



**Newmarket Vision Steering Group
Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday, 13 January, 2016 at 1.00pm at
Newmarket Town Council,
Sir Ernest Cassel Meeting Room**

Present:

Sarah Stamp, Chair
Bryn Griffiths
Warwick Hirst
Noel Byrne
William Gittus

Robin Millar
Simon Phelan
Christine Rush
Sam Townsend, Student from
University of Sheffield

Apologies:

James Finch
Howard Lay

Jill Korwin

1. The 'I wish this was' Project Report

SS welcomed Sam Townsend to the meeting. ST is studying for a politics degree at the University of Sheffield. Whilst he was a student of St. Benedict's Catholic Upper School he and some colleagues decided to attempt to raise awareness of the May elections and get people more engaged in the process and understanding. They set up the Peoples Politics Group. Five interviews were staged at the school with five candidates including Matthew Hancock.

Keen to carry on after the elections they used an idea they had read about from Detroit which was a social street art project using a couple of empty High Street shop windows in Newmarket and asked passers by to add their ideas of what they wanted to see in the town on a sticker.

Majority felt they were not being listened to. 400 participated of varying ages and a wide variety of issues raised from low rent for local businesses, a cinema, keeping Newmarket unique, youth centres, to an art gallery. On the whole, the people want to see shops full and issues directed at anyone who is willing to listen.

SS admired ST's report and thought it was a credit to him and his commitment. SS asked ST is Social Media important, as so many people are interested in NV, how do we engage with young people?

ST advised the group initially to go into schools and chat with students, get them to know you, then continue discussions via the social media forum. Be on their level. If a Youth Focus Group is set up, a representative could potentially attend this group ST stated.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Howard Lay, Jill Korwin and Cllr James Finch. BG advised that Robert Feakes who had the ourplace role for Newmarket has been seconded to the LEP. SS asked for thanks to be recorded for RF's support in Newmarket.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting, 19 November 2015

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

4. Delivery and Focus Group Updates

Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan – WH stated the area had been defined and reiterated that it was the Town Council boundary – Severalls, Studlands, St Mary’s and All Saints - excluding the Exning cemetery and those areas that overlap into East Cambs. (Election wards for Town Council). An East Cambridgeshire conversation is hoped in the future.

NNP has been promised £10K from SCC, £2K received and £8K to be match funded. It is expected that the NNP will cost in the region of £40K reported WH.

WH advised of a meeting due on 25 January with FHDC officer, Marie Smith regarding the NNP Timeline and FHDC Core Strategy.

Equine Hub Focus Group - WAG reported that the group have not been able to meet since the last steering group. The Royal status has currently stalled. Everything else are long term projects and issues which are progressing.

NV Town Centre/Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group (TRET) - NB advised the group that the cycling initiative is moving forward with the help of Boyd Nicholas, WH and Colin Grogan. They had had a really positive meeting discussing how facilities can be increased.

NV Education Delivery Group
SS gave HL’s apologies.

NV Traffic / Highways Delivery Group
SS gave apologies from JF.

NV Agreed Priorities list - unfortunately no updates were received by CAR so the spreadsheet remains the same.

5. Traffic / Highways way forward

On Monday a meeting was held to discuss the way forward. SCC have had several meetings with different groups, received various reports and requests from too many different people which has caused confusion. The Traffic / Highways Delivery Group will deal with signage and brown signs. Fiona Unwin who sits on the Royal group will be liaising through this group via WH. Suzanne Buck, SCC officer will present case to Highways England.

It has been agreed therefore that WH will be the link to all NV Groups to give feedback up or down before liaising with SCC. SCC will link with WH.

BG also offered his services, should they be needed to intervene at any time.

6. Shop Front Policy

SP gave a verbal report. The Strategy and supplementary planning document/guidance is very clear on what is permitted and what is not.

NB stated that he and Rachel Hood had been in conversation with a bookmakers head office explaining what the High Street meant in terms of heritage, head office were happy to listen and a mutually agreeable branding was made.

RM on a recent visit to Grantham notice subtle branding along their high street.

SP stated that planners will discuss branding sympathetic to building and environment including colours. SP reported that Boyd Nicholas would be delighted to engage with shop owners.

This is a link to an adopted 'draft document' with post committee tracked changes:

https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning_Policies/upload/TRACKED-CHANGES-Shop-front-guide-v5-ctte-cons-draft-28-01-15.pdf

WH encouraged and recommended the group look at the document on line or print in colour as it is very comprehensive and a positive guide. WH congratulated BN who has created a good guidance document.

7. Communications

NV Workshop Event - draft outline:		
Date:	Thursday, 21 April, 2016	
Venue:	Newmarket Town Council, Main Hall	
Time		
9.30am	refreshments on arrival	
10.00am	Welcome: Sarah Stamp	
	Aim: Celebration of achievements, progress and next steps	
10.05am	Introduce Chairmen	An opportunity for each chairman to present how far each group has come and next steps. An opportunity to discuss objectives and goals for the future.
Time	Chair	NV Group
10.25am	Noel Byrne	NV Town Centre/Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group
	Issue 1: Issue 2:	
	Q&A Audience participation with stickers. Everyone invited to put their ideas forward under the issue subject	
10.45am	Howard Lay	NV Education Delivery Group
	Issue 1 Issue 2	
	Q&A Audience participation with stickers. Everyone invited to put their ideas forward under the issue subject	
11.05am	William Gittus	Equine Hub Focus Group
	Issue 1: Issue 2:	
	Q&A Audience participation with stickers. Everyone invited to put their ideas forward under the issue subject	
11.25am	James Finch	NV Traffic/Highways Delivery Group
	Issue 1: Issue 2:	
	Q&A Audience participation with stickers. Everyone invited to put their ideas forward under the issue subject	
11.45am	Summary: Sarah Stamp	
12.00noon	Thanks and Close: Sarah Stamp	
PRESS RELEASE following the event. (Comms aware)		

Action: The chairmen of each delivery group are tasked to come up with two issues each from their groups to enable the audience to participate in thinking of 'next steps and the delivery.' The two key issues to be taken forward to the workshop will be discussed at the next NV Steering Group on 4th February, 2016 at 2pm.

Action: CAR to send out notification of date and time 'save the date' with more information to follow to all delivery group members.

Action: CAR to send a note to HL and JF with chairmen's action.

8. Any Other Business

Railway – WAG reported that the ticket machine has been installed; however it has not been connected. The group agreed that the station has improved slightly. Parking still being considered at Tattersalls.

Empty shops: - BG mentioned 'Slack Space' Colchester – link below gives an indication of what the organisation does in Colchester
https://twitter.com/slack_space BG will seek out some more information and circulate to the steering group in due course. NB thanked BG as this would be very useful information that he can pass on to the Retailers Association.

NB raised concerns over the Bill Tutte memorial as 'service' channels have been dug in this area and hope that after such an attractive space has been created that it is put back to its former state.

RM mentioned the Arts Story Telling Project, details to be confirmed as yet.

B/F NV Agreed Priorities list CAR circulated the list for each group to update individual sections with minutes of 19 November, 2015.

Action: Please return updated list to CAR for collation in readiness for the next meeting.

9. Future Dates

Dates: Tuesday, 4 February, 2016

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Newmarket Town Council Offices