

Minutes of the Newmarket Vision Community Planning Delivery Group

held on Thursday, 25 June at 10.00am
Council Chamber, Newmarket Town Council

Present:

CLlr Rachel Hood (Chair)
Julian Wilson
John Smithson
Robert Feakes

Sara Beckett
Christine Rush
Rachel Wood
Graeme Lockey

Apologies received from William Gittus, Michael Jefferys, Richard Fletcher, Claire Elbrow, Michael Robinson, Marie Smith, Kim Langley, Lee Webster and Andrew Burton.

1. Review of minutes dated 21 May, 2015 and matters arising

The minutes were agreed as correct.

Open Spaces

- The redundant buildings, near Studland, JS reported that he has arranged for these to be demolished and the electricity to be sorted.
- **Funding for GoWild:** CAR received email note from MR: MR mentioned at the last meeting that he had a contact - Kevin Hancock who is a member of the Newmarket Festival Committee which supports local endeavours. He is also Managing Director of Yutree Insurance Brokers. At a previous meeting there was discussion around GoWild not being able to afford Liability Insurance. Kevin advised MR that the best way of dealing with this is for GoWild to download, complete and return a beneficiaries application form: <http://www.thenewmarketfestival.co.uk/aims-objectives.html>
- Also MR mentioned Newmarket Rotary Club might be a good way forward. They have four committees and among them and one that supports activities involving young people. David Henderson on 01284 810785 is this years president and the club meets weekly at the Heath Court Hotel. The General Manager, Robert Nobbs, is also a member.
- JS has passed funding details to GoWild and it is now up to them to apply.
- **Flood Defence:** RF reported that the draft Surface Water Management Plan is currently with partners for checking. RF reiterated that the plan includes various options, as Jeff Horner had spoken about when he attended 23 January 2015 meeting. Newmarket has 12 priorities. Newmarket Flood Group will look at these options.
- Newmarket Flood Group is made up of representatives from Anglia Water, Jockey Club, NFU, Warwick Hirst, Magnus Magnusson and others.
- The Meeting were concerned how the options would be interpreted and taken forward in the best way.
- Therefore it was felt that a member of the NV Community Planning Delivery Group should sit on the Newmarket Flood Group. RH nominated Julian Wilson and the meeting unanimously agreed. **Action:** RF to check the governance arrangements and will advise dates of meetings and if JW allowed to join. **Action:** RF will send CAR a note for circulation when report becomes available / published.

- JS reiterated that he and Jeff Horner have discussed landscape and ecology for a joined up approach and recognise each other's work.
- RH wanted it noted that the NV Community Planning Delivery Group was hopeful that the aim of the reservoir scheme is taken forward in the long term. Water course discussion then ensued regarding future opportunities with the flood defence plan – short term and medium plan goals linked to availability of funding.
- JS said the reservoir will improve the flow, improving air in the water which will minimize smell and will be aesthetically pleasing.
- RW reported that she remembered reading that Boots had been build over a natural stream. Opportunities of opening up some of these covered over areas could be transformed and made interesting and link in with the No. 1 Drain walk. Nell Gwynne's tunnels were mentioned also.
- **Actions:** RH will speak with Rachael Almond, West Suffolk Councils' Planning - Development Service Manager with regards to future planning and to give a picture of the groups aims and activities. GL will brief Steven Wood.
- **Management Plan - Draft Press Release:** JS circulated the draft and a discussion took place. **Action:** RW will ask Sandra Easom to check historical detail mentioned in the draft. A conversation over the reason for the locally known name of 'Yellow Brick Road' took place. Alison Hayes may be a good source for a definitive answer. **Actions:** RW to liaise with Alison. JS to rewrite draft press release taking on board the various comments. JS will include a quote from RH. Details of the approved press release can be added to the e-Newsletter, when complete.
- **Action:** RW to invite Sandra Easom to join the Delivery Group on the walk 27 July. It was agreed to meet outside ThingMeBobs, in the High Street at 10.00 a.m.
- **BMX Track:** JS has been approached by some BMX enthusiasts who want to reinstate use of the track. JS stated the track was opened in 2008 by FHDC, so funding must have been obtained at the time, but for whatever reason fell into disrepair and neglect. JS has agreed in the short term to support this new group, as they are so keen to get on. They have valid use of area and will have to be added into the Management Plan that JS is working on. Area is potentially not quite an acre in size, detail to be looked at and added to plan – so will cover the Orchard / BMX and wasteland / open space and potential wildlife meadow leading up to No. 1 Drain. JS to encourage both groups. They both would like storage, so could have joint storage. The BMX track / circuit is a dirt track only, not high maintenance. There are three separate runs at three levels – easy for beginners, normal – medium run and hard which would be a more difficult track for experienced riders. Sports consultants 4 Global should pick this up with their sports audit of the area.
- **Newmarket Sports Audit:** GL to ask Damien Parker to provide an update.
- GL supplied a note shortly after the meeting that the position is that the consultants are in the final stages of their audit across the whole of West Suffolk. Their work will then be used to put together a Strategy (for West Suffolk) that will hopefully go before both Councils for Member approval sometime in September.

- **Natural Walking Group:** There was a discussion about a natural walking group, RW like this idea and could be used and promoted alongside Tourism. JS stated it could be a 'linear park' (a park in an urban or suburban setting that is substantially longer than it is wide).

Town Centre Public Access Buildings

Actions:

- RF to ask QC for an update.
- RH to speak with Tim Passmore, Lisa Chambers and Inspector Alistair Torkington, who has replaced Inspector Rose (Alistair.Torkington@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)
- RW to speak with Library regarding options.
- RF will talk to SCC Library Officer.

2. **Affordable Housing** - A request for the Housing Officer to provide updates on
 - Homelessness figures
 - What properties are available in the area
 - Who owns them
 - Empty Homes

GL mentioned the closure of the RAF Base at Mildenhall and hopefully a decision will be available in late September regarding the use of this space. Also in July there is to be a Public Consultation – single issue review and site allocations by the Local Plan Working Group.

3. **Any Other Business**

- The Chair RH, requests that Marie Smith attends the next meeting.
- St Felix discussed / primary school/ SCC has duty to get rid of the site for the best possible use.
- Date of the next Equine Hub Focus Group is confirmed as Friday, 7 August.
- Newmarket Town Council has announced that following a co-option process, Mr David Wright has been co-opted as a Town Councillor to represent the Studlands Ward on the Town Council. David Wright has stood down as Chair of the Studlands Residents Association. Michael Anderson will continue with Studlands.

4. **Next Meeting of the NV Community Planning Delivery Group:**

27th July the meeting will commence at 10.00am from ThingMeBobs on the High Street for a '*walk and talk with John Smithson*' along what is currently known as the Yellow Brick Road. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing.

The NV Community Planning Delivery Group will return to the Town Council offices to complete normal business.