

Big Buxton Conversation

What If Visioning Exercise All Notes

Saturday 24 April 2021, 10:00 start – 15:00.

43 individuals (of 69 registered) assembled on a sunny Saturday via Zoom to participate in this event. The day followed a process designed by the Transition Network UK which is being undertaken in many towns. Transition Buxton is grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund and players for the small grant that made it possible to host this free whole town event to which everyone who lives, works, studies, owns a property, or runs a business in Buxton was invited.



There were three parts to the proceedings, focussing on 'What is', 'What if' and finally 'What Next?'. Throughout the sessions, professional sketch artist, Jenny Leonard created a visual record of our journey which resulted in two colourful illustrations – scroll down to view.

To get to know some of the other participants and start thinking about our town, we were broke into groups of 3 and asked to think of things that we love or inspire us about Buxton and to record these on a Miro board which was being used to record outputs from the day.

Buxton - what we love or inspires us

Add something you love, or that inspires you, about Buxton

Sense of being an entity, self-contained amongst the hills

The history & buildings

Provides lots of facilities/ for having a good life

Recycling bins around town, although a bit limited/not everywhere, still great to see!

That Buxton is pedestrian accessible/has road crossings and is faster to navigate by

foot.

The hills!

Independent shops

So many wonderful creative artists

The people - such a variety of people. Very friendly

The people, the landscape,

Good schools

creative community

close to the countryside

The lack of corporate junk food outlets

Community spirit

Buxton is a real community

nearby woods

Events and activities

Access to landscape

Proximity to National Park

The historic architecture

So many 'can-do' people, committed to the greater good

location and easy access to Manchester airport

felt safe shopping at the market during Covid

revival and success of the market to mirror the community

the changeable weather

Benches in great locations!

Sense of community

The maintenance of the flowers in the roundabouts/bus stop near Iceland/ triangle on St Johns Road/etc

long history of welcoming visitors

Market Place trees in planters and green roofed bus stops

The water, the rivers, the streams, fountains - water everywhere!

The Serpentine - much quieter than the main park

Heritage and architecture

15 minutes spaces near by

community spirit

Independent businesses.

National footpaths/ cycle routes and rights of way.

Some great facilities

The People

Lots going on

Green spaces, culture, architecture, community

community spirit

Lots of people actually work here

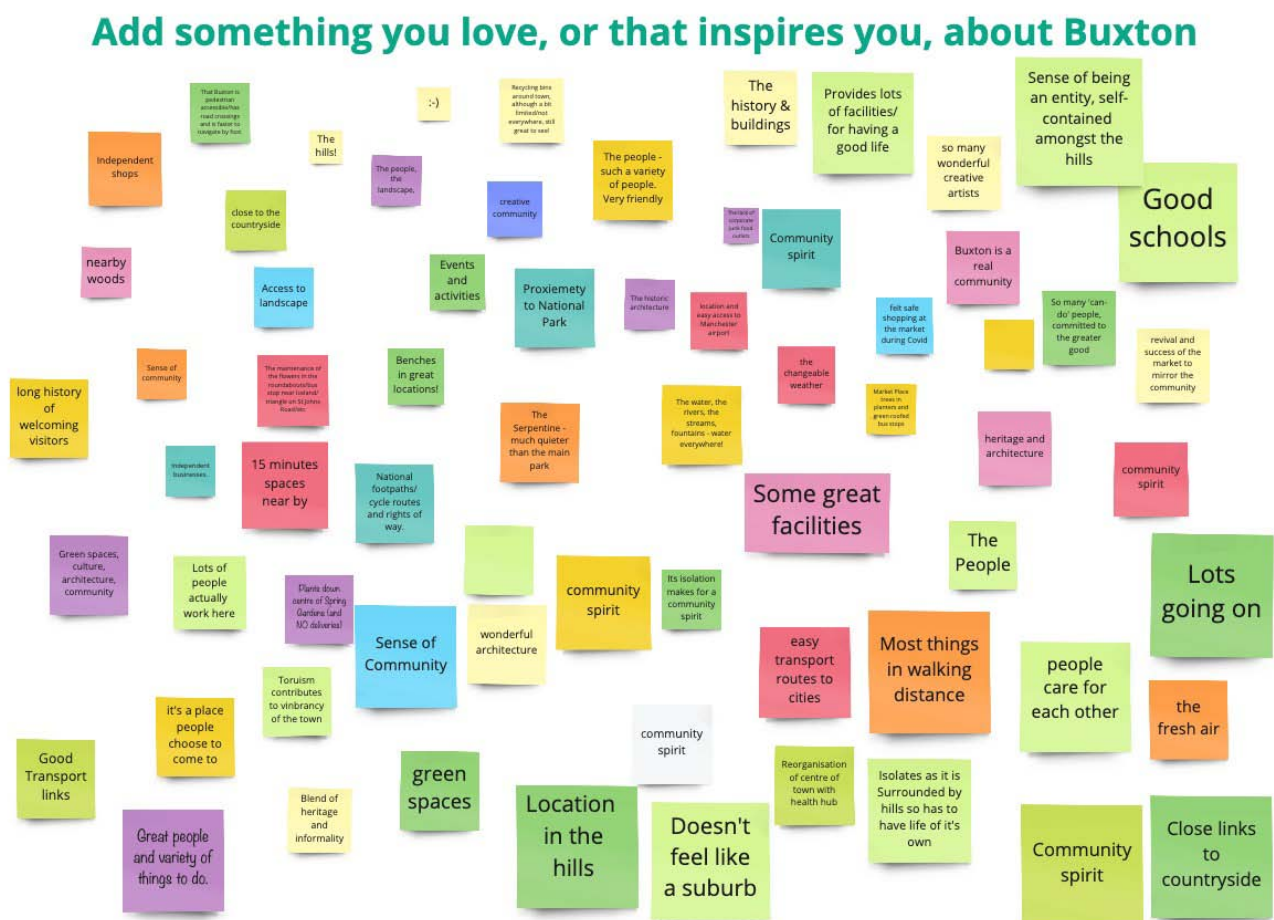
Its isolation makes for a community spirit

Plants down centre of Spring Gardens (and NO deliveries)

Sense of Community

wonderful architecture

Most things in walking distance
 easy transport routes to cities
 people care for each other
 Tourism contributes to vibrancy of the town
 the fresh air
 it's a place people choose to come to
 community spirit
 Good Transport links
 Reorganisation of centre of town with health hub
 green spaces
 Isolated as it is surrounded by hills, so has to have life of its own
 Blend of heritage and informality
 Location in the hills
 Close links to countryside
 Doesn't feel like a suburb
 Community spirit
 Great people and variety of things to do.



For the 'What is' session we broke into different groups to take stock of Buxton at this present time. Each group explored either **Resilience**, **Relinquishment** or **Restoration**. Notes were taken in each group and then the main points fed back to the whole group.

Resilience: What are the things around you that contribute to the resilience of Buxton? What were the things that during COVID enabled the community in Buxton to support itself? What have you seen, during times of shock, or flood, or heatwave or other disasters, that have enabled your community to better manage those shocks and to rebuild itself afterwards?

- Buxton Street by Street
- Community Spirit
- Neighbours coming together
- Pulling together and the speed that people mobilised for those shielding
- The way people collaborated, talking to businesses and groups
- Working together
- Independent shops diversified and the market place responded to people feeling safe shopping outside
- Domestic and local WhatsApp groups in road sharing info and concerns Now know neighbours better as a support group and keeping an eye on each other
- Cohesive town - Buxton is surrounded by amazing countryside that everyone has access in to green spaces. Countryside wrapped around town. This has been essential mentally and physically
- Businesses adapted e.g. delivery services and people responded by using local businesses
- Close knit community spirit and locally focused shops and cafes
- Networks have been set up this past year. Rotary Kickstart meetings have been fantastic between all community minded and volunteers.
- Volunteers are very prominent in Buxton - Waiting list for volunteers at the theatre !!!!!
- Different generations are all connected, inter-generational connections families and otherwise.
- Pubs and clubs are community centres.
- Everything in walking / cycling distance
- A lot going on
- A practical place
- Trainline to Manchester
- Friendliness of people, ease of getting into conversation in shops people are welcoming
- Access to PDNP
- Community spirit - react to each other, help each other, not formal, just people helping each other
- Volunteers during Covid - Street by Street, foodbanks, testing stations, vaccination centre, organised helping, great response
- Green spaces close to the town centre - many people live near to a green space, adds to community - made friends during Covid just by walking nearby, places to get together
- Existing community groups - able to build on the volunteer groups, BCA, BTT
- Size of the town - Big enough place to support attractions but not so big that it feels anonymous and can't get involved, able to walk to school
- Different areas of the town - distinct character but little areas have their own sense of identity but still interact
- Lots of social groups, lots of things happening,
- opportunity and environment to meet and build community spirit - pubs, cafes, community spaces, GMG, allows it to evolve naturally
- Formal groups also great and important
- Schools - source of resilience, have been amazing, teachers and governors do so much
- Self-contained - don't have to travel miles to access facilities, can get everything you need in Buxton
- Independent businesses - high street not a clone with chains and national brands
- Bus services - good town service to get to different areas of the town, but it could be better
- Kindness from community during times of struggle e.g. Toddbrook and needing places to sleep, had more offers than needed, including large companies e.g. Palace Hotel,

businesses run by members of the community

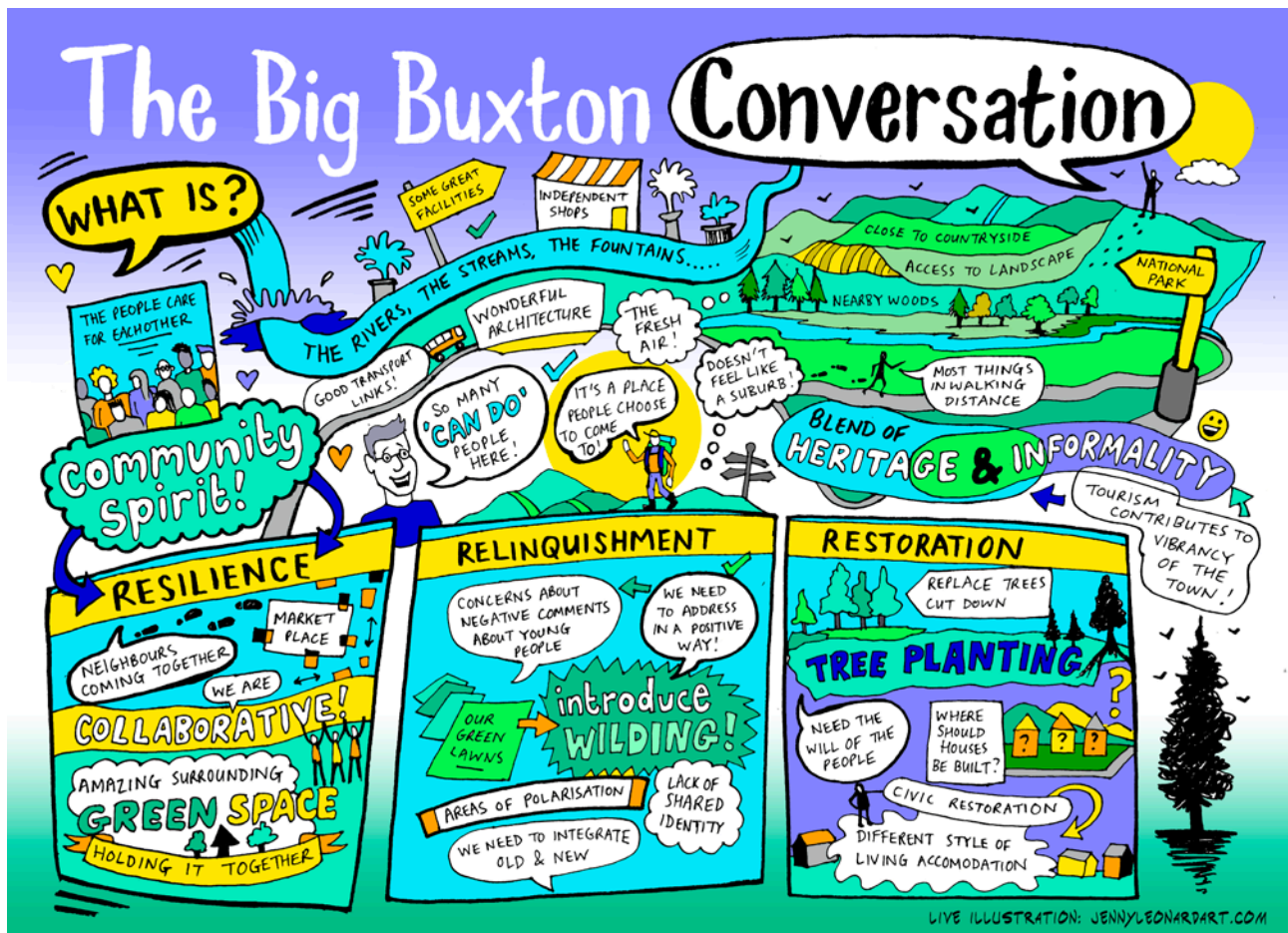
- Adaptability of the people and businesses - wanting to keep going and help, be positive,
- Generous People - wanting to help, seeing an issue and trying to fix it, so much donated for Baby Bank and emergencies, caring and generosity of people
- Redundancy - unused space, spare items, need redundancy to be able to help in difficult times, need excess in reserve
- Connectedness - communication networks online and in neighbourhoods, community networks,
- Any different to other places? More difficult in big cities because areas less defined

Relinquishment: what are the things in your community that simply no longer have a place if we are to move towards a low carbon, more connected and just future? What do we need to let go of, to leave behind, to put to one side?

- Shared surfaces - less isolation of cars, bikes and pedestrians
- What have we acquired that has moved us to a less sustainable space.
- Finding forms of transport other than the car.
- What we need and value found local to where we live
- Existing buildings - give up fossil fuels - move to more renewable sources
- New buildings - more energy efficient
- We are exporting our carbon emissions to economies, often far away - consumerism, relinquish choices regardless of where it comes from. Focus more on local options.
- Structure of Buxton. New housing in set areas risks more polarisation - need to find ways to integrate better - central part of Buxton needs to be attractive and valuable to people - so it works for everybody.
- Community actions - council may need to relinquish it's input and control. Council not recognising how challenging it can be (e.g. Big lunch event restrictions). Council represents old fashioned view.
- Stop buying so much new.
- Concern about negative comments about young people - We need to address the issues in a positive way.
- Relinquish out green lawns and replace it with wildflowers - support areas with biodiversity. Lawns don't support biodiversity - introducing wilding.
- The cutting down of everything in a blanket manner - need to be appropriate
- Geese - problematic for children
- Planning constraints in conservation areas - there is a lack of innovation. UPVC is a problem - need to discourage people from fitting them.
- Lack of shared identity for the whole of Buxton - people in communities, for example Fairfield, don't feel part of the wider Buxton. Higher Buxton / Lower Buxton divide - perception that sides of the town serve different purposes and doesn't connect. Different purpose and audiences. Not enough connection
- Traffic is a problem, especially pollution - this is a difficult issue to resolve. Are there alternative modes of transport? Fairfield Road, main A6, alternative routes for pedestrians?

Restoration: what needs to be put into place in order to repair the damage that has been done to our place by climate change, by austerity, inequality, biodiversity loss and so on? What are the things that already exist in Buxton that represent the process of restoration or have a key role to play in that process?

- Let's replace any trees that have been cut down.
- Review the existing tree planting and take out those that are crowded or in the wrong place, e.g. that are dangerous. Produce a long term tree management plan to replace the older trees. Need a new plan that will maintain the tree coverage.
- Need people who have the will to make it happen, need the will of people to change/restore.
- Incubator - New businesses have grown up - food, Day Zero. We had thought losing M&S would be the death of the town but in fact it's created a great opportunity
- Brownfield - should use all of these areas to provide new living accommodation. Brownfield can be more expensive to develop than greenfield! E.g. contamination.
- Let's build on those sites that are unused, provide housing on these sites and not only extend housing areas further out of the town centre.
- Developers appear to be just sitting on some land why can't these areas be used to build appropriate accommodation.
- Let's look at the opportunities all of these areas could provide.
- If plans for restoring older buildings are sensitive to the development restrictions why can't we develop more buildings.
- Civic restoration - lot of housing stock that has heritage value that could provide a different style of living accommodation - e.g. St. John's Road.
- Many community groups in Buxton. Town Team, Street by Street, Food bank BCA, Save Hogshaw
- More small businesses
- Stop over-development
- More thought about what types of houses are needed.
- Where should houses be built and their infrastructure. Shops, schools, nurseries in neighbourhoods
- 15 minute neighbourhoods
- Revival of market is good for shopping.
- Restoration of a full integration bus service for work, shopping and leisure
- More charging points for electric cars
- More cycle lanes and walking routes
- More youth groups needed
- More trees planted.
- More wildflower meadows, trees and native species.



For the 'What if' we were taken forward to 2030 in the Time Machine for a walk around this new world in our imagination using all our senses. After 8 minutes we were put in breakout rooms to discuss the world we had imagined. We were asked to record, on the Miro board using sticky notes, two 'glorious ideas' each that we had envisioned.

Our What If Glorious Ideas

Add your two glorious ideas using virtual 'sticky notes'

Buxton leading: Become the exemplar for future living: Who is coming next to see how we do it so well

More greenery and more sheltered for all weathers

being able to shop locally / affordably to support local business

Transport & workplaces : sharing transport and workplaces. Reducing resource needs and increasing business interactions.

Establish a 'Town Council' that brings together all the Buxton community groups

Quiet, no quarry lorries

local focus - shops, independent businesses, local services, indoor market area to guarantee markets, workspaces for businesses and artists so young people don't leave the town, so we can be more than a tourist town, but not isolated or disconnected

Communal leisure (e.g., BBQ) areas that are safe and encourages responsible sharing of space

15 Minute Neighbourhoods Many community hubs throughout Buxton, each has own set of shops, houses, solar panels on all houses, air source heat pumps

The Dome to be more community minded - owned by the community. Museum

possibly, local cafe, local artists using it, whole area needs to be restored, maybe an electric vehicle hub

what if every empty building in Buxton was in use? - housing, workspaces, workshops, back-packers hostel, offices,

music and sports spaces for young people particularly

pedestrians a priority around town, only public transport and all low speed

Better public transport. Both rail and bus services not as good as they could be

Buxton becoming known as an outdoor capital with more family friendly links to existing facilities and attractions e.g. Monsal trail, Goyt valley. More showcasing of the area as an outdoor centre.

surrounded by trees, plants, birdsong, flowers, biodiversity with no litter!

A thriving town centre with empty shop units filled with local independent businesses and craft workshops

There would be a group for incubating new business ideas and helping people get started.

reduced pollution - traffic, noise, delivery vans, no car parking in town in front of heritage buildings, more pedestrianised areas, better local bus service, hop-on-hop-off free, electric service, private-car free in the town centre, free parking in hidden/outer areas with effective transport into the town centre

An incubation organisation to create new small businesses for repairing, creating 3d parts and other things. Education of children not to throw things away but repair them and appreciation of the countryside and how to [protect it.

jump on - jump off transport - turkish 'dolmus' type transport

edible roundabouts - use the waste verges for edible plots

Spring Gardens to have more of an outdoor feel (canopy along shops)

Good quality affordable housing for all

Healthy lifestyles supported by Buxton infrastructure and logistics

Shared space where pedestrians have priority over cars

All goods repairable not disposable

Free transport (tram or golf buggy) up and down the slopes to connect lower and higher Buxton

Make sure we do not lose sight of what we already love about the town, and are not drawn to change for changes' sake.

Community orchards & vegetable gardens in all areas

We would have a hub for repairing things, 3D printing replacement parts, learning skills, and borrowing items

Town Centre Easy access to public realm with free public transport & chairlift up the Slopes; Multi-use activity facility for young people and older

Focus on residents' - particularly children 's and young people's - well-being.

Affordable good quality housing for all.

Establish Buxton as a health and wellbeing town for residents and visitors

community resources hub - for borrowing items, unwanted resources from buildings/businesses which could be used by schools, artists and groups, reducing waste-to-landfill

We would like to see a revolution in public transport - a much more joined up approach to allow people to move around. More electric transport including electric cycles - more equitable transport.

Add your **two** glorious ideas below using virtual 'sticky notes'



The next step was to create the **'What if'** questions that could be pivotal in unlocking the 2030 we had just explored. In small groups we captured the 'What if' questions which occurred to us on the Miro board.

Our What If Questions

The 'What If?' questions that Buxtonians asked in 2021 that were pivotal in unlocking the 2030 we've just explored

- What if we relied on cars less, walked more?
- What if we ate less meat?
- What if we had no car zones near schools?
- What if local authorities had more funding to support local actions?
- What if people walked for short journeys instead of taking their cars?
- What if re-used and re-purposed empty buildings?
- What if we could get council support to collaborate w/creating edible green space?
- What if more larger businesses could provide more local hubs which could sustain social interactions
- What if the canopies were returned to the shopping areas to make it better when it's raining?
- What if roads and pavements were solar panels?
- What if foreign holidays became a rare luxury?
- What if Buxton owned its own buildings and spaces?
- What if business delivery was by bicycle or green transport?
- What if Buxton had as much to do indoors as it does outdoors? Thinking mainly of children
- What if we encourage respect for the countryside and educate to prevent litter?
- What if we thought of Buxton as a collection of villages each with its own hub support infrastructure
- What if empty shops could be converted to pop up shops?
- What if people could get in and out of Buxton by bike?
- What if we had a non-military community service as part of secondary education?

What if there was a proper town council?

What if we had a Boris Bike scheme in Buxton?

What if we focused on support for children's health and well-being from birth through to teenage.

What if we had the equivalent of Surestart centres to provide proper childcare support

What if cars were stopped from parking on pavements?

What if every building in Buxton had solar panels?

What if there was a backpacker's hostel in the centre of town, in one of the empty hotels/care homes?

What if there was a community resources hub with free unwanted resources for schools, groups and artists?

What if there was a free, hop-on-hop-off, electric bus service around the town?

What if independent businesses were given lower rates for premises?

What if every empty building in Buxton was in use? - offices, studios, housing, shared workspaces

What if every part of society in Buxton was engaged in things like this and decision-making for the town?

What if the shops had more bicycle deliveries so we don't have to carry shopping.

What if the Monsal Trail was connected through to Buxton?

What if decisions were based on environmental impact rather than money?

What if there was a hard-to-recycling champion on every street?

What if we have more say in how public money is spent?

What if there was free parking? Or businesses sponsored the space?

What if shops had delivery services not including cars

What if all businesses and shops had to better maintain the appearance of their premises?

What if the Town Hall was used for an indoor market to guarantee certain traders business?

What if Buxton could become an exemplar of

What if there was a park-and-ride for visitors?

What if the public had more input to the planning system?

What if there no town-centre parking? Or parking in centred spaces like the Market Place and Water St

What if...we devolved power to the appropriate level?

What if we eliminated disposable packaging?

What if we had bus stops with green growing roofs?

What if there were trees, plants or flowers on every road in Buxton?

What if the whole of the town centre was a shared space?

What if pavements were gritted as well as roads?

What if we invested in green energy as a community/communities rather than as individual households?

What if all local deliveries were by e-cargo bike

What if we had community gardens (vegetables) in every part of town

What if we could become self sufficient for food

What if we had no internal combustion engines in the inner part of Buxton

What if the lorries used clean energy

What if pedestrians had more priority over vehicles in more areas

What if there were trees down the centre of Terrace Road

What if all areas of the town were beautified?
 What if there was funding for all public buildings to get renewables?
 What if young people designed facilities for young people in Buxton?
 What if we grew lots of food locally incl in public spaces and green walls?
 What if the quarries used smaller lorries
 What if big buildings had solar panels e.g. shopping centre, supermarkets, factories
 What if every new building had to have solar panels
 What if community ground source heat pumps were built
 What if road widths were reduced with additional space for pedestrians, cyclists and trees
 What if we had participatory budgeting and more local democracy
 What if people felt safe to cycle for utility and people used e-cargo bikes to get around the hills
 What if Buxton became an exemplar of healthy living?
 What if there was an A6-A515 bypass for lorries (with a bridge from Fairfield to Staden)?
 What if children were allowed to play in the street?
 we had no heavy traffic / we all used public transport
 children were more connected socially
 we all used local shops for everything
 We passed our skills on to young people / manufacturing had to manage the end use and make everything totally repairable
 Time was no pressure so that small buses could wait until they were full and then they drove around
 What if there was a library of things in the town centre (to borrow things you only need occasionally)
 What if empty retail units were offered to locals at lower rates to start new businesses
 what if closed shops were converted into housing
 What if some council powers and responsibilities were delegated to the local community
 What if there was land available and support for designing our own living spaces
 What if there were many different types of houses, for example to support multi-generational living.
 What if we had a "pocket park" scheme to enable the replacement of a parking space with an area to sit, relax and grow things - community driven application process
 What if the community organised it's own energy programmes?
 Community asset transfer - what if Buxton people owned & operated the Dome, the Town Hall, the Springs Centre...?
 What if there were more opportunities for growing food, more allotments, use of public space
 What if families and less experienced cyclists could easily ride to the Monsal Trail from town (or other areas e.g. Goyt Valley, High Peak Trail)
 What if new housing/retail had to develop high quality active transport links from town
 What if Buxton had an indoor climbing wall?
 What if Buxton owned more of Buxton retail buildings e.g. Cavendish Arcade where rents are v expensive
 What if there were more support for young people to find the kind of work they want to do.
 What if there were more help and advice for older (i.e., Victorian) houses to become carbon neutral.

What if more roads were car free so children can play out.

What if there were an electric circular hop on hop off bus to move around Buxton, including shops, doctor's surgeries etc



During a break the 'What if?' questions were clustered into themes. The themes that emerged were: Local Government, Public Transport, Empty Buildings & Built Environment, Businesses, Energy, Nature, Provision for young people, Waste & Resources, Parking/private transport, Housing, Food, Leisure & Tourism and Health.

Our What If Questions – clustered into themes & prioritised

Participants were asked to review the themes and ask:

- Which ones have the potential to become viable strong initiatives?
- Which is there the most energy in Buxton for making a reality?

They each had five votes

Vote	Theme	What If Questions
16	Local government	<p>What if...we devolved power to the appropriate level?</p> <p>What if we thought of Buxton as a collection of villages each with its own hub support infrastructure</p> <p>Community asset transfer - what if Buxton people owned & operated the Dome, the Town Hall, the Springs Centre...?</p> <p>What if we have more say in how public money is spent?</p> <p>What if the public had more input to the planning system?</p> <p>What if there was a proper town council?</p> <p>What if every part of society in Buxton was engaged in things like this and decision-making for the town?</p> <p>What if we had participatory budgeting and more local democracy?</p>

Vote	Theme	What If Questions
		<p>What if young people designed facilities for young people in Buxton?</p> <p>What if local authorities had more funding to support local actions?</p> <p>What if decisions were based on environmental impact rather than money?</p> <p>What if some council powers and responsibilities were delegated to the local community</p>
16	Public Transport	<p>What if time was no pressure so that small buses could wait until they were full and then they drove around</p> <p>What if road widths were reduced with additional space for pedestrians, cyclists and trees</p> <p>What if we had a Boris Bike scheme in Buxton?</p> <p>What if the Monsal Trail was connected through to Buxton?</p> <p>What if there was a free, hop-on-hop-off, electric bus service around the town?</p> <p>What if people could get in and out of Buxton by bike?</p> <p>What if there were an electric circular hop on hop off bus to move around Buxton, including shops, doctor's surgeries etc</p> <p>What if all local deliveries were by e-cargo bike</p> <p>What if pavements were gritted as well as roads?</p> <p>What if the whole of the town centre was a shared space?</p> <p>What if there was an A6-A515 bypass for lorries (with a bridge from Fairfield to Staden)?</p> <p>What if pedestrians had more priority over vehicles in more areas</p> <p>What if people felt safe to cycle for utility and people used e-cargo bikes to get around the hills</p>
15	Empty Buildings / Built environment	<p>What if the Town Hall was used for an indoor market to guarantee certain traders business?</p> <p>What if re-used and re-purposed empty buildings?</p> <p>What if every empty building in Buxton was in use? - offices, studios, housing, shared workspaces</p> <p>What if Buxton owned its own buildings and spaces?</p> <p>What if empty retail units were offered to locals at lower rates to start new businesses</p> <p>What if the canopies were returned to the shopping areas to make it better when it's raining?</p>
14	Energy	<p>What if we invested in green energy as a community/communities rather than as individual households?</p> <p>What if there was funding for all public buildings to get renewables?</p> <p>What if big buildings had solar panels e.g. shopping centre, supermarkets, factories?</p> <p>What if community ground source heat pumps were built?</p> <p>What if every new building had to have solar panels?</p>

Vote	Theme	What If Questions
		<p>What if there were more help and advice for older (i.e. Victorian) houses to become carbon neutral?</p> <p>What if the community organised its own energy programmes?</p> <p>What if every building in Buxton had solar panels?</p> <p>What if roads and pavements were solar panels?</p>
14	Businesses	<p>What if empty retail units were offered to locals at low rates to start new businesses?</p> <p>What if we all used local shops for everything?</p> <p>What if the canopies were returned to the shopping areas to make it better when it's raining?</p> <p>What if all businesses and shops had to better maintain the appearance of their premises?</p> <p>What if Buxton owned more retail buildings e.g. Cavendish Arcade where rents are v. expensive?</p> <p>What if independent businesses were given lower rates for premises?</p> <p>What if more larger businesses could provide more local hubs which could sustain social interactions?</p> <p>What if business delivery was by bicycle or green transport?</p> <p>What if empty shops could be converted to pop up shops?</p> <p>What if shops had delivery services not including cars?</p>
13	Nature	<p>What if there were trees down the centre of Terrace Road</p> <p>What if we had bus stops with green growing roofs?</p> <p>What if we encourage respect for the countryside and educate to prevent litter?</p> <p>What if there were trees, plants or flowers on every road in Buxton?</p> <p>What if all areas of the town were beautified?</p>
11	Provision for young people	<p>What if we had a non-military community service as part of secondary education?</p> <p>Children were more connected socially</p> <p>What if there were more support for young people to find the kind of work they want to do.</p> <p>We focused on support for children's health and well-being from birth through to teenage.</p> <p>What if Buxton had as much to do indoors as it does outdoors? Thinking mainly of children?</p> <p>What if we had the equivalent of Surestart centres to provide proper childcare support?</p> <p>What if children were allowed to play in the street?</p> <p>What if young people designed facilities for young people in Buxton?</p>
10	Waste & resources	<p>What if there was a hard-to-recycle champion on every street?</p>

Vote	Theme	What If Questions
		<p>What if we eliminated disposable packaging?</p> <p>We passed our skills on to young people / manufacturing had to manage the end use and make everything totally repairable?</p> <p>What if there was a library of things in the town centre (to borrow things you only need occasionally?)</p> <p>What if there was a community resources hub with free unwanted resources for schools, groups and artists?</p>
8	Parking / Private Transport	<p>What if more roads were car free so children can play out?</p> <p>What if we had no car zones near schools?</p> <p>What if we had a "pocket park" scheme to enable the replacement of a parking space with an area to sit, relax and grow things - community driven application process?</p> <p>What if people walked for short journeys instead of taking their cars?</p> <p>What if relied on cars less, walked more?</p> <p>What if there no town-centre parking? Or parking in centred spaces like the Market Place and Water St?</p> <p>What if the lorries used clean energy?</p> <p>What if the shops had more bicycle deliveries so we don't have to carry shopping?</p> <p>What if we had no heavy traffic / we all used public transport?</p> <p>What if there was free parking? Or businesses sponsored the space?</p> <p>What if business delivery was by bicycle or green transport?</p> <p>What if the quarries used smaller lorries?</p> <p>What if we had no internal combustion engines in the inner part of Buxton?</p> <p>What if there was a park-and-ride for visitors?</p> <p>What if cars were stopped from parking on pavements?</p>
7	Housing	<p>What if closed shops were converted into housing?</p> <p>What if there were more help and advice for older (ie Victorian) houses to become carbon neutral?</p> <p>What if there were many different types of houses, for example to support multi-generational living?</p> <p>What if there was land available and support for designing our own living spaces?</p>
6	Food	<p>What if we had community gardens (vegetables) in every part of town?</p> <p>What if we grew lots of food locally incl in public spaces and green walls?</p> <p>What if we could become self-sufficient for food?</p> <p>What if there were more opportunities for growing food, more allotments, use of public space?</p> <p>What if we could get council support to collaborate w/creating edible green space?</p>

Theme	Interested in being kept informed of...	Interested in actively contributing to the development of...	Interested in leading...
Local Government	Helen Murray, AEM, Jean Todd, Graham Clark, Viv Doyle, Buxton street by street, Ali Q-C	Jean Ball, David Newton, Jean Todd, Jane Reynolds, Caitlin Bisknell, Ali Q-C, dale mitchell	
Public transport	David Newton, Viv Doyle, Buxton street by street, AEM, Jane Reynolds, Ali Q-C, Graham Clark, Helen Murray, Mike Hardman	Charles, Cameron Murray, Jean Todd, BTT (already involved)	BTT poss
Empty building & build environment	David Newton, Buxton street by street, AEM, Jean Todd, Ali Q-C	Kate Macleod, Jean Ball, Ali Q-C	
Businesses	AEM, Buxton street by street, Helen Murray, Ali Q-C	David Newton, Jean Ball	
Energy	Jane Reynolds, Jean Todd, Cameron Murray	Charles, Robert Edwards, Ian Bowns, David Newton	Transition Buxton
Nature	Graham Clark, Buxton street by street, Mike Hardman, Mel Rogerson, Viv Doyle, Jean Todd	Frances Sussex, Charles, Helen Murray, David Newton, Robert Edwards	
Provision for young people	Mike Hardman Rotary, Ali Q-C	Mike Hardman Rotary, Buxton street by street, David Newton, Catherine Pamplin, Ali Q-C	Frances Sussex, Buxton street by street
Waste & resources	Buxton street by street, Jean Todd, Ali Q-C	Ali Q-C (resources hub), Jean Todd, Helen Murray, Robert Edwards, Ian and Veronica	
Parking / private transport	David Newton, Ali Q-C, Helen Murray, Graham Clark, Buxton street by street, Viv Doyle	Cameron Murray, BTT (already involved)	BTT poss
Housing	Viv Doyle, Buxton street by street	Jane Reynolds, David Newton	
Food	David Newton, Buxton street by street	Robin Edwards, Charles, Buxton street by street	Buxton street by street
Leisure & tourism	Mike Hardman Rotary, Helen Murray, Ali Q-C, Graham Clark, Buxton street by street, Cameron Murray	David Newton, Frances Sussex, Ali Q-C (hostel)	
Health			

The engaging and stimulating day raced past and we were all left wanting more. The grant that allowed us to do this event will cover the venue hire for **a second instalment of The Big Buxton Conversation which is proposed to be face to face in October 2021**. The format of that event will be determined between now and then as the participants in this first session take the ideas and provocations from today forward into our lives and the work that many of us do through the passionate community organisations that Buxton is blessed with. Over the summer months various meetings and informal conversations will hopefully see:

- A Buxton Community Forum with representatives of key groups and HPBC to integrate community representation and resources into the everyday work, decisions and priorities of local government.
- Public Transport and Parking / Private transport ideas will be taken forward by the Sustainable Transport Group led by Buxton Town Team working in partnership.
- Provision for Young People will be fuelled by the combined passions of Buxton Street-by-street, Transition Youth Forum, and Funny Wonders.
- Transition Buxton will support retrofitting and renewables development.
- Vision Buxton will take on board and share the business opportunities revealed through this process.
- Buxton Street-by-Street and Serpentine Community Garden might take a lead on some of the food priorities, perhaps in partnership with the Food Bank.
- And many more of the questions and ideas that have emerged through this process taken on board by local government and other groups.

Finally, participants were asked to feedback on their experience today:

Feedback

Something you've really appreciated about the day

Great sharing ideas with enthusiastic people - thank you
Loved the miro board, even with it's hiccups
Leaving with a real 'feel good' feeling about the future. Thank you!
So well organised & professionally hosted
Thank you for making this happen
Excellent planning and execution of what could have been a complicated day.
Great facilitation
Very well facilitated. Thank you
Lovely participants
Well done Jean, Pete and all the scribes.
Having different people in each of the breakout rooms
Friendly conversations
Excellent facilitation
Meeting new people and sharing ideas
Engagement of everyone involved
Talking to people I hadn't talked to before
Feeling shared passion for Buxton

Talking to other people who live here and feeling engaged in what's going on

A key 'next step' following today

Keep talking with each other and turn the talk into action

A local groups forum with HPBC

Keep the process going

'Town council' is needed!

Funding to facilitate changes

Next step? That Community Forum Jean Ball talked about...

Feedback to BTT Directors on Wednesday

Make sure Transition people are aware of my background & contacts when it comes to repurposing empty buildings (Kate Dickson)

Keep the momentum going

A wider conversation with people with different viewpoints

Turning great ideas into actions

Identifying grants etc to fund some of these activities

Open volunteering for next steps to everyone in the town

More publicity of volunteering opportunities

More sessions like this

Getting HPBC on board

We're obviously a self-selecting group. Would be good to see next conversation broadened out to more ages (young people) and socio-economic groups

Would be good to keep momentum flowing. maybe through whatsapp or a facebook chat

This document captures all the details of the What if Big Buxton Conversation. A condensed version of this document is also available as a quicker read.

The Big Buxton Conversation has been led by Transition Buxton CIC, but this is a whole town process and tool. People attending included representatives of; Transition Buxton, Buxton Rotary, Buxton Town Team, High Peak Borough Council, Buxton Civic Association, Vision Buxton, Buxton Street-by-Street, Churches Together, Acclimatise Whaley, Transition New Mills, Funny Wonders, Buxton Neighbourhood Forum, and others we may not have identified. **It is now up to these groups and representatives to take this inspiration forward to create the Buxton we choose. This conversation has been important, but it is the actions that follow that will make the difference.** We can continue to communicate on this topic using conversation@transitionbuxton.co.uk