

**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision  
Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group  
held at 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 1 April, 2016 at the Newmarket Town  
Council Offices**

**Those Present:**

Noel Byrne, Chairman (NB)	Peter Hulbert (PH)	Chris Garibaldi (CB)
Sara Beckett (SB)	Jill Buckingham (JB)	Christine Rush, (CAR) Minutes
Richard Fletcher (RF)	Tori Dexter (TD)	Alison Hayes (AH)
Warwick Hirst (WH)	John Smithson (JS)	

**Apologies received:**

William Gittus (WG)	Boyd Nicholas (BN)
John Morrey (JM)	Rachel Wood (RW)
Cllr David Bowman (DB)	Amy Starkey (AS)
Michael Jefferys (MJ)	John Hardy (JH)
Jonathan Miles (JM)	

**1. Welcome and Minutes of the last meeting 22 January, 2016**

NB welcomed Tori Dexter, Jockey Club Head of Marketing for Eastern Region representing Amy Starkey. Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

**2. BID Process** – NB advised the meeting that the BID process had concluded and thanked all the efforts of those involved.

**3. 350 Years of Making History - Anniversary of racing in Newmarket**

TD next Tuesday will see free tickets for the community – tours of the studs, behind the scenes. All 1800 carefully checked had CB postcodes. NTC supporting with tea dance and issuing special birth certificate for those new born in this special year. Community photo still under discussions. Carnival theme will be based on the history of Newmarket. Headed paper being designed for Winter Duxford flyover, Henry Birtles (sport poet) reading poem in opening ring. Newmarket Monopoly is going ahead! CGs heritage launch and can get a set ordered here along with an Emma Bridgewater mug! (which are going fast). There will be the unveiling of the King Charles II statue in July. There is a limited edition photo book and finally TD stated that all the Jockey Club staff will be giving 350 hrs, 6 hrs each for the event.

TD reported that RW are schedule to meet to discuss choirs next week.

High Street Banners schedule is now complete stated TD.

**Litter Picking** – Clean for the Queen – three teams in rain picked up litter, Studlands, Yellow Brick Road and one other area organised by the Retailers. Everyone pleased with this effort.

**4. Newmarket Branding** – NB stated a sub group has formed - the electronic directional boards have been discussed. These were originally put in 7 years ago by FHDC Tourism Manager. Tourist information is now on the wish list. AS has supplied NB and the sub group with drafts for guidance.

- CG is just finalising heritage branding and hoped that some co-ordination between the two brandings would be possible.

- RF commented on the Blue Plaque Committee who have chosen the NTC badge on their branding.

**ACTION:** NB noted.

## 5. Railway update

WH advised that the station both day and night is excellent and has been transformed. Bill Tutte Committee have sponsored the planters. NTC sponsor the plants. Parking is still a problem. Toilets are on the wish list also, along with line straight to Liverpool Street and 30 minute frequency of trains. Matt Hancock MP is doing a survey to gauge what is required.

Tenders out for Network by June. It is hoped that an operator is in place by October.

**ACTION:** NB/WH to send survey to TD.

CG attended the Suffolk Chamber Transport Group and stated that it was still worth writing to the Dept. of Transport as letters could still influence the decision on choice of tender.

## 6. Newmarket Vision Workshop Event 21 April, 2016

NB explained that a workshop will run on 21 April from 9.30am to 12noon.

The participants will be split into two groups for the workshop. Feedback by the end of the session. Presentations will be given on all initiatives, how effective we have all been collaboration and conclusion. Conclude with how we take things forward. Not a public invite as last time.

**ACTION:** ALL - NB asked that if members of the delivery group have not advised CAR already, please do so.

## 7. Green Corridor Update

JS had circulated his Management Plan at the last meeting and asked for comments. He was pleased to report that some good comments had been received, especially from RH who had supplied some historical data.

- During the summer JS will consult users 'on foot' with a questionnaire.
- The woody vegetation that has colonised the base of the brook and banksides has been cut back over the winter.
- Ecological assessment of West Suffolk – The Yellow Brick Road has been included in this assessment and will be carried out by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and will start in May.
- Trees adjacent to the Sports Club on Studlands – These have been removed as they were not native and shaded other plants out.
- BMX track group want to extend the height of one of their jumps/track. JS working closely with them.
- PH mentioned an area around Burger King that always flood. JS will pass on concerns to SCC Highways.
- JS confirmed he had met with Anglian Water some time ago. Unfortunately JS reported he had not heard back from them.

**ACTION:** JS to chase feedback from meeting.

- JS confirmed that he had had the culvert discussion with Anglian Water. Culvert would need to be built by hand and was seen to be too costly and the maintenance of it thereafter. Therefore we would need to find other measures to improve the entrance at Exeter Road. There were further options to consider with fence improvements in particular.

- Laundry building and fence – meeting commented on these.  
**ACTION:** JS to check if planning permission was given, as not aesthetically pleasing.

## 8. Specific Actions of the four sub groups

**Town Centre Sub Group** – JB litter picking on 5 March was successful and would like to continue. Litter 'Rubbish Friend' – Tesco's and USAFE can continue. NB advised must collaborate with BID, if BID is elected in.

Signage debate – ongoing. Plan waiting to be implemented. Underground survey complete – moved to High Street Working Group. BN leading. Heritage Lottery Grant – once design can be put forward in application. Go to tender first.

**The High Street Project** BN circulated an update with the agenda: High Street Design Group Update – A meeting took place on the 25th February. A boundary for the design brief study area was agreed, running along the High Street from the clock tower to the last buildings in the BID area / Black Bear Lane and taking in the entrances to the side streets off the High Street.

A draft tender brief was also discussed and left for members of the working group to feed back comments.

BN awaiting comments from SCC Highways and once received and the Brief amended, plan to go out to tender late April / early May.

BN happy to respond to any queries if TRET members want to contact him directly.

**Tourism Sub Group** – SB on behalf of RW stated the key points of the groups work:

- 2016 Music Plan underway;
- Supportive of 350 projects;
- Rail Service upgrade;
- Town Guide specifically with map and town signage;
- £200 funding from FHDC;
- Newmarket Heritage and Tourism awards.

CG added there is a 'soft' opening of the Heritage Centre in September and mentioned paintings are expected next week. More publicity to follow!

**Local Economy Sub Group:** – no update available.

## 9. Shop Front Policy update circulated with the agenda: – The Shop Front Design Guide has been adopted as a supplementary planning document – and it does just that, supplement the relevant policies in the Local Plan. BN states it is not a policy in its own right, but a material consideration that should be taken into account when determining applications.

The SPD is adopted and being used by planning officers, however the copy publically available on the web is a tracked changes version of the consultation draft.

It can only be applied if a shop front alteration or advertisement requires consent.

Please note that BN hopes to update the tracked change consultation draft on the web late April / May if workload drops off when the Local Plan Sites and Single Issue Review documents are out on consultation.

Question raised by the group, those that don't need planning permission, how are these properties regulated?

**ACTION:** NB requested that someone from the sub group needs to attend the meeting so they can answer questions. CAR will pass message on to BN. NB advised that he had spoken to Jill Korwin about a one day per week free car parking in Newmarket to encourage footfall leading up to Christmas and will advise outcome.

**ACTION:** NB has written to Barclays Bank Head Office and requested they contact him to discuss what can be done, if anything, with their façade, copy of letter attached for information.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

NB stated that he would be standing down as Chairman, so the Steering Group will announce who the new Chairman will be.

NB thanked all members for all the tremendous work they have been doing since the group started.

NB also thanked CAR personally for her support since joining the group, as he felt that CAR had been an invaluable asset to the TRET group.

#### **11. Date of the Next Meeting**

Friday, 20 May, 2016 at 10.00 am.  
Newmarket Town Council, Ernest Cassel

**ACTION** CAR book NTC rm.