

Newmarket Vision Steering Group
11 July, 2016 at 09.30
Newmarket Town Council Offices



Key Notes and Actions

Attendees: Cllr Robin Millar (Chair), Richard Goss, Cllr Andy Drummond, Bryn Griffiths, Jill Korwin and Christine Rush

Apologies: Howard Lay, William Gittus, Cllr Richard Smith and Cllr James Finch

1. Thanks and Welcome

RM asked for a minuted note of thanks to Sarah Stamp for her time as Chair of Newmarket Vision Steering Group. RM stated he absolutely spoke from the heart when he said that Sarah had made a significant contribution in the development of the Vision ensuring it is now strong enough to address the issues it must deal with. RM announced that Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith (Cabinet Member for Finance and Heritage) is taking over from Sarah and will attend the next meeting.

RM welcomed Cllr Andy Drummond who, as Newmarket Mayor, is taking over from Cllr Warwick Hirst representing the Town Council. Also, the Chair noted many thanks to Warwick for his continued support to the vision and standing in for the previous Newmarket Town Council Mayor John Berry.

2. Minutes of meeting 9 May, 2016 and matters arising:

The minutes were agreed as correct.

- Afternoon free parking in Newmarket leading up to Christmas: Car parking proposal from NV TRET Delivery Group has been sent to Darren Dixon at FHDC requesting each Wednesday free parking for four weeks leading up to Christmas.
- Decisions: RM thought it important to note in the minutes that NV Steering Group cannot always make final decisions, but would have to take the form of recommendations to SCC or FHDC.
- JK mentioned that support officers are being more proactive in liaising over activities of different groups.

3. Listening Event held Saturday, 14 May:

JK advised the group that the listening road show was the idea of SCC's Leader Cllr Colin Noble who wanted to hear the views of people in and around Suffolk. As part of a programme, an event was held on 14 May in the Guineas Shopping Centre. People were invited to write their comments against the different Newmarket Vision Groups on:

- What should be the key focus for the group for each of these areas over the next year?
- What should the group practically be looking at?

There were a total of 14 comments relevant to Newmarket Vision, that the meeting reviewed but concluded there really wasn't too much recorded that the NV group didn't know already.

RG reiterated a comment from a previous meeting that the public in general do not know what is going on in their own town and that the NV group need to communicate more.

There are gym facilities in town and plenty of bars and cafes. RM stated that communication was a good point and would be picked up at item 7.

4. Updates from Delivery Groups

Equine Hub Focus Group: (William Gittus)

JK was able to update the group in WG's absence. The group is working on a one page infographic, building on the Deloitte Report and economic profiles. Progressing with the Uphill Gallop; links with schools – working on a holiday scheme with Home of Horseracing and also with race course programme. Looking at increasing numbers to the town.

ACTION: AD asked that racing employment figures in the town need to be added to figures going to Cabinet. JK will pass this on.

Education Delivery Group: (Howard Lay)

RM reported that the Education group had been reassessed after the NV Workshop Event.

RM passed on an update from HL who is having some positive discussions with FHDC and SEBC re site improvements and Laureate have joined the Samuel Ward Academy Trust. There is also progress in relation to appointing a family support officer between schools.

ACTION: CAR to forward info to Davina Howes and Richard Baldwin – family support officer.

RM will pick up with governors at a meeting on 14th with Councillors.

TRET Delivery Group: (Richard Goss)

RG reported that the BID had an open evening on 1st July which was well attended. RG will liaise with the BID Board and invite a member to join the TRET Delivery Group; hopefully the BID Manager. The BID Manager's post is being advertised. All those existing members of the BID group will make up the Board until next year when the new Board will be voted in. RG will keep the Steering Group updated. RG stated that he is personally a big supporter of the BID and will be interested to see how successful they become.

Coach parking in Newmarket was discussed at the meeting held on 20th June. Where do they park in town? The Museum has its own coach park. The group came up with some options:

- Land outside Tesco's – but RG has since heard that this land is no longer available unfortunately.
- Railway car park – Tattersalls to be approached and obviously would not be used on sale days. AD and RM suggest raising the question with the Traffic/Highways Delivery Group or John Morrey.

AD and RM suggested a side street off the main High Street; however RG said that this is not ideal as buses with engines idling would not be great for the local homes. All agreed.

ACTION: RG to raise with Cllr James Finch, Chairman and Suzanne Buck, Support Officer of SCC of the Traffic/Highways Delivery Group.

High Street Project – Three designs are being looked at, but concerns that this is taking a long time which is apparently due to them being so very different to compare. RG has not seen the designs to date.

ACTION: RG to ask for an update from Boyd Nicholas on the three design tenders and report back to the next Steering Group.

An email had been received from Richard Fletcher regarding Rutland Hill. A discussion on a suggested 'one way' system' from High Street to All Saints Church and part pedestrianisation took place. Access to car parks etc., TK Maxx, the Rutland Arms Hotel could be problematic - All Saints and Park Lane not suitable for heavy goods, but would enforcing smaller delivery vehicles be acceptable and would have to be carefully looked into.

ACTION: CAR to forward email from R Fletcher to the Traffic/Highways Delivery Group for an agenda item when they next meet for discussion.

Traffic / Highways Delivery Group: (Bryn Griffiths)

BG provided an update and RIS2 link is

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-investment-strategy-post-2020>

BG also forwarded to the group a briefing note regarding the brown tourism signs advising that following a review of the town centre signs a package of new signs to the car parks and the Home of Horseracing Museum have been ordered through Suffolk Highways in readiness for the opening of the museum in September. The tourism signs on the A11 and A14 had been reviewed as however are very costly due to constraints around sign provision and design and safety measures (i.e. the closing of lanes to provide safe access to the signs etc.). However JK suggested if the signs on trunk road sufficient, money might be better spent on priority to the town centre signs initially as potentially more important to tourists on arrival into the town. BG stated the traffic group would take this into consideration.

ACTION: CAR was asked to send Amy Starkey a copy of the briefing note.

ACTION: CAR to provide Amy Starkey's contact details to Suzanne Buck.

ACTION: CAR to ask, on behalf of BG, Suzanne Buck who is making the formal application to Highways England for the signage?

Snailwell Road: RM reported that he has met with the Jockey Club and consulted with local residents.

Rail Sub Group: BG reported that the group have fund raised £92K for the Newmarket Station improvements and has enabled progress. This was a great effort from Abellio, SCC, The Jockey Club, Newmarket Races and FHDC. Decision on the franchise has been delayed due to rail crossing review as Network Rail wanted to shut the crossing and people would need to walk further. Whether this is a 'right of way' or not Network Rail wants legislation to change. The review continues.

The Public Sector Leaders Group provided funding for a review of the A14 junctions to inform a bid to Highways England for schemes to be considered within RIS 2 funding programme. This work has progressed to enable a submission within the July deadline and junction 37, the A142/A14 junction is one of 7 junctions included.

5. Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan: (Andy Drummond)

AD will provide an update for the next meeting.

6. Car Park Provision: RM reported two surveys into transport parking zones in the High Street had been completed. Unfortunately, both not enough to make

a decision by SCC. There will be a third survey and with increase footfall traffic with the Museum more participation in the survey is expected. RM stated that following a consultation meeting the South looks to be the priority.

ACTION: CAR to check with Suzanne Buck if a date for the further architect's survey has been identified yet.

7. Communications

- After a discussion as to whether the NV e-Newsletter was to continue or not, it was decided that it met the objective of keeping all the NV groups updated but should have a more external focus.
- However following the April Workshop Event there was still a need to find the resource to communicate the NV work to the wider community. It was suggested that SCC, FHDC and NTC Communication units could take it in turns, chasing for stories and promoting positive articles. In addition RM will look at what additional resource could be provided for this.
- JK has arranged for an extra column on the NV action list which the officer support will add to for comms attention.
- Also a suggestion to have a dedicated page once a month in the Newmarket Journal with a specific background colour that brings quick recognition and attention to NV articles.
- Studlands use Facebook social media which works for them.
- Need to work with the BID over future communications for the town

ACTION: RG will talk to BID about comms.

ACTION: NV e-Newsletter to continue JK to advise author.

8. Any Other Business

RG followed up a funding query on behalf of the NV TRET Delivery Group they may like to fund the Trees in Planters Project. £5K is sought.

RM reminded the group that it has no budget available. Also before projects get underway too far, funding should be sought at an early stage.

BG asked that RG continue to liaise with the Traffic/Highways Delivery Group.

ACTION: JK will send RG a link to SCC regarding external funding.

Added here for further reference: The best place to look for funding opportunities is the new 'Funding for Suffolk' website. A search for both local and national funding opportunities specific to project needs. The website is hosted by Community Action Suffolk, and the link is provided below.

<http://www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk/how-we-help/funding/>

9. Date of Next Meetings

12 September – 9.30am

14 November - 9.30am