

BUXTON TOWN TEAM

NOTES ON THE MEETING WITH HPBC ON MONDAY 11TH MAY 2015

Present: Dai Lamer, Janet Miller, John Estruch, Roddie MacLean, Tina Heathcote

1. LINKS BETWEEN BUXTON TOWN TEAM AND HPBC

It was noted that it was over a year since the previous meeting with Dai, and agreed that we should aim to meet approximately every six months.

2. UPDATE ON BUXTON TOWN TEAM PROJECTS

2.1 Buxton Spring Fair

The third Spring Fair had taken place on the previous Monday and went well, all the feedback received so far has been very positive.

2.2 Big Buxton Spring Clean

The Spring Clean had taken place on 25th April, and over 300 young people from schools and college had taken part in the Railings Clean on 28th April. There had been an interesting discussion on Facebook re whose job this should be and the merits of involving people in voluntary work at a young age. Pleased to note that the Clean Team were working on clearing up the A515 dual carriageway and hopefully would also be doing some work on the High Path.

2.3 Artisan Market Trials

The trials took place and based on University research the Town Team had concluded that the market should continue on the Market Place, which they did till the end of the year. It was disappointing that Denise had not been able to make it work there and was now planning further trials on Spring Gardens. The Town Team remains of the view that Buxton is more viable if there is activity on the Market Place as well as in the lower town, and the notion that people won't go there has been disproved. Dai commented that one of HPBC's aims is to make the Market Place more attractive.

2.4 Talking Signposts

This ran for two months last year, and will be repeated this summer.

2.5 Merchandise

As well as the Illustrated Map, jigsaws and tea-towels are also now available from the Town Team, and retailers in town are starting to develop their own Buxton branded lines.

2.6 Buxton in Bloom

This went well last year and is being repeated, with new local competition categories. It was noted that the Pavilion Gardens was no longer Green Flag accredited, Dai agreed to investigate.

2.7 Friends of Buxton Station

The Town Team had assisted in resurrecting of the group, who were now actively making improvements.

2.8 Serpentine Community Farm

The Town Team are supporting this project (Tina chairs the working group); noted it had been included in the Buxton in Bloom judges' tour and won a special award last year.

2.9 Ashwood Park

A team are working on this with HPBC Parks staff and Buxton & Leek College, and making good progress. Dai agreed to make enquiries about the bridge which has been closed for many years, for no obvious reason.

2.10 Winter Lights

A group were planning on entering a competition to win £10k worth of winter lights, their idea is to design these for use on the Slopes, where they would be visible from both Spring Gardens and the Pavilion Gardens. We will need an undertaking from HPBC that the lights would be used and looked after.

2.11 2020 Vision: Buxton Conference

Dai advised that they have had an internal meeting and are drafting a response. Noted that the proposals are in line with HPBC's vision, and it was important that the Town Team could get everyone together discussing it. It was agreed that Peak Rail's plans were critical, and the proposals to upgrade the rail line to Manchester noted; HPBC are keen to develop the rail network and to demonstrate public support for that.

3. TOWN DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 The Crescent

Agreed there is an opportunity for maximum impact over the next few years, the future of the Town Hall etc depend on the Crescent as a catalyst. Noted that inevitably there will be a lot of disruption during the construction period, HPBC are in discussion regarding the extent to which the Crescent roadway will be closed for instance. The Town Team are willing to assist in keeping the community informed, via our social media network and contacts with other community groups. It is hoped that once the developers are on site, and the new Community Liaison post filled, more information will be made available.

3.2 Common Town Calendar

Agreed that the different organisations in the town could work together better. The Vision Buxton Marketing Group, with Town Team representation, are working on a common town calendar. They are also in discussion with the University about setting up a Destination Marketing Organisation for Buxton.

3.3 Transport, Access and Parking

It was noted that the A6 Mitigation Strategy was focussed on improving the rail connection with improved frequency and speed, better pricing and more car parking at Buxton station. There are also ideas around improving cycle routes around Buxton, centred on the railway station. The Town Team are setting up a forum to look into all these issues, and at where additional car parking might be provided - various sites are possible including the old Otter Control site and the HPBC Market Street depot.

3.4 Smart Infrastructure

Noted that Buxton is not good, HPBC are pushing for Buxton to be included in broadband improvements in the area, to assist in setting up high tech office space in the town.

3.5 The High Path

There are issues because of ownership, HPBC are looking at various options, Dai will find out what the latest situation is and resurrect discussions with DCC about it.

4. NEXT MEETING

Dai will ask Julie to set up a meeting for the end of this year.

JCMM
28May15