

PROJECT CLOSING REPORT – *Buxton Conference 2015*

1. OVERVIEW

The rationale for The Buxton Conference is to bring together organisations that have influence and an interest in Buxton and its well being and prosperity. This to ensure continued collaborative working and shared vision for the development of the town.

Buxton is on the edge of great change; many exciting, major projects are about to take off. The opportunity to bring all interested parties together at one time is a fantastic opportunity to ensure that the greatest benefits for all are achieved through coordinated effort.

2. DETAIL OF WHAT TOOK PLACE

All day event on 25 February 2015, in the Pavilion Arts Centre. Around 100 delegates heard 5min presentations from 20 speakers, from all sectors, around their aspirations for the town in the next 5 years. There were also opportunities for ‘networking’, a group exercise to prompt discussion of desirable physical changes required in the town and feedback questionnaires requested, amongst other things, the delegates top 5 priorities for the town. A comprehensive Post Conference Report was subsequently produced and distributed – and is available via the Buxton Town Team website.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of High Peak Borough Council, the University of Derby and Vision Buxton to a successful conference.

3. ASSESSMENT AGAINST AIMS AND SUCCESS CRITERIA

The aims of the project were to:

Aim	Assessment
To bring together organisations and businesses based, or with an strong interest, in Buxton to share information and determine common areas for further collaboration	Unprecedented event in this respect. Objective achieved.
To determine common areas requiring attention	Usefully summarised in Post Conference Report and made available widely.
To determine mutually beneficial priorities for the town - its residents and visitors	ditto
To encourage natural synergies to evolve	Ongoing, but anecdotal evidence suggests the Conference has assisted this.
To determine a clear vision for 2020 with associated actions clearly defined	Perhaps too big an aspiration, given the numbers of players?! Reference should be made to the PCR in future to review progress.
To raise the profile of Buxton	Particularly the community’s ‘hands on’ approach.

The measurable success criteria of the project were as follows:

Success Criteria	Assessment
People talking positively about it across the town - and using a range of media and social networks.	First part achieved but I have no evidence of the range of media utilised.
Approval of the event by key stakeholders.	Very positive feedback received.
The emergence of new or greatly enhanced projects through synergetic partnerships.	Ongoing, but anecdotal evidence suggests the Conference has assisted this.

4. ANY FURTHER BENEFITS

The success and outcomes of 2020 led on to the 'Buxton on the Move' Conference of 2016. This initiative was widely welcomed and supported, based partly on the perceived success of 2020.

5. COSTS

Project expenditure against budget was as follows:

EXPENDITURE		
	Budget	Actual
Printing and incidentals	£ 150	£ 108.65
Total	£ 250	£ 108.65
Net Expenditure	£	£ 61.52

INCOME		
	Budget	Actual
Total	£	£ 47.13
Surplus	£	£

6. LEARNING POINTS FOR THE FUTURE

Very ambitious undertaking, involving a huge amount of volunteer time. Successful and very professional delivery, and positive feedback, made it a rewarding and enjoyable experience however. We should not underestimate the work involved in 'getting it right' but neither should we shy away from being ambitious or underestimate the calibre of and enthusiasm within the Town Team's membership – nor the contribution of successful delivery to broadening that membership base.

We should review the PCR on an occasional basis, either at Directors or Group level.

Name: [Roddie MacLean](#)

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