**Newmarket Vision**

**Minutes of the**

**Town Centre/ Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group**

**10.00 a.m. - Friday, 28 March, 2014**

**held in Sir Ernest Cassel Room, Newmarket Town Council Offices**

**High Street, CB8 8P**

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Members Present:

Richard Fletcher,

Rachel Wood,

Jill Buckingham,

Sara Beckett,

David Bowman,

Warwick Hirst,

Noel Byrne,

Lorna Laycock,

Joanne Rogers,

Marion Green,

David Rippington,

Peter Hulbert,

John Morrey,

Sandra Easom,

Amy Starkey,

John Durrant,

Chris Garibaldi (until 11.11 a.m.)

Roz Howling,

Alison Hayes,

Boyd Nicholas,

Joy Uney,

Graham Abbey,

William Gittus,

Janet Ramsey-Helie

1. **Welcome** by Chair Noel Byrne
2. **Review of Minutes** from Friday 24th January 2014

Action Points from minutes

* Sarah Howard to be invited to a future meeting.
* Library of information ~ Information available on Forest Heath District Council web site Christine Rush is co-ordinating.
* Could there be a link on the Newmarket Town Council web site to provide the same information?
* Newmarket Experience included in group.
* Agreed Actions.
* Positioning of Tourist Information Office to be discussed later.
1. **Presentation by the four Sub Groups**

**3.1 Town Centre** Presentation by Jill Buckingham (copy attached).

* Followed by Discussion
* Funding in general for all agreed actions
* Re Section 106 monies this can only be used in line with what is in the Legal agreement between provider of S106 monies and FHDC
* Boyd Nicholas ~ FHDC has control over the funds only FHDC can say what they will give money for and what they will not allow. This will be done in discussion with and in agreement with all interested parties.
* William Gittus ~ Could this be utilized to progress the Shop Fronts Policy?
* Warwick Hirst/David Bowman ~ will have discussions with FHDC on priorities of assistance / man power/help etc. by next meeting.
* Concerns re funding will be addressed by the Vision Group.
* The Section 106 from Waitrose had been utilized but what of the Section 106 from The Premier Inn.
* The Mary Portas money of £10,000 must be driven by Retail and some of that had been spent although there are some ‘hiccups’ over expenditure which need resolving, the criteria for that spend is to benefit the High Street.
* The Morrisons and the Tescos 106 Monies will be presented at the next Meeting (WH).
* Guy Smith has previously stated that signage, which is an ongoing issue, should have been dealt with by now.
* Robert Feakes agreed that an audit of traffic regulation orders which included the repainting of restrictive lines should have been carried out by April ~ will provide an answer as to the delay and current position for next meeting.
* Christmas lights are a matter for Newmarket Town Council.
* Ramon Keeley had kindly contributed his time with no charge and had attended the walkabout. He could be consulted further and would be happy to present some idea to the Group but there would be a charge. (This will be discussed further when funding is known).

**3.2 RETAIL** Presentation by Marion Green

* Some members of this group went on a Town Walkabout.
* The biggest problem identified was that of signage. There has been plenty of talk but no action.
* Other problems identified.

3.2.1 Sat Nav does not recognise that there is NO RIGHT turn into Sun Lane from Palace Street and there are no signs to direct to the All Saints Car Park from Palace Street.

* Guy Smith is due to meet with the Retailers.

3.2.2 Rous Road Car Park should be Long Term especially with the HRM’s future close proximity.

3.2.3 When approaching Newmarket’s High Street all that is seen is parked cars.

* Parking should only be on one side of the High Street
* Control the number of cars waiting on the Taxi Rank.
* Closer monitoring of parking restrictions ~ the need for action by Police/Traffic Wardens.
	+ 1. Would like to create the same impression as the avenue being tree lined.

3.2.5 One member of the Retailers Association had voiced an idea for the High Street but as that member was not present Marion was reluctant to discuss further.

* With regard to 3.2.4 Richard Fletcher informed the group that previously Newmarket Town Council had investigated the possibility of planting trees (directly) in the High Street. A survey of the pavement area had been undertaken to verify unmapped services and it was deemed impossible. The possibility of putting trees in the existing planters was discussed in detail. The planters actually have a false bottom meaning that the existing planting is only to a depth of about one foot, the space below is empty.
* Warwick Hirst would consult with Newmarket Town Council for a way forward.
* Boyd Nicholas stated The High Street must be looked at as a whole.
* Noel Byrne ~ Transport Group will need to be consulted.
* The courtesy pedestrian crossing by the Clock Tower is a concern.
* There are many short cuts through Town, i.e The Bushell, Tindalls which need to be ‘shut off’ so pedestrians can be directed.
* There is no enforcement within the Town which is an overlap with the Traffic Group.
* Ramon Keely who had assisted the Town Centre Group would really need to work with not only the Town Centre Group but also Retail and Traffic.
* Richard Fletcher informed that two mature trees are to be planted in the Rutland Hill area as part of the Bill Tutte project.
	1. **LOCAL ECONOMY**

From the presentation (copy attached) issues were discussed:

* Incubation Space ~ retail group would need to be involved.
* Equine Hub ~ Planning Group would need to be involved Robert Feakes informed that a focus group for this has been planned for 30 April.
* Night Time Economy ~ a subject that had not been specifically highlighted was discussed in great detail.
* Enforcement of Licensing Laws is essential, in addition Newmarket has a Cumulative Impact Policy. David Bowman said that FHDC were making moves behind the scenes and talking to Government. Economy Group will discuss with Suffolk Constabulary (Inspector Rose specifically).
* Peter Hulbert expressed that there was little for 13-17 year old age group to do in Newmarket ~ this should be addressed by the Education Group.

**3.4 TOURISM** Presentation by Rachel Woods (copy attached).

Following discussion

* What is the future of the existing Horse Racing Museum on the High Street?
* William Gittus ~ It is owned by The Jockey Club and its future has not been decided.
* Noel Bryne ~ reported that having spoken to Elements (Cycle Shop) and they are interested in having a Hire facility.
* John Durrant ~ Tourism should involve local people not just visitors.
* Comparison made to Cambridge where 85-90% of tourists are day tourists
* Amy Starkey gave an overview of Newmarket Experience which will be incorporated within Tourism Group.
* Alison Hayes reported that Legends of the Turf had a very good response from the public via Newmarket Journal the first names have been selected and the first pavement slab should be laid in July to coincide with the July Festival.
* The Railway Station is a key action point for the Transport Group.
* Richard Fletcher ~ Bill Tutte Memorial ~ parking will cease on Rutland Hill in June. People who presently park perhaps should be reminded.
* Contractors will start work on 6th June 2014.
* Jerry Roberts who was due to be at the opening ceremony had sadly died but communication will be on going with his widow.
* It is important to prioritise the key things from the report that all groups are working from, i.e. Prince’s Foundation Final Report which has resulted in the Newmarket Vision) actions have to be actioned.
1. **Date of Next Meeting**
* It was agreed that meetings should be held monthly.
* Sub Groups must communicate!

The next meeting of the Delivery Group to be held on 9th May, 2014 at 10.00 a.m., in the Ernst Cassel Room at the Town Council Offices.