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## **NEWMARKET VISION E-NEWS LETTER MARCH 2015**

### **A Year of Vision with 20:20 clarity**

For those who are reading the e-newsletter for the first time the structure of the groups and further information can be found:

[http://westsuffolk.gov.uk/council/policies\\_strategies\\_and\\_plans/newmarketvision.cfm?aud=council](http://westsuffolk.gov.uk/council/policies_strategies_and_plans/newmarketvision.cfm?aud=council)

The list of agreed priorities (which is regularly updated) can be found here:

[http://westsuffolk.gov.uk/Council/Policies\\_Strategies\\_and\\_Plans/upload/NewmarketVisionAgreedPriorities140917A1.pdf](http://westsuffolk.gov.uk/Council/Policies_Strategies_and_Plans/upload/NewmarketVisionAgreedPriorities140917A1.pdf)

### **March Updates:**

#### **[1] Community Planning Delivery Group**

The inaugural meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group will be held in April. There was no Delivery Group meeting in March.

#### **[2] Town Centre, Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group**

A meeting held in March reviewed the actions for each sub group from the Princes Foundation Report.

#### **[A] The Town Centre Group**

Contact has been made with Guy Smith (Assistant Highways Manager) with regard to signage in general and for the car parks specifically but this was only to confirm that he had still to meet with Darren Dixon (Car Parks Manager) before discussing with the Town Centre Group in conjunction with the Tourism and Retail Groups.

Better news comes from a really constructive meeting with Mark Walsh from the Waste management department of West Suffolk with regard to street cleansing in and around Newmarket.

The group had a wide ranging discussion on matters concerning litter and cleanliness in and around Newmarket. There appeared to be an understanding that the councils (Town and District) were not in a position to provide any significant further resources. However, there was also a recognition that the improvement probably lies with the community coming together to help itself, with the appropriate assistance and support from the councils.

A number of themes emerged from the discussion:-

## **1. Town Ranger**

It was suggested that perhaps resources could be diverted to create a part time Town Ranger post and an example from Knutsford was tabled for discussion. It wasn't clear what limited resources could be given up to fund such a post and what could realistically be expected from a single part time individual. It was suggested that the best way of providing such a post could be through a Business Improvement District (BID) and it is understood that Newmarket is considering creating a BID in the town and this could be about a year away if voted in.

## **2. Cleansing Schedules and Routes**

Mr Walsh gave an overview of the current Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) resources and cleansing frequencies, the numbers of litter bins the Council looks after and recent service improvements. I. Barrett (Newmarket Town Council) also stated that they had three full time employees engaged in cleansing and grounds maintenance activities.

It was agreed that FHDC and the Town council should meet to understand respective workload and schedules and see what opportunities there might be for working more effectively together in the locality.

## **3. Hot Spots**

A number of hotspots were discussed. It was agreed that FHDC would look at litter picking or pavement sweeping in these hot spots to address the areas where the litter is accumulating.

Mr Walsh advised that the High St itself and other adjacent areas were subject to daily cleansing but agreed to look at these areas to see if more can be done.

## **4. Enforcement**

Mr Walsh explained some of the difficulties with litter enforcement. Whilst FHDC has had some notable success with prosecuting fly tippers, littering on the street and from vehicles remains difficult to enforce.

Fiona Unwin advised the group that on a recent visit to Braintree, she had learnt about a scheme called the Green Heart of Essex.

[http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200344/green\\_heart\\_of\\_essex/305/green\\_heart\\_of\\_essex](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200344/green_heart_of_essex/305/green_heart_of_essex)

Mr Walsh agreed to investigate this to see if any lessons could be learned for West Suffolk.

## **5. Education**

Mr Walsh advised the group of experiences of educating school children on topics such as littering and recycling. This was considered to be most effective with primary school age children. The West Suffolk councils

already work with a number of schools and the group discussed the possibility of including more primary schools in Newmarket in such an initiative. It was agreed that these schools would be approached about taking part in community litter picks as part of an education programme. FHDC would be happy to support any such events. Rachel Wood with her expertise and enthusiasm will be key in delivering this vital aspect of dealing with litter for the future.

## **6. Volunteering**

Fiona Unwin explained to the group about her experiences in setting up the 'Rubbish Friends' and the excellent work that they do around Newmarket. Fiona agreed to share some bullet points on volunteering to litter pick. FHDC remains fully committed to doing all it can to support these groups in litter picking around the community.

## **7. Nightclubs and Fast Food Retailers**

There was general agreement that Newmarket's night time economy added to the litter problems in the town. Mr Walsh agreed to investigate producing a reminder letter or leaflet to these businesses (probably addressed from all the town's stakeholders) reminding them of their responsibilities in this matter.

Cllr Hirst agreed to talk to retailers and the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Walsh agreed to investigate whether the gum busting machine could be operated by staff from clubs and pubs in areas that generate large amounts of chewing gum on the pavement.

### **[B] Retail Group**

No further update available

### **[C] Local Economy**

The Economic Development Team at West Suffolk have launched the West Suffolk Inward Investment pack that the Local Economy group have been consulted on - please take a look at: [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/inwardinvestment](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/inwardinvestment) where you can view and download a full copy or individual sections.

Following consultation with Market Traders the Newmarket Market will be re-launched in May.

### **[D] Tourism Group**

The July Music Festival has advanced with speed and organisation and is taking shape with many confirmed dates for a variety of artists.

The group have good communication with the Town Centre Group and like them are awaiting further news from Guy Smith in relation to the signage review and addressing the car park issues of Newmarket and of course the interactive car parking map.

### **[3] Education Delivery Group**

No further update available.

### **[4] Traffic and Highways Delivery Group**

No further update available.

### **[5] Equine Hub**

This group only meets bimonthly, so no update is available this month.

### **[6] Railway Group**

No further update available.

### **Contributing to this e-newsletter....**

If your group would particularly like an issue raised or promoted amongst the other delivery groups, please send details to [Christine.rush@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Christine.rush@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

The newsletter will be monthly as a trial period from February – July 2015. If you like it let us know – if not, tell us how we can improve it to make it more useful for you!

Don't forget that the minutes of each group are available on the Forest Heath website (just type 'Newmarket vision' into the search box on the home page: [www.westsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk) )