

# **Minutes of the Newmarket Vision Community Planning Delivery Group**

held on 14 April, 2015 at 5:00pm  
Ernest Cassell Room, Memorial Hall Newmarket

**Present** Cllr Rachel Hood (Chair) who welcomed Richard Fletcher, Julian Wilson, John Durrant, Sara Beckett.

**Apologies** received from Christine Rush, Robert Feakes, Quentin Cass, Rachel Wood, Claire Elbrow, John Smithson, Kim Langley, Graeme Lockey and Cllr Michael Jefferys.

## **1. Review of minutes dated 19 February, 2015 and matters arising**

An email update had been provided by John Smithson

- **Open Spaces** - Grass pathways are being cut in the Guarded Orchard during the growing season. Ownership of redundant buildings and satellite dishes still unknown.
- JS will be meeting with Studlands Residents Association to seek their views on Public Open Space and will be fed into Consultation.
- Ownership of some areas along Number One Drain still not identified.
- JS has met with Jeff Horner (Flood defence) and agreed they would liaise over water course information that will go into plan.
- Update pending from Damien Parker re Playing pitch and built sports facility strategy.

**ACTION:** Richard Fletcher requested that JS provide an update about the "Ecological Corridor" and the possibility of undertaking small pieces of work that can be achieved if the initiative was taken to start this work without delay as discussed with JS at the last meeting.

An email update had been provided by Quentin Cass who advised that he would not be attending further meetings but would provide updates as required/requested.

- **Former middle school site at Scaltback** - the Sport and Leisure Consultancy are soon to report on the options for the site, looking at sustainable ways to maximise the sporting and community benefit from the site to Newmarket. It will also report on the ownership and management. The Rugby Club is central to the discussions but the challenge is to extend the community offer. QC states the report should be completed in the next four weeks (from 14 April 2015) and would be happy to present the findings and next steps, back to the group at the right time.
- **Town Centre Public Access Buildings** QC's assessment is that whilst partner's requirements remain the same as in 2014 when discussions took place together with a viewing of the current Horse Racing Museum in the High Street, QC felt that he had not been able to progress discussions further with the Jockey Club.
- SCC is looking at the possibility of some of the requirement being accommodated at Foley House and working on a proposal to relocate the Community Resource Unit from its current location at the former Magistrates Court to the old youth building on the Foley House site.
- SB and RH expressed surprise and concern about QC's apparent lack of response from the Jockey Club, was this the case, as it was felt they were keen to progress discussions about the feasibility of the use of the HRM as SB having attend the viewing of the Horseracing Museum reported that William Gittus was extremely accommodating and was willing to help to take

the proposal forward. It was discussed that the other site that might be considered is the TKMAXX building owned by FHDC. SB reported that at the Newmarket Town Council meeting of 23 February 2015 the Police report by Inspector Rose stated Suffolk Constabulary were now considering retaining the building in Vicarage Road perhaps for their own use and were considering their options

An email update had been provided by Robert Feakes.

- RF reported that he had circulated the IDB (Internal Drainage Board) Boundaries which shows that Newmarket is not within an IDB and why Ely are not particularly concerned with any proposals we might have for the Number One Drain.
- The Newmarket Surface Water Management Plan is not quite complete but may be for the May meeting.

**2. Affordable Housing** - no further update provided.

### **3. Updates from other Groups**

- SB commenced an update from the Tourism Sub Group of TRET (Town Centre/Retail/Local Economy/Tourism) which had submitted a detailed report at the last meeting 17 April 2015 which will be available on the Newmarket Vision web site and the e-newsletter is a good source of updates from all groups that submit minutes.
- The Town Centre Sub Group of TRET together with Cllr Hirst, Town Clerk, Fiona Unwin from Rubbish Friends, Rachel Wood had a good meeting with Mark Walsh Head of Operation Waste Management.
- The groups concerns of litter, enhancing the cleanliness, schedules of cleaning with the Town Council/District Council and enforcement in Newmarket together with idea of introducing an education programme.
- The Group and Mr Walsh discussed the possibility of a Town Ranger/Keeper who would wear many hats including one of Enforcement as from a recent job description of Knutsford Town Council. (RF said it would be good to have someone available and recognisable in the Town to undertake this role).
- The B.I.D may recognise this as a need for the Town but the Town Centre Group will continue with the challenge that litter provokes.
- An article had been in the Journal about the problems of litter and how some voluntary groups dealt with it and SB's mobile number had been a point of contact for anyone interested in helping form a group, unfortunately this had received a nil response.
- It was hoped that NTC and West Suffolk would integrate a schedule that would deal with the identified hot spots in Newmarket.
- SB reported that contact had been made with the Retail Group of TRET.
- ..... at this point the Town Clerk attended the meeting in readiness for the Neighbourhood Plan meeting so further updates were curtailed.

**4. Next Meeting:** Thursday, 21 May 2015 at 10:00am.