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NEWMARKET VISION

E-NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2016

Looking forward to a busy and exciting 2016 - there is lots to report, hence this slightly lengthier edition. Firstly though, it would be good to point out a slight editorial amendment to the last newsletter, which stated that the *Local economy group continues to work on the Newmarket Business Improvement District (BID)*, it is in fact the Newmarket Retailers that are leading this work. They have held open events in January at the Jockey Club and the Memorial Hall, where the team were available to listen to interested parties as to how they would like to see the town centre improved and to advise how through the BID those improvements might be achieved.

In the Local Economy group's pivotal role of communicating information to the businesses of Newmarket they identified three main areas that require focus, (i) communication being the key to business, (ii) for inward investment and (iii) to identify the need for space and incubation required by businesses for Newmarket. The next step will be to focus on these three aspects and to start a communications 'one page' - a single page document that will concisely the group's strategic plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan is moving forward as planned, with the Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group being very conscious not to just tick boxes in the process. The consultation of the proposed area for designation ended and the group were formally notified on 23 December 2015 that the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth had designated the Newmarket Neighbourhood area, that being the Parish of Newmarket excluding the Cemetery on Exning Road. Two further Consultations have taken place on the Aims and Objectives forming the basis of the policies which will be included in the final plan to be adopted. A wide range of comments have been collected and nobody has actually said they don't agree. Those who have engaged will have provided some very constructive amendments. If you should wish to comment or view further detail about the Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan please visit <http://www.newmarket.gov.uk/nmkt-neighbourhood-plan/>

The revitalised Newmarket Railway Station was officially opened by Matthew Hancock MP <http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/Newmarket-station-reopens-series-improvements/story-28679796-detail/story.html>

The Railway Station now has a much more impressive ambience for regular users and highlights it as a place that welcomes visitors to the Town (you don't get a second chance to make a first impression).



Above is a panoramic view of the timeline celebrating 350 years of the history of Newmarket long the entrance to Newmarket railway station, part of the physical improvements made recently.



You may notice '350' on the photograph above, this is an exciting project called **WEARE350** led by Newmarket Jockey Club Racecourse that is celebrating 350 years of Newmarket with the aim of working with partners to unite Newmarket for a year of celebration. Newmarket has 20,000 residents, 5,500 racehorses, 242 retailers, nine schools, five Councils but there is only one Newmarket and that is unique. There is an exciting programme of events planned but it does mean that the whole of Newmarket must embrace this. There are ideas for a Town photograph in the shape of 350 perhaps on Warren Hill, free racing for residents, an education programme, a film, a book and even a Monopoly game - all these things to celebrate Newmarket and much, much more.

Newmarket High Street Design Brief Group have yet to meet again since the inaugural meeting in October, but a meeting is scheduled in early February 2016.

Members of the Town centre group are awaiting a steer from the High Street project to put together the proposal for the Heritage Lottery fund. The group's concerns over enforcement of signage related to advertising have surfaced again resulting in a meeting with Andrew Smith Principal Enforcement Officer at Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council. They were told Bury St Edmunds suffers similarly and there are plans to address the issue of A boards

there in the New Year. If successful a similar solution might be suitable for Newmarket. It is hoped this will address ad hoc signs and banners in Newmarket. The situation will be reviewed in the spring.

The Tourism group continue to be very active working towards a Heritage and Tourism scheme, awarding perhaps a plaque and certificate to a building of interest, which has heritage, has been cared for or offers exceptional hospitality or possible all of those and more. The group have been consultees on both the car parking strategy and road signage review and its views have been noted by the Transport group. Further updates are awaited, on what is such an important issue for the Town. A tourism offer to meet the needs of the lower end options is still believed to have a place which could still come under the Discover Newmarket umbrella and whilst it may not have huge profits it would still be a huge asset for Newmarket.

Probably now that you have got to the end you might be pleased to know there are no further updates from the following groups Equine Hub, Transport or Education but watch out for further updates from them next month as they will be chased!

Just to leave you with a date for the diary, 21 April, 2016, it is planned to hold an important Newmarket Vision event, where all members will have the opportunity to catch up. It will be a different format than the previous extended event, which was much more about telling Newmarket about the Vision. This is intended to be for those of you who have worked for the benefit of Newmarket, giving you an opportunity to meet with those who you may have just communicated through email.