

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Chair: Peter Baranek

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DRAFT Notes of a meeting of the Steering Group of the 'Into the Future' project
Held on Monday 24th October 2016 at 2.00 pm at The Fishpond, Matlock Bath

Present: Andrew Pugh (Chairman)
Cllr Peter Baranek – Matlock Bath Parish Council
Cllr Lorraine Keeble – Matlock Bath Parish Council
Chris Hipwell – Representative from Accommodation Sector (Hodgkinsons)
Mel Richardson – Representative from Community Group, FOMB
Dr Sarah Rawlinson – Derby University
Tim Heap – Derby University Research Manager
Paul Wilson (DDDC)
Malcolm Marshall (DCC)
Cllr Garry Purdy – District Councillor
Cllr Joyce Pawley – District Councillor
Cllr Irene Ratcliffe – County Councillor
Julie Baranek – Clerk, Matlock Bath Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked The Fishpond for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Trevor Bowmer (Matlock Bath Parish Council).

2 Notes of the Last Meeting

The notes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 2nd August 2016 were approved by the Committee.

3 Presentation of the Destination Management Plan (DMP)

Dr Sarah Rawlinson asked the Committee for their initial comments regarding the report. She informed the Committee that the survey informed the report and that in order to put together an action plan, there was a need to talk about the content. She pointed out that the report had not been fully proof read and that any typos and layout issues would be sorted before the final report is published.

Sarah advised that she felt the way forward would be to set up a Community Interest Company (CIC) – this was agreed in principle by the Committee. It was agreed that in order to take forward the good ideas from the report, it was important to set attainable goals which could be achieved.

The Committee felt that by setting up a CIC, it would open doors to generate funding and help move ideas on. It was agreed that there was a need for a constant driving force and that perhaps a Tourist Manager should be appointed.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Dr Sarah Rawlinson pointed out that there were five key points:

- 1 Implementing the Plan.
- 2 Community and profile – where do we want to go?
- 3 Infrastructure – preserve historic character.
- 4 New product/market development.
- 5 Business development and skill.

Dr Sarah Rawlinson stated that it was important to share the report with the local community.

If a CIC is set up, it should include representation from:

Councils (DDDC, DCC and the Parish Council)

Local residents

Local businesses

Businesses from the wider community

The terms of reference for the CIC could be drawn from either the report or the Group's own aspirations.

Dr Sarah Rawlinson stated that it is important to draw skills including social media, marketing, bid writing, finance, legal advice – skills set of people you would like to invite. However, concern was expressed that the Group could become too big and that there should be a limit on numbers. Concern was also expressed as to whether sufficient members could be recruited within the village. Sarah suggested going outside the village for specific skills.

Cllr Garry Purdy and Cllr Joyce Pawley agreed to speak to the Business Manager at DDDC and the CEO of the Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service (DDCVS) who could come and advise the Steering Group on CICs at their next meeting.

Various ideas coming out of the report were discussed such as a steam train. This would need to encompass updating stations, paths – could be the gateway to the village. It was agreed the Group could work with Peak Rail and Ecclesbourne Railway who were looking at extending their current lines. It was agreed that another way forward would be to concentrate on the Victorian theme and bringing back the heritage of the village together and introducing outdoor activities.

Mel Richardson reported that she had been informed of an opportunity to have a narrow gauge railway in Derwent Gardens. It was agreed this would be a good idea and should be included with other ideas.

It was agreed that the Group should look at signposting, which had been a criticism in the report as well as looking to bring back activities and events and the heritage. Lack of a covered picnic area was also mentioned.

Cllr Garry Purdy commented that with the New Bath Hotel opening and the Premier Inn in Matlock, more visitors would hopefully come to stay in the area which could only be a good thing.

Dr Sarah Rawlinson stated that the Group needed to look at the overall vision for the village as well as branding and use the Peak District as a way in.

The Committee agreed that there were various ideas which were achievable and Sarah suggested that the Committee send to the Partnership Key Contact ideas they have. These can then be collated and put into the report. It was further agreed that an article should be put in the Parish Council Newsletter inviting ideas on how to proceed and inform residents that the Group is looking at setting up a CIC.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

It was further agreed that Dr Sarah Rawlinson meet with Cllr Peter Baranek to go through the report and amend some inaccuracies.

4 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting is 17th November at the New Bath Hotel. This is subject to the Business Manager and representative of Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service being able to attend.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.