

MINUTES - FRIDAY, 17th APRIL 2015

Present: Alison Hayes .Richard Fletcher . David Bowman. Rachel Wood . Jill Buckingham . Jonathan Miles . Peter Hulbert . Noel Byrne <Chairman> Amy Starkey . Sara Beckett . Warwick Hirst

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Need to discuss the Guineas Signs in the High Street

Ask Guy Smith on Street Clutter

Cost of the Underground Survey is £7700 .Possible £6000 from FHDC

Progress on Street Signage by Guy Smith

Positive Meeting on Litter by the Town Centre Sub Group

Deloitte Report on the Horse Racing and Breeding Industry due soon

Cllr Warwick Hirst left the meeting

Cllr Bowman continued with informing the meeting about Broadband provision Suffolk which is badly served and Cllr Bowman will do his best to fight for West Suffolk as improvement would have a big impact for the majority of people

Cllr Bowman was asked about the progression of the newly implemented Market Regulations. Cllr Bowman reminded the group that there is to be a major re-launch of the Market in late May 2015. The take up of new stall holders being able to use the Market free of charge had been well received It was encouraging and foot fall had increased. The current position must be continued and increased as reverting to the way it was before is not acceptable. The current 'no charge' to encourage new stall holders will remain for a period of time but at some point a charge will be made. A mix of stall holders is required but that does not mean there can only be one of each category and there must be no antagonism between stall holders. Cllr Bowman assured us that the new measures will allow problems to be dealt with effectively.

A point of interest was noted that all dogs on the market should be on a lead this was noted and confirmed after it had been noticed that a loose dog had 'watered' boxes of strawberries Cllr Bowman said it was a police matter as the Market is a public open space but evidence would be required. This may not be the sort of problem Police have time available to deal with and it was hoped that moves to devolve powers of enforcement of this nature to local authorities would help. Enforcement of this nature might be included in the B.I.D proposals.

Cllr Hubert expressed its vitally important to promote Newmarket's Market as there is much competition especially on Saturdays with Bury St Edmunds and Ely the latter aiming to introduce Sunday Market's too.

Report from Tourism Group

Rachel Wood informed the group that the Tourism Group hadn't met in April to date but the next meeting would be 27 April 2015.

The Music Festival was progressing and looking promising especially for the first attempt. A lot of work has been done by many but special thanks are noted to Joy Uney.

David Rippington/David Goodman **Report into a proposed Doric Centre**

Both gentlemen are residents of Newmarket and David Rippington is responsible for the web site Newmarket Shop Info

Rachel Wood felt it was important to discuss this. It had been presented to her which she had already emailed to members for comment and it's important if people have ideas that they are received and discussed.

The idea was to find out if the idea was feasible

They would find investment but wanted this groups feedback

Would the idea be good for Newmarket Could the idea be improved for the benefit of Newmarket?

In order to gain finance they would have to make a good proposal. It was emphasised this would not be a Civic venture.

It was generally felt to be a good idea 'with legs' the obvious concern is the ownership of the building and would have to be a commercial venture.

The idea of a cinema is top of many peoples wish list for Newmarket but the proposed idea of a combination of Cinema and Restaurant as one unit was not thought to be a good point and would need to be separate.

Alison Hayes expressed disappointment that FHDC had not been in a position to go forward with a similar idea for this particular building at a time when it first became available.

Cllr Bowman said the big chains had been approached with the idea and had proved to not be viable.

DR and DG had acknowledged that as a commercial cinema the idea would not get off the ground

They had hoped to attract Race goers. It was pointed out that all Book Makers show racing on screens within their shops.

It was noted that Ely has recently gained permission for an out of Town 6 screen cinema following the current trend to be just out of the Town Centre with ample parking and other entertainment such as restaurants close by.

The issue of parking was identified as a problem.

The idea of a soft play centre was discussed and due to the building its self and situation it was not felt so appropriate for this

The idea of a roof top café was not thought to be commercially viable

Cllr Bowman wished to assure DR and DG that FHDC would be very happy to discuss their ideas and if not for this particular building there may be others.

The Sausage Education programme was progressing and a meeting had been arranged and attended at Newmarket Academy

AOB

Amy Starkey spoke about the next Vision Conference and had thought that it was agreed in the past that another conference would be held in May 2015 and anticipating this wished it to be held at the

race course and then to invite the public to attend a race meeting later on the same day, suggesting the date of 29 May 2015. Amy felt this is appropriate to demonstrate just one aspect of racing giving back to the Town. **ACTION** Cllr Bowman agreed to speak to Liz Watts.

Richard Fletcher was grateful that Amy had brought this matter up as he felt the misconception of who is responsible for what is getting out of hand and is concerned about the bad press that the Vision is getting. An example of this is the recent letter in the Newmarket Journal about the 'Water feature' in the Memorial Gardens which compared the cost of the need to get this functioning against the cost of statues on the High Street and the provision of a horse walk, a mis guided soul stated the cost for these is being borne by 'The Council' It should be made known that the costs for these varying items are not being paid for solely by the Council. The public's understanding of 'The Council' needs to be defined and that the Vision is working for the benefit of the Town as a whole.

Rachel Wood described how she felt the 'division' of the Town can be better addressed and they need to be informed but admitting there will be a small percentage who will never see both sides.

Amy Starkey acknowledged that she saw a flaw in the PR and communications of the Jockey Club/ Racecourses and **ACTION** would seek to address this by enlightening the people of Newmarket of the many benefits and projects that are undertaken by the Jockey Club and their Racecourses in a more proactive way and would look at issuing a press release.

ACTION All members were happy for bi-monthly meetings as discussed earlier

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY 12 JUNE 2015 at 10:00 in the Ernst Cassel Room –The Memorial Hall Newmarket

KEY ITEMS FOR THIS MEETING INCLUDE

- 1 Review of actions against Princes Foundation Report
- 2 Specific Actions of the four sub groups
- 3 The Underground Survey
- 4 Shop Front Policy
- 5 Signage
- 6 Business Rates for Suffolk and for Norfolk
- 7 Music Festival

Warwick Hirst 23/05/15 <with thanks to Sara for the detailed Minutes >