

BUXTON TOWN TEAM - ACCESS, PARKING, TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT GROUP

NOTES OF THE MEETING ON 31st JANUARY 2017

Present: Andy Parker, Derek Bodey, Janet Miller, John Phillips, Jim Lowe, Richard Silson, Roddie MacLean, Tim Heap, Tina Heathcote, Viv Marriott

Apologies: Peter Wiltshire, Richard Lovell, Sarah Porru, Simon Fussell

1. Notes of the Last Meeting

Notes of the meeting on 10th January 2017 were approved as a true record, with no matters arising.

2. Group Remit

This was discussed at the last Directors' meeting; it was agreed that a formal remit would be useful and we have been asked to draw up a 'Terms of Reference' for the group.

JM/TH

Noted that Mike Ashworth at DCC suggested we develop 'strategic projects', also that while lots of different groups are acting on behalf of specific user groups, we consciously address the needs of all users. Agreed we will welcome involvement and contribution from other organisations in Buxton and aim to 'pull it all together'.

3. DCC Parking Order

The proposals published in the Buxton Advertiser are not a 'consultation', DCC are legally obliged to advise the public of their intentions, with a correspondence address, but not necessarily to take any notice of any comments. It is possible the proposals have been withdrawn, Tony Kemp and Caitlin Bisknell have both called for this, and expenditure of £150k for new meters has been 'called in' already. It has been suggested there was a desire to push things through in advance of calling the May elections. Also suggested the proposals are predominantly aimed at revenue raising with little concern for potential impact on the economy or tourism. Terry Crawford has called a meeting this Thursday with a number of interested or affected organisations, Tina and Roddie will attend.

TH/RM

In discussion the following points were made: there are similar proposals for Matlock and Castleton; on-street parking income goes to DCC, economic impact will be felt by borough/district councils; need for county and borough (and different departments within) to work together; need smarter pricing structure for parking to influence behaviour eg free for the first hour, tickets that are transferable between locations; tourists don't mind paying for parking, residents and people working in town do; HPBC had been proposing a Parking Summit but abandoned plan when they realised no suitable site and no quick financial return; HPBC car parks in terrible state and some not always open; why residents parking in the Crescent - there are none; Tim has relevant expertise he could offer to DCC. A press release was drafted, John will send this in to the Advertiser and others.

JP

Agreed we will send a comment in to DCC, not responding on the detail of the proposals, rather suggesting they are withdrawn and a proper consultation carried out. Note also that while we would support some elements, especially those related to safety, the proposals run counter to plans in development at local level eg increased coach parking, smarter charging policy for parking, need for long term parking (both 24 hour and multi-day) etc. Also that the plans are likely to have unintended economic consequences and consultation needs to include a review of economic impact. Tina will draw up a draft in time for the meeting on Thursday, to be amended (if necessary) and sent after that; noted each organisation responding separately is stronger than a single response from all.

TH

Agreed we should offer to carry out a strategic review, in conjunction with University of Derby. Tim will draw up a blueprint for the steps needed, including a proper survey of local businesses to determine what the need is and where.

Theap

Noted that Jim Seymour (DCC Transport Strategy Manager) had said he had bluetooth data on people's movements, this might be used in conjunction with other survey data.

4. UoD, DCC, BTT Projects

The presentation by the students took place yesterday, attended by Tina and three officers from DCC. The students had researched businesses, visitors and schools, and covered car share (including smart apps), incentive voucher schemes, bus services, timetable improvements, electronic timetables, real-time bus tracking, cycle routes, bike hire schemes, cycling safety and more. A report will be circulated soon.

Noted one of the students would like to join this group, agreed she will be very welcome.

5. Pedestrian Controlled Traffic Lights

Tina had written to Richard Lovell pointing out the density of pedestrian controlled lights (11 in less than a mile) and received a response from Stephen Alcock (Project Engineer, DCC Traffic and Road Safety Service). His view is that the crossings are well used and necessary because of traffic volumes, and that

it would cost money to remove them. He advised that they are all (bar one) controlled by Puffin technology and will not turn red unless there is a pedestrian there waiting to cross, but invited us to let him know if this is not working properly. We suspect they may be programmed not to operate until there is a gap in the traffic, which would explain why they are so slow. More research and real evidence is needed.

6. On-Line Presence

A number of the car parks have now appeared on the Google map of Buxton, unfortunately two still only appear when you zoom in:- Wye Street and Sylvan Park. Andy has written again to HPBC (Sarah and Carolyn) to ask them to 'adopt the business', he will follow this up. All of them however can now be reviewed; Janet will include a call for members to do this in the next newsletter, as this should improve their chances of being displayed more prominently.

AP

JM

Neil Scowcroft has added links from google maps to the HPBC website which may also help.

7. Coaches

Andy had circulated an interim report but had very little response; he will send it again, all to respond. Notion of 'Coach Friendly Town' status discussed, schemes are run by the Association of Passenger Coach Travel and the English Tourist Board, Andy will find out what the requirements are to be listed. Noted Hillhead considered as a possible coach parking site, suggested Grinlow also be considered.

ALL

AP

8. Bikes

Steve Caddy is interested in running a feature in Pure Buxton on electric bikes, possibly in conjunction with DCC (Richard Lovell), covering an event if a supplier could be persuaded to offer test rides. Dick will pursue this. Suggested he ask the University Transport Dept to be involved, possibly also Northern Rail.

RS

Jim will reconvene the cycling group and draw up a proposal for cycle routes through the town. Agreed safe routes to and from schools is key element of this.

JL

Noted Natural England have given permission for a route through Woodale, linking to the Monsal trail.

9. Accessibility

Dick is arranging the February Ideas & Action meeting focussing on accessibility issues.

RS

10. Topics Not Discussed

Outstanding actions:

Accessibility: Tina to discuss disability toilets and funding with Joe Battye.

TH

Way-marking: Tina to check progress with Peter W re UoD students reviewing HPBC's strategy.

TH/PW

Coaches: Andy to review the technicalities of uploading survey data.

AP

Peter to provide info from Visit Peak District and Grand Tour.

PW

Tina to ask the Opera House for any information they have about coach visits.

TH

Parking: Simon to discuss idea of overflow parking on Fairfield Common with Roger Floyd.

SF

Trains: Dick to contact Paul Tomlinson re having a presence in Buxton.

RS

Buses: Tina to contact High Peak Buses re additional services during the RHS Show, timetables in the Terrace Road shelters, effect of the Manchester Airport link on the 199 service

TH

Janet to follow up that the 61 timetable does not appear to run as advertised.

JM

Miscellaneous: Photos of town entry and car park signs

TH

Ascertain boundaries of Crescent development

RS

Request formal response from HPBC and DCC to Conference report

TH

Gather information on candidates to next Local Authority elections

SF

Research available data on pollution levels in Buxton

SF

14. Next Meeting

Tina will circulate a doodle poll with suggested dates, John will organise a room at the Dome.

TH/JP