

**NEWMARKET VISION
MINUTES OF
COMMUNITY PLANNING DELIVERY GROUP**

10am Thursday, 17 July, 2014

Held at Newmarket Council Offices, Council Chamber

Members Present:

Cllr Rachel Hood (Chair), NTC

Cllr Michael Jefferys, NTC

Cllr Rona Burt, FHDC

Claire Elbrow, Blue Lizard Marketing and rep for Newmarket Chamber of Commerce

Sara Beckett, Resident

Steven Wood, West Suffolk Head of Planning and Regulatory Services

John Smithson, West Suffolk Parks Operations Manager

Marie Smith, West Suffolk Planning Service Manager

Graeme Locky, West Suffolk Principal Growth Officer

Robert Feakes, SCC Planning Officer (Policy)

Christine Rush, FHDC minutes

1. Apologies

Apologies received from William Gittus, Julian Wilson, Neil Anthony, Quentin Cass and Lee Webster.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

There were a few amendments to the minutes of the last meeting.

First Page:

Julian Wilson was present.

Neil Anthony and Graeme Locky had tendered their apologies.

Second page, first full paragraph:

'Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Parks Service officially joined the West Suffolk Partnership in November 2013 after both organisations underwent a restructure process. John Smithson, Parks Operations Manager, for Leisure, Culture and Communities, stated that West Suffolk had therefore been involved in Newmarket since November 2013. An audit of all public open spaces soon followed after that partnership commenced covering the remit of the District Council and Borough Council. Previous questions over who owns what have now been resolved.'

Second page, last paragraph and over to third page:

'A member's discussion concluded that Forest Heath DC had only assisted Go Wild initially with the Management of these areas, but support and lapsed over the years, despite JS's previous understanding that FHDC Parks Management had.

In particular, grass which had been requested for cutting had not been cut and the height that it is now is unacceptably high.'

3. Matters Arising

Open Space/Go Wild: JS reported that Richard Baldwin, Families and Communities Officer is keen to assist GoWild so attended a meeting to ascertain their aspirations. GoWild are struggling with membership. RB agreed to help promote their group and there is some 'start up' funding they can apply for.

With regards to the Guarded Orchard, JS circulated the contents page of the management plan to the meeting. He was happy to advise that grass cutting had started last week and now people can enjoy a circular walk. JS also mentioned that the Guarded Orchard is now semi natural to he will be in further discussions with Claire, the field officer of GoWild.

RH spoke about tree planting with GoWild and now that JS is involved with the management of the open spaces, feels more can be achieved.

At the last meeting JS stated that he had visited certain the areas, in particular the area known as the Guarded Orchard, which has 4 areas: The Orchard, BMX area, MUGA and a fourth area (not specifically identified).

1. BMX area ~ redundant
2. Small buildings ~ derelict
3. The Orchard ~ really nice with paths to maintain access
4. The 2 meadows (Noel Murless) side and The Orchard (Studlands) have good connectivity and join to make a nice corridor. JS has marked where he believes the corridor should be.

BMX area – MJ stated that Lisa Collins, who lives in Studlands Park was very active in the building of this with the help of young local people. RB remembers attending the opening in 2008. MJ stated the issue with the declining use over the years is down to the site not being central, so has limited appeal. A recent suggestion from Lady Wolverton that it would serve better as a play area.

Action: MJ to contact Lisa with a view of getting her involved with these areas / revitalising the BMX area or with a view of finding another site.

There was a discussion on the merits of changing the name of the No. 1 drain.

Action: RF speak to Jeff Horner of SCC with regards to the management of the drain and whether any future weir construction / water feature would detrimentally affect the water course. JS stated that a feasibility study would be required before any work considered i.e. flood system and water management.

Action: JS to send green space map, 2014 – 15 Guarded Orchard Annual Work Plan and Contents page to CAR who will circulate via email to members.

Affordable Housing: Lee Webster (LW) presentation was received very well at the last meeting and will hopefully come to next meeting with a map to identify Social Housing locations.

Conservation and Enforcement Update: SW reported that CEO was using his urgency powers to create extra capacity in the Planning Service in order to meet significant increase in demand for work within the section. SW also reported he was in the process of reshaping conservation and the enforcement team. Action is in hand with regards to Queensbury Lodge and a program to be rolled out to tackle

A-boards and signage. GL mentioned that the Retailers Association meet once a month, and suggested this be a platform to get messages across to businesses.

Public Realm: RF on behalf of QC stated that there would be a further meeting of the stakeholder group next week 23 July, including Police, Suffolk Libraries, Newmarket CAB, DWP, Racing Welfare and SCC.

Action: CAR to add item to agenda.

4. Affordable Housing Map – Lee Webster

Action: CAR to bring forward to next agenda.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

RH to meet with MS next Monday at 5pm to go through the steps to enable formal application, map and statement of area, methodology and consultation of why area chosen and funding request process and will assist informally, as all have to be formulated and written by Newmarket Town Council.

MS stated the importance of getting the public on board initially as referendum at the end for public to sign up to.

Action: MS to send link of South Cambs on-line application.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning>

Action: MS to supply a briefing note for circulation to the group.

6. Update of other Delivery Groups and Equine Hub Focus Group

At the time of the last Steering Group Meeting (30 June) the Transport Delivery Group were meeting on 2 July; Education Delivery Group were meeting on 16 July.

The Steering Group Notes can be found:

http://www.forest-heath.gov.uk/downloads/file/2971/30_june_2014

Equine Hub focus group follow up meeting met 14 July and a further meeting scheduled for 12 September. The Action Plan has been updated. This can be viewed on the FHDC website 'Newmarket Vision' page.

http://www.forest-heath.gov.uk/downloads/file/2859/equine_hub_action_plan

Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group - Tourism sub group - meeting Abellio Greater Anglia railway service with regards to promoting the tourist route and quality of station.

Traffic/Highways Delivery Group - RB reported that a smaller group was forming to discuss car parks, buses on a Sunday. GL stated business areas are under pressure to supply parking for their employees. SW added that public transport was in demand also.

A discussion on 60/70s housing and greenfield sites took place. SW stated regeneration needs to be looked at sensitively. The meeting agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan does not want to repeat mistakes as Church Hill Court, Icewell Flats – social deprivation and crime issues. SW asked if LW, Flagship aware that HCA gives grants to improvement projects?

7. Priority Timings:

2	Community Planning Delivery Group	Timings
2.1	Identify gap / redevelopment / 'brownfield' sites in the most sustainable locations, i.e. more central areas and / or where new trips are more likely to be by walk, cycle, bus or train.	Neighbourhood Plan identified <i>Seek public view of objectives and aspirations at Conference on 19 September, 2014.</i>
2.2	Identify existing low quality, low density, low occupancy residential sites in less sustainable locations and create plans for redevelopment.	Neighbourhood Plan
2.3	If growth is required beyond the capacity of brownfield sites throughout the district, bring forward a masterplan for a new, mixed use community in / around Studlands, developing existing community assets, incorporating new and greatly improved links for walking, cycling, and new supporting bus services (refer to the 'renewing the Northern area' map on page 43 of NEnq.byDesign) .	Neighbourhood Plan
2.4	Develop integrated and purpose built housing for elderly and down sizing in any development.	Neighbourhood Plan
4.12	Conduct an audit and character assessment of existing landscape assets within and surrounding the town with a view to create a landscape strategy. (moved from Traffic Group)	<i>John Smithson Parks joint work with Planning / potentially assisted by GoWild. ?</i>
4.13	Explore ways of improving existing and new landscape assets (e.g. sports pitches) through development agreements and potential donations. (moved from Traffic Group)	<i>John Smithson Parks joint work with Planning ?</i>
4.15	Explore strategies to enhance biodiversity and ecological corridors within the Town Centre linked into the wider landscape. (moved from Traffic Group)	<i>John Smithson to support GoWild.</i>

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: ~~10am, 21 August, 2014~~

2.00 pm Wednesday, 27 August, 2014 Council Chamber Offices, Newmarket Town Council.