

## PROJECT CLOSING REPORT - The Slopes Care Team

### 1. OVERVIEW

To clean, tidy and maintain the features, walls, pathways and grassland areas and to generally improve the attractiveness of the Slopes.

### 2. DETAIL OF WHAT TOOK PLACE

From August 2016 to date, members of the town team met on a weekly basis in order to maintain and improve the area known as the Slopes in Buxton Town centre. The work has included the weeding and edging of footpath and green areas, the refurbishment and painting of benches, the cleaning of moss and weeds from supporting walls and decorative "urns", the re pointing of the slabs, pathways and steps of the war monument, the cleaning of lamp posts and public signs, the pruning of the lower trunk parts of all of the trees and the planting of 5000 crocus and daffodil bulbs.

### 3. ASSESSMENT AGAINST AIMS AND SUCCESS CRITERIA

The aims of the project were:

| Aim  | Assessment  |
|--|---|
| To enhance the impact and attractiveness of the Slopes                     | Successful, it all looks very much better                           |
| To contribute to Buxton in Bloom project                                   | 5500 + bulbs planted on the slopes. Crocus and Daffodils            |
| To promote the work of Buxton Town Team                                    | Achieved, it has received a lot of attention and favourable comment |
| To involve volunteers in taking positive action to improve the town.       | A large number of volunteers have contributed towards the project   |
| To foster links with other organisations and volunteer groups in the town. | Achieved. Particularly so with HPBC, Cemex, WI, Rotary Club         |

The measurable success criteria of the project were as follows:

| Success Criteria  | Assessment   |
|---|--|
| All paths edged and weeded by end of autumn             | Target met and exceeded. All paths edged, weeded and moss removed from internal and external walls, edging stones and decorative urns. Pathways cleaned and cleared. Memorial area cleaned and all memorial area slabs repointed and repositioned<br>All trees pruned around the base and branches and twigs removed from grass and path areas.<br>Over 5000 bulbs planted, daffodils and crocus, including planting a fountain logo in collaboration with Buxton Rotary Club. |
| Some progress made on refurbishing benches              | All benches on Slopes were sanded, re varnished and re painted, as part of the Corporate Volunteer Hours project.  |
| At least 10 maintenance sessions held in next 12 months | Target met and exceeded. At least 45 sessions were undertaken during 12 month period, alternate Thursday and Saturday mornings between 2-3 hours in length. Average of five volunteers per session. Minimum volunteer attendance per session 2 Maximum volunteer attendance per session 9 (the crocus planting involved about 20 volunteers, including those from the Rotary Club)   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| At least 20 Town Team members involved in volunteering to take part   | A total of 17 town team members have volunteered, with a core team of 6   |
| Success engaging other organisations to provide additional volunteers | Cemex provided 30 volunteers over an 8 week period to refurbish benches. Rotary Club provided the crocus bulbs and assisted with planting them  |
| Positive press coverage   | Buxton Advertiser and Pure (Buxton) both covered the project. We have posted a number of photos of the work on Facebook, one of which was clicked on by 4551 people, and liked by 825 of them - one of our most popular posts ever! |
| Positive feedback from local and visitors                             | Volunteers are given regular positive feedback from residents and visitors, a local café has provided them with free hot drinks   |
| Positive, cooperative relationship with HPBC Parks staff              | Links with key personnel in HPBC have been hugely strengthened, providing a good basis for working with them on other projects in future  |

#### 4. ANY FURTHER BENEFITS

The weekly presence of the Town Team has given a regular and ongoing visibility to the work and helped to keep the work of the Town Team in the public eye. There is not a week in which conversations about the project, the work and its progress is not discussed with visitors, residents and users of the Slopes.

We have a strong "core" team of Slopes maintenance workers who could form the basis of Town Team group to volunteer for work in other green areas of the town as required.

#### 5. COSTS

Project expenditure against budget was as follows:

| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>        | <b>Budget</b> | <b>Actual</b>  |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Tools                     | £ 50          | £ 37.65        |
| Paint/varnish for benches | £ 30          | £ 0            |
| Misc (wood nails etc.)    | £ 20          | £ 0            |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>£ 100</b>  | <b>£ 37.65</b> |
| <b>Net Expenditure</b>    |               | <b>£37.65</b>  |

#### 6. LEARNING POINTS FOR THE FUTURE

In the relationship with HPBC it has become clear that often they have access to materials and resources. Paint, varnish, equipment etc and access to those materials have been provided by HPBC at no cost. This needs to be kept in mind when costing future town team projects.

It is recommended that the work should continue as an ongoing activity, with a report to the Directors at the end of each year.

Jim Lowe  
December 2017