

BuxtonTownTeam

All together, better

Last chance in a generation for The Crescent

Buxton Town Team has warned that “there is no Plan B” for Buxton’s historic Crescent if the Heritage Lottery Fund does not give the go-ahead for a grant to save the project to restore it.

Lottery Fund representatives meet at The Crescent tomorrow (Friday) to see for themselves what needs to be done – but the public need to show their support too or risk missing the last chance in a generation to save it, said Town Team Chairman Roddie MacLean.

“There is no Plan B,” said Roddie, who is calling on local people to go on line to tell politicians how important saving The Crescent is to the future of the town.

“The current plan is absolutely compelling; bringing the magnificent Georgian building back from the brink and restoring it to the hotel use it was built for, exploiting the natural mineral water source and the rich heritage to put Buxton and the Peak District at the centre of an international tourist trade, with all the implications that will have on the local and regional economy,” he said.

“There are great reasons why we don’t want a plan B - but that does mean we must all take on some of the responsibility for delivering this scheme.”

The final decision on funding for the £32+ million project to create a world-beating spa hotel is due in just a few weeks’ time – but there is still chance to influence it by going to the Town Team’s Facebook page and posting your messages of support.

“We’re almost there, so look and share to show we care,” said Town Team director, Tina Heathcote.

She added: “Buxton has a wonderful record of bringing new life to its historic buildings, and we need to get across what a wise use of money this will be.

“The Opera House has been a huge bonus to the life and economy of the town and, of course, we now have the Pavilion Arts Centre. The Royal Devonshire Hospital’s new role as the University of Derby’s Buxton campus has brought young people, jobs and international focus to the town.

“And The Crescent - the most important of Buxton’s historic buildings needing restoration – needs our support if it is to once again contribute to local life and the regeneration of our economy. This project is too important to Buxton and Derbyshire to fail.”

Tina is urging people to show their support by e-mailing Richard Tuffrey, Principal Regeneration Officer at High Peak Borough Council, with messages he can pass on to the Heritage Lottery Fund whose backing is needed for the scheme to create a 79-bedroom five-star spa hotel, incorporating the neighbouring Natural Baths.

Richard can be contacted on richard.tuffrey@highpeak.gov.uk

For more details about Buxton Town Team, contact Roddie MacLean on 01298 78276, Tina Heathcote on 0129824219, or Janet Miller on 01298 71041.