

## Buxton Neighbourhood Forum

Buxton Neighbourhood Forum is a community interest company (CIC), established with the objective of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the unparished area of Buxton.

The creation of a neighbourhood forum was a project of the Buxton Town Team which involved a series of public meetings as well as discussions with other community organisation, such as Buxton Civic Association, Transition Buxton, Vision Buxton, Churches Together, and residents' associations. The outcome of these meetings was a decision to set up a CIC to take forward the creation of the neighbourhood plan.

Following the registration of the CIC (<https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/12038268>), the steering group organised public meetings in central Buxton, Fairfield, Harpur Hill and Burbage to explain the reasons for creating a neighbourhood plan, discuss the possible content of the plan and recruit members.

We now have sufficient members to apply for recognition as a qualifying body under the Localism Act and consider that membership is drawn from all wards across Buxton and from different sections of the community complying with the conditions in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Act<sup>1</sup>.

All our members are resident in Buxton and about one third of the membership also work in the town, including in retail, hospitality, architectural consulting, and cultural and heritage consulting. Several members own businesses in the town, and quite a few are also active members of other community organisations. Two members of the Forum are members of High Peak Borough Council, Cllr Jean Todd and Cllr Keith Savage. Members range in age from mid-twenties to eighties.

In addition to members, the mailing list of the forum includes another 50 people who have asked to be kept up to date with the progress of the plan. We also have a Facebook page which has 85 followers, most of whom are not duplicates of the people on our membership and contacts lists. We believe that, if we are recognised as a qualifying body and can apply for a Locality grant, we will be easily able to extend our network of contacts by holding public events and creating an engaging Website.

Once recognised, we plan to work closely with other community organisations on the creation of the plan, given that there is considerable expertise in these organisations on many of the issues of interest that were identified at our meetings, for example, transport, sustainability and the protection of green spaces.

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<sup>1</sup> [Section 61F(5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004