

**Notes and Actions of the Newmarket Vision
Steering Group Meeting
Wednesday, 1 October, 2014 held at 9.30am
at Newmarket Town Council**

Attendees:

Cllr Lisa Chambers, Chairman (SCC)	Christine Rush (FHDC)
Cllr Warwick Hirst (FHDC)	
Cllr Rachel Hood (NTC)	Guests at 10.30am: Diane
Bryn Griffiths (SCC)	Robertshaw and Richard Goss
Liz Watts (FHDC)	

1. Apologies

Isabelle Barrett (NTC), Richard Baldwin (FHDC), and Robert Feakes (SCC)

2. Notes and Actions from last meeting 8th September, 2014

There was a small amendment to the last minutes under update from Delivery Groups - Community Planning first bullet point: RH stated that she had met Alex Munro with WH and colleagues to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan on 3rd September.

Report back from BG on the 13 August minutes outstanding actions

- Town Centre/Retail Local Economy and Tourism Delivery group – BG is unable to supply a copy of the underground survey of the High Street that showed a network of utility services that had halted a previous project taking place for the planting of an avenue of trees in the High Street. SCC surveyors asked if NTC would have a copy. **Action** WH - thought the survey would have taken place around September 2010-11 and will make enquiries. **Action** BG will check with to see if the company who did the work has come back to Guy Smith yet.

3. Newmarket Equine Design (NED)

Lisa Chambers welcomed Diane Robertshaw and Richard Goss (RG) to the meeting who gave a presentation to the group. Newmarket Equine Design (NED) has risen from the Retail Sub Group who would like to improve the town of Newmarket by bringing a racing concept to the High Street. They are hoping to set Newmarket apart from all the other market towns. Visitors to the town tend to come in for the racing. The idea is to encourage footfall and business into the town centre before and after the racing to complete the racing experience.

They propose to start at the clock tower with an artist's creation of a start of a race. Furlong poles down the street, dedicated to races with information boards half way down the post. Half way, where the pavements are the widest - they want to see two horses and jockeys in full gallop. At the bottom of the High Street they envisage an artist impression of the joy of finishing a race.

The idea is visitors will come to see the heritage museum and the race course and then they will want to come back to see the unique High Street.

It will be up to the retailers to upgrade their shops.

The group will propose losing the car parking on the south side for iconic statues.

LC stated that she liked the idea and asked about funding. RG did not think there would be a trouble finding the funding. Stakeholders and Chris Garibaldi, Director of the museum will help with the fund raising. LC stated that she would ask her officers to look at lottery funding. **Action:** BG to organise.

It was felt a good idea to use art, but LC asked about public buy in? RG said the group had received fabulous support from lots of people. Will run a survey the shops will have surveys for visitor comments. The Journal will also run articles. DR added that there were no negative comments during the workshops at the conference. WH suggested a public exhibition which could be held at the NTC. RG said he would like to have a room at the racecourse also and run presentations to race-goers. Jockey Club Rooms perhaps could have a room open to the public to see and hear about the project.

LC would like RC and DR to talk to the Transport Delivery Group. **Action:** LC will arrange for future meeting dates to be forwarded.

RH thought the project was outstanding and would like the presentation to be given to her Community Planning Delivery Group. **Action:** CR to advise dates.

LC, on behalf of the Steering Group gave the group her endorsement to take this concept forward.

4. Conference feedback

LW read out some feedback received from the Local Economy group as the conference was discussed at their meeting held on 25 September:

- "All agreed that it was overall a good day and very well attended which is pleasing.
- Would have benefitted from a summary from each chair of the respective Delivery Groups and Sub-Groups in the case of the TRLET Delivery Group.
- The networking time allocation was too short.
- Several felt that the venue was not fit for purpose – e.g. far too many people squashed into rooms for workshops, not enough space to walk and network around the display stands. There was a suggestion that the chairs could have been cleared after the initial speeches.
- Tattersalls would be happy to host another time, although a charge is likely.
- Tattersalls had offered free parking to guests, but it seems that nobody knew about this which was a shame.
- It was disappointing that the second half of the day (i.e. workshops) were not for the public (according to the agenda at least). If there is to be private business then this should be dealt with first with public

access to follow, rather than the other way around which caused difficulties.

- There is a hope that the conference will be repeated. The group felt that a year is too much time between conferences and 6-monthly would be better”.

The meeting accepted some valid comments for a future conference. RH suggested the delivery groups get together every six months rather than a conference. LW suggested an evening public meeting. LC thought perhaps a Saturday could be set aside for Young People to meet. RH stated it would be very difficult for racing people to meet on a Saturday, but potentially Mid November to end of February RH felt might be the quieter months. LC stated the group needed to target meetings to engage with as many sectors of the community as possible. All agreed.

The Steering Group were very impressed with how many people attended. CR stated that she had recorded 153 in attendance.

Numbers recorded for the workshops were:

What is a Business Improvement District	
Workshop 1	Workshop 2
17 attendees recorded	10 attendees recorded

What is a Neighbourhood Plan	
Workshop 1	Workshop 2
22 attendees recorded	7 attendees recorded

An Insight into Newmarket’s Horseracing Industry	
Workshop 1	Workshop 2
11 attendees recorded	9 attendees recorded

Public Are on the High Street	
Workshop 1	Workshop 2
6 attendees recorded	10 attendees recorded

Please note that these figures can only be used as an indication as not everyone signed in, but would ‘drop in’ to a workshop. The numbers do not include the speakers.

Action: RH asked CR to add ‘Lord Derby’s Political PR Consultant’ against the name of Rebekah Paczek, Snapdragon Consulting on the attendees list.

The Steering Group thought that Lilli Hines presentation should be available on the web site.

Thanks to FHDC Comms Team to all media work. It was recognised that RB spent a huge amount of time arranging the Market Place which went very smoothly.

Await more feedback from the different groups.

5. Update from Delivery Groups

Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group

A boards and signage enforcement is working.

Local Economic work with Newmarket District Chamber of Commerce, plus NED presentation to breakfast meeting coming up.

Tourism group has lots of ideas.

Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

Community Planning Delivery Group

- Last met on 15 September – unfortunately, only half of the members attended.
- RH was hopeful that the Public Estate visit to the old museum of all the different agencies would be progressed as all were quite positive about this venue.
- Lee Webster has sent a map through depicting affordable housing which will be shared with the Community Planning Delivery Group on 17 October.
- Studlands area – community lunch to take place on Saturday, 25 October.
- There was a discussion over the renaming of No. 1 Drain. The Steering Group said there were lots of issues that need resolving before re-naming;
 - Flood Management Group
 - To be clear on ownership:
 - SCC owns open area and Anglian Water owns covered areas.
 - Fly tipping prevention.
 - Maintenance and dredging.
 - Complicated issues with blockages and water flow.
- IB has written an update on the Neighbourhood Plan ready for the next NTC Council meeting.
- RF has been incredibly helpful with this work.
- A discussion on funding took place:
 - Funding enquiry and menu of bid – what NTC need, what is committed etc.
 - Alex Munro has supplied quote.
 - Two weeks lead time - RF and Marie Smith will be working on this.

Action: BG to follow this up.

Transport Delivery Group

LC stated the group were working to the action plan

- Railway discussions
- Bus routes / Voluntary buses (£25K per year cost) (Hadleigh had a free trial for six months).
- Horse walks have been agreed.
- Horse walks bollards have been replaced.

Education Delivery Group – LC to invite head teachers to get involved.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

Already discussed at item 5 Updates.

7. Branding Update

Steering Group agreed hands on clock face, race horse and jockey to be added to logo. Actual proofs to be ready for the next meeting. It was reported that unfortunately Rachael Wood was not happy that a competition had not been run. **Action:** LW to advise MH to progress with proofs.

8. Action Plan

The action plan is a living document and needs to demonstrate progress. Discussion on left turn only policy at Waitrose possible cause of congestion. BG supplied information directly following the meeting that professional advice from the Highways Authority is that it is the right solution given that Waitrose do not wish to provide a second entrance. BG felt the situation could be much improved if Waitrose could be persuaded to purchase the land required for a second entrance.

RH reported that Tesco's High Street store had been postponed to April/May 2015. S106 money on development of site, but build has been put on hold. Morrison's paid and gave a donation to the Bill Tutte memorial. No further building planned.

9. Studlands Park discussion update

No update available.

10. Any other business

A discussion on the High Street shop fronts took place. In particular it was felt the Bill Tutte memorial is spoilt by the backdrop being a red shop front of TKMax. TKMax gave funding towards the memorial. **Action:** RH to have initial informal talks with the manager for a more subtle approach as Mayoress.

Date and time of next meeting: 6 November at 9.30 am

Venue: Newmarket Town Council Offices.

Future Dates: 3 December, 2.30 pm **Action:** CR to look at next years dates.