**NEWMARKET VISION**

**MINUTES OF**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING DELIVERY GROUP**

10:00 am Friday, 25 April, 2014

Held at the Council Chamber Offices, Newmarket Town Council

**Members present:**

Cllr Rachel Hood (Chair), NTC

Cllr Michael Jefferys, NTC

Cllr Rona Burt FHDC, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Transport

Neil Anthony, West Suffolk Leisure, Culture, Communities

Steven Wood, West Suffolk Head of Planning and Regulatory Services

Julian Wilson, Stud Farmers Association/NHG

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

Sara Beckett, Resident

Lee Webster, Development Project Manager**,** Flagship Housing Association

Quentin Cass, SCC, Property Transformation Manager,

Robert Feakes, SCC, Planning Officer (Policy), Planning and Development Team

Graeme Lockey, West Suffolk Principal Growth Officer

Christine Rush, FHDC minutes

1. **Apologies**

Apologies received from William Gittus Group Property Director and Managing Director of Jockey Club Estates Limited, Marie Smith, West Suffolk Planning Service Manager.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**

Amendment to the minutes at item 3.3 Neighbourhood Planning –

* 1. Process for Newmarket would be roughly as follows:
  2. Apply to ~~SCC~~ FHDC to be the Approved Body to produce the plan. Advertise for six weeks.

1. **Neighbourhood Planning**

MS and RF to investigate funding.

SW reiterated that

* If funding was obtained from the grants available FHDC would need to be the accountable body to apply through.
* He was very happy to support the view of working towards a plan.
* that a Neighbourhood Plan is community led planning and West Suffolk would support.
* suggested that a smaller group should be formed to progress the plan and decide how complex the plan needs to be; and
* concentrate on pertinent points of the plan.
* Town Council to look at the draft plan.

**Action**: SW mentioned that he has an external adviser and will copy previous advice received for a SEBC Neighbourhood Plan to the Chair for circulating.

1. **Planning enforcement**: This is seen as a problem by the group. SW understands and this is being looked at and will be sorted in time.

Enforcement of appropriate signage in the conservation area is another problem. RH advised that Boyd Nicholas is drafting a High Street/Conservation Signage Policy which will go to committee and there is to be a consultation late summer. **Action**: SW to advise on conservation area and enforcement etc. at the next meeting.

1. **Update of other Delivery Groups**

RH gave a brief update on the Education, Traffic/Highways and Town Centre/Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Groups.

Sandra Easom, a member of the Town Centre/Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group and the Tourism Sub-Group had circulated an email regarding Newmarket applying for a ‘Royal’ title. RH has agreed to get in contact with SE about it as this prospect had been looked into in the past.

**Action**: CR, with agreement from the Steering Group, to encourage other groups to supply a copy of their group’s minutes and to circulate them to the members of the Newmarket Community Planning Delivery Group. Supporting officers all agreed they were happy to visit the FHDC website for further information.

Link:

<http://www.forest-heath.gov.uk/info/100003/community_and_living/605/a_vision_for_newmarket>

1. **Additional priorities moved from the Traffic/Highways Group to the Community Planning Group as agreed by the Steering Group**

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|  | **Additional Priorities:** | **Action:** |
| **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)** | * **QC** to provide RH with contact details of Peter Cornellison of Go Wild. RH would be interested to receive Peter’s qualifications and background. * **RH** to invite Peter to the next meeting and an ecologist. (Note the ecologist will be on holiday at the time of the next meeting). |
| **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)** | Informal and formal play areas were discussed as provision and participation low in Newmarket. NA stated that he hoped to gain Sport England funding which would come through via SCC. SCC contact is Adam Baker. Although this funding would be for a wider vision provision, not just Newmarket.   * **NA** to invite Jon Smithson to a future meeting. * **NA** to provide an update on future provision on out door sports in the area – potentially on 23 June. |
| **4.15** | Explore strategies to enhance biodiversity and ecological corridors within the Town Centre linked into the wider landscape. **(moved from Traffic Group)** | Same action as 4.12. |

1. **Any Other Business**

QC raised the business of Public Access as Davina Howes, Head of Policy, Communications and Customers was leading on a project with SCC some time ago and there had been talk of resurrecting this piece of work – the meeting was not aware of this work and were very interested to learn more and agreed that this should become a future item on the agenda. MJ asked that two people should represent the Town Council if the project got underway.

**Action:** CR to note Public Access item for future agendas; Clair Harvey and QC will write a proposal / plan for this group to take to the Town Council and move forward together.

QC also spoke of a feasibility study of the Scaltback site and looking to move a community drop-in centre for learning disability; discussion re sale of Police Station premises and to raise awareness of the Library lease to expire in 2017.

LW gave a brief summary of his role at Flagship Housing Association and put in to perspective the assessed need for housing and the market need for housing. SW explained that the percentage of housing allocated to each category of need at the end of the day has to be a viable project for the developer. Flagship works with the authority to have informed knowledge of what the need is and to work towards supporting the needs for the community. To have a sustainable future for the community for the future.

**Action**: LW to provide a map of affordable housing stock location in Newmarket. Housing could be shared ownership, affordable housing, social rent and assisted care. Flagship has 22,000 houses within East Anglia. Presently with the help of some money from SCC, Flagship have a housing application in with East Cambs, but this will also benefit Newmarket.

1. **Future Meeting 2014 dates 10.00 a.m. at the Newmarket Town Council Offices:**

Thurs 15 May

Mon 23 June

Thurs 17 July

Thurs 21 August

Fri 19 September

Fri 17 October

Fri 21 November

Wed 17 December