on the Market Place.

ATCM Great Places Expo - on 15th September, Roddie, Kathryn and Philip attended and ran a stall. They picked up good ideas from other Town Teams, as well as promoting our achievements to date, which were well received.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Retail Trends Study

Richard reported on a Southampton University study which foresees (among other things) the recent resurgence in 'artisanal retailers' continuing to grow, alongside a decline in the superstore share of the retail market from 42% to 35%. Jean will forward the link to the report.

JB

10. DATES OF NEXT DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

Dates for meetings in the new year were agreed as follows:

Tuesday 20th January 7:30pm

Monday 16th February 7:30pm

Janet will arrange accommodation with the Old Hall Hotel.

JM

JCMM

17Sept14