

**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision
Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group
held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 23rd October, 2017 at the Newmarket
Town Council Offices**

Present:

Richard Goss	Christine Rush
Cllr Warwick Hirst	Jon Miles
Cllr Michael Jefferys	Jacob Brown, FHDC apprentice
Cllr Chris Barker	Roberta Bennett, Town Council Manager.
Graham Philpot	Paul Horne, SCC Highways
Julie Eden	
Peter Hulbert	(CG & DR left the meeting at 11.10am.)
Chris Garibaldi	
Di Robertshaw	

Apologies:

John Smithson, William Gittus, Insp. Mark Shipton, Sara Beckett and Rachel Wood

1. Minutes of the last Meeting dated 11 September, 2017

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

2. Green Corridor update – John Smithson (supplied)

Friends of Yellow Brick Road meeting was held on 29 September, 2017
(19 attendees):

- **Lighting** – John visited the YBR at night to record the lighting situation – From Exeter Road to George Lambton Playing Fields approx. 50% go off at midnight, the rest stay on all night. 10 lamps on GLPF stay on all night (however x3 are broken and need repair – JS is finding out who is responsible for these as they do not have numbers and are likely to be either District or County).
The lamps from Willie Snaith Drive through to the industrial estate all went off at midnight, however this was on a weekday and they may stay on all night at weekends (JS waiting to hear back from County).
- **Land ownership** – JS is hoping to meet with SCC soon to look at the areas that are not on the land registry with a view to addressing some of the trees that are, and will be a problem if they are not managed actively; a Service Level Agreement between SCC, FHDC, Jockey Club and Town Council would be a good way forward to resolve uncertainties in this area.
- **Volunteer Days** – A group of 15 volunteers helped to collect 28 bags of rubbish and assorted fly tipping along the brook on the 30 September.
The next volunteer day will be Saturday, 18 November.
- **New Litter Bins** – x12 are on order and hope to be installed by Christmas.
- **Benches** - there are no benches along the YBR. The Friends agreed to trial a few rustic benches at low cost, choosing places that would hopefully not generate Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) or disturbance to residence.

3. The Future of Policing in Newmarket - Inspector Mark Shipton

Inspector Shipton was invited to the meeting, as the group would like to learn more regarding the policing cover of the Yellow Brick Road (YBR) area. Inspector Shipton agreed to attend the next meeting, however, another commitment came up at the last minute which he had to attend. JS very kindly supplied some questions and Inspector Shipton very promptly supplied the answers in readiness for today's meeting:

- i. **Q:** How does reported crime along the YBR compare in severity/number of incidents to the rest of the town, e.g. The High Street?

A: The YBR compares favourably against many other areas within Newmarket for Crime/ASB. Unfortunately Insp. Shipton cannot supply figures as Suffolk Police ~~*do not collect these anymore*~~ *don't **supply** figures of all crime types/locations anymore. The figures are accessible, just generally difficult to collate and if it was done for one group, it would set a precedent.* Inspector Shipton understands that a meeting was held between the friends of the YBR and Sgt. Mel Leaman did produce a list of events for a 5/6 month period and they were not high.

***Amendment* in italics and note:**

Inspector Shipton can easily produce figures to a town level, but if the group wanted incident numbers/types, the group could go onto the **UK Police website**. Here the group can find a breakdown, but it will always be two months behind.

Dated 24.10.2017

- ii. **Q:** Is the current method of recording where crimes occur in the town accurate in terms of being able to ascertain whether they occurred on the YBR or not? This is really a question to establish how familiar the YBR is to Suffolk Police, as currently the YBR is not identified by any signage on the ground or on any map, so the police and probably some of those who have reported crime will not know if it occurred on the YBR or not.

A: When a crime is reported to the police the location is obtained; the Yellow Brick Road is on the system and as such if the offence occurs there, then it will show up when searched by a particular street. Inspector Shipton appreciates that this may not be the case for external sites as it is more of a local name rather than a 'confirmed street.'

- iii. **Q:** Do the police have a view on whether lighting can be considered a deterrent against crime or otherwise along the YBR? And specifically would there be any merit in leaving the lights on all night?

A: When crimes occur on the YBR, these are committed during both daylight and darkness. There is nothing to support whether having lights on or off would prevent crimes. Another county held a survey that proved turning all the lights off did not lead to a significant increase in crime. Lights play only a very small part in this; opportunists will commit crime regardless of lighting.

- iv. **Q:** If it is established that the number of crimes on the YBR is higher than elsewhere in the town or of a sufficient number to cause concern, would CCTV cameras be a benefit to help reduce the crime in this area?

A: CCTV would not necessarily lead to a decrease in crime committed, but what it would give, is an opportunity to increase the detection of these crimes by identifying offenders.

Questions to be considered for the next meeting:

- Can Inspector Shipton confirm how many years the YBR has been within their remit?
- Occasional Police PCSOs presence in town. Norfolk getting rid of their PCSOs, are Suffolk going to do the same?
- The Town Council has funded a 35hrs a week PCSO as extra on street presence. A presence suggests law and order.
- Is there anything we can do to formally register the name YBR, a Public Right of Way?

- Tim Passmore said it was inappropriate for businesses to wait 50 mins for a police response. What can be done to speed things along?
- What support is available for Police Officers / PCSOs when confronted with people carrying knives?
- On Street Parking Enforcement, how can this be managed?
 - Cars parking all day on double yellow lines;
 - Bollards being knocked over;
 - Signage being damaged?
- Shop lifting is reported and nothing is done about it?

The group concluded that the presence of the Inspector or a representative from Suffolk Police would be very much appreciated, say every so many weeks with a brief report available for every meeting; to be agreed with Inspector Shipton.

ACTION: The Chairman, RG to invite Inspector Mark Shipton to the next meeting and request a regular update. Also to alert the Inspector to the further questions raised above.

The group also felt so strongly about these issues they wanted RG to complain to Matthew Hancock MP. WH suggest emailing M Hancock the questions, as he will be meeting with Tim Passmore this Wednesday - here are the issues would you like to attend the next meeting to explain how they will be addressed?

ACTION: RG to separately email M Hancock MP raising the concerns of the group.

- 4. SCC Highways – Traffic Movement in Newmarket – Paul Horne, SCC Waitrose - entrance/exit onto Fred Archer Way** - NV Transport Group has discussed the issue at the October meeting. Waitrose have been in discussion with the Church regarding a second access. No resolution as yet, Waitrose invited to next NV Transport sub group meeting in mid January 2018 to take this forward.

Palace Street – a proposal for the closing of the road to traffic (a designated time closure only) has been raised at the Transport sub group, the BID team to oversee an informal consultation with local businesses to identify issues re access and; to identify level of support such a proposal would receive. The BID to report back on findings early 2018.

The group discussed Palace Street concerns, bollards being knocked over, cars parking illegally, 'boy' racers etc., an accident waiting to happen; the benefit of 30 min. parking meters; the benefit of the District Council enforcing parking rather than an over zealous private company. Apparently Ipswich Borough already has civil enforcement.

The group wanted to know how the Steering Group see the problem solving of on street parking? What can be worked up in the interim of the District taking over the enforcement from the Police?

ACTION: RG to raise the problem of on street parking to the NV Steering Group on Monday 30 October.

A14 junctions – known to be busy especially on race days, this has been highlighted to Highways England for Roads Investment Strategy 2 (RIS2) to consider the need for improvements and SCC await Highways England decision. The "No More A14 Delays" Suffolk Chamber of Commerce campaign highlights junction 37 details of campaign available at

<https://www.suffolkchamber.co.uk/representing-you/no-more-a14-delays-in-suffolk/>

The RIS2 timeline:

- 2018 consultation
- 2019 the funding decision
- 2020-25 RIS2 build period

In the short term, work is in progress to gather evidence to assess the value for money of the A14 junction improvements.

The Pegasus horse crossings in Newmarket to be upgraded, with the work to commence in early 2018 with funding from SCC and The Jockey Club.

Signage: CG reported Highways have received the signage proposal and will also advise the best way of challenging the brown signs cost.
Rouse Road – shared traffic scheme. Traffic calming is required.

5. Specific Actions of the sub groups

- **Town Centre Sub Group**

- **High Street Project Working Group brief update – BN**

- Unfortunately no update available.

- CG and RG really concerned about this project. Money available until 2019. BN has been overwhelmed with the process of the Local Plan Inspector hearing.

- Is there anything the group can do to move this project on?

- ACTION:** JM to request update by next meeting.

- **Retailers Sub Group – Di Robertshaw**

- The Retailers are now a voluntary levy payer – working with and supporting the BID.

- Some of the trees have turned brown, but now the group have realised that they have been overwatered. Looking at extending the trees up to Clock Tower end of street.

- Parking permits – increase this year.

- The Retailers have applied, to the District Council, for Free Parking every Thursday afternoon in December to support local businesses in the run-up to Christmas again, as last year.

- **The BID update - Graham Philpot**

- Revised business case etc. 26.09.17 AGM held and review of the BID Board.

Events:

- 14 November – 4pm Christmas lights switch-on with Andy Drummond Mayor and TV star Scott Maslen at the Bill Tutte stage; High Street closure; late night shopping; stalls and rides. Ed Sheeran double, students and cadets shows.
- 16 and 19 November Lantern Workshop
- 6 December - Christmas Market
- 9 and 10 December - Winter wonderland – the BID supporting the Town Council. Santa’s Grotto, Live music and fair ground rides as previous years.

Nutcracker figure moving around the town to get the public talking about events; and smaller figures have been place around the town for a town trail. Children have named them all. Also links to Reading Group for children at the library.

Wi-Fi has been approved – should be up and running within next three weeks, in time for Christmas events!

- **Local Economy Sub Group** – Jon Miles

- WS Business festival during October. Ended with BFP Business Awards 13 October. 110 businesses entered from in and around Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill and Newmarket.
- Reported more good business developments coming, but can advise when more known.
- Overview on insights on Newmarket and will share, will let CAR have information to circulate.
- Space for growing businesses in Newmarket: No real room to allocate unfortunately. Businesses want to stay, but space is a problem.
- Members of the group had heard Homebase closing for refurb 10 November? Bunnings re-branding. JM to check and advise.
- Hughes building (used to be Palmers / Ashford's) – JM to find out what is happening.
- Also the old magistrate courts building, Vicarage Road CB heard this could become empty – potential for Community Hub use perhaps?

ACTION: JM to check potential empty properties with agents.

- **Tourism Sub Group** – Jon Miles gave an update in the absence of RW - The Tourism group met on Friday, 20 October.

JM attended the meeting to reaffirm aims of the group as Senior Growth Officer for West Suffolk Council, JM's role covers strategic tourism.

The Tourism Sub Group decided it will join the Community and Operations Group, network with other groups. A voice to help steer issues.

Public Toilets: MJ raised with JM, if we are developing Newmarket as a tourist town, the toilets by the Memorial Hall are the only toilets available in the town. Amy Starkey put temporary toilets at the station for the last racing meeting.

ACTION: JM will look into the lack of toilet provision in Newmarket.

6. Any Other Business

CB asked all to note the High Street road closure for Remembrance Sunday.

Travellers in town, PH reported, is there anything we can do to prevent them coming into town? JM stated that the District Council swiftly dealt with the matter. All agreed this was exceptionally quick.

MJ will forward the Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan information for all the group's members to read. MJ is keen to hear opinions, as this is a consultation.

ACTION: MJ will supply information to CAR for circulation prior to the next meeting.

7. Next Meeting Date: Monday, 4 December, 2017 Sir Ernest Cassell Rm
Dates for next year to be discussed - how frequent? Every other month?