

**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision
Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group
held at 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 4th September, 2015 at the Newmarket
Town Council Offices**

Those Present:

Noel Byrne, Chairman (NB)	Peter Hulbert (PH)	Boyd Nicholas (BN)
Cllr David Bowman (DB)	Diane Robertshaw (DR)	Rachel Wood (RW)
Warwick Hirst (WH)	Julie Eden (JE)	Chris Garibaldi (CG)
Jason Newell (JN)	Graeme Locky (GL)	Christine Rush, (CAR) Minutes
Sara Beckett (SB)	(representing Jon Miles)	

Apologies received:

William Gittus	Jill Buckingham
John Morrey	Liz Watts
Richard Fletcher	Jonathan Miles

1. Minutes of the last meeting 12th June, 2015

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

2. Review of actions

A review of the actions from the last meeting took place:

- **Next Newmarket Vision Conference:** WH will take this to the next meeting, as not appropriate to discuss at yesterday's meeting as it was the first meeting since change of membership and more organisational details of the steering group discussed.
- TRET Delivery Group would like a get together of all NV Groups not necessarily an open conference to public.
- Information on the work of Newmarket Vision can be found at:
 - The link to the Newmarket Vision page on Forest Heath District Council's 'West Suffolk Councils' website is:
http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/council/policies_strategies_and_plans/newmarketvision.cfm?aud=council
 - The eNewsletter is circulated regularly and copies can be found on the above mentioned website also.
- NB proposed a meeting of all groups early next year – Feb/March.
- It was also mentioned that the local paper has offered to write an article if required in the future.

ACTION: WH will take this suggestion forward to the NV Steering Group on 24th September.

- **The High Street Project:** Draft minutes of the last meeting were circulated which included a link of the Haverhill Masterplan. Members of the meeting were asked to have a look at the link and forward any ideas for Newmarket to either NB or CAR. Unfortunately no suggestions received. However it has been agreed that a working group be set up to look at and take forward the holistic design for the High Street. A few nominations for the working group had been received prior to the meeting:
 - The Tourism Group have nominated Chris Garibaldi;

- The Retailers have nominated Julie Eden and Jill Buckingham;
(*amended after circulation*).
 - The TRET Group this morning nominated Di Robertshaw and Sara Beckett;
 - FHDC Planning will be represented by Boyd Nicholas;
 - SCC will be represented by Robert Feakes and Suzanne Buck.
 - Need a member of the Newmarket Neighbourhood Steering Group to be nominated.
- Cllr Bowman was very pleased to announce that the Underground Survey had been completed. NB was very pleased to hear this and stated there is no reason not to go forward with writing the brief for this project now that the group is in possession of the completed survey.
 - When written, a copy of the brief should be formerly presented to the NV Steering Group.
 - **Newmarket Market:** DB mentioned that RF had emailed and wanted to express his concern over the proposed move of the market and if other members agreed that the views of the meeting should be conveyed to Newmarket Town Council.
 - DB went on to say that he thought the market should move as the improved position should increase footfall into town, with a proviso that if it doesn't work, the market can be moved back.
 - There were several views in the meeting against the move, i.e.
 - the proposed new site is too near where the buses are coming in – so could be dangerous,
 - seen as difficult for wheelchair users,
 - Market Square called this for a reason and is the centre of town,
 - market needs closing and re-inventing.
 - DB stated that there are lot of new stall holders keen to come to the new site.
 - DR stated that the Retailers Association were unsure about the new site.
 - Also in the past new stall holders have been driven off by attitude of original traders.
 - JE referred to Norwich Market that has static units that were lockable and asked if this would be a good idea / could use static units for craft and food fairs.
 - PH and JE reminded the meeting that the stall holders time keeping wasn't consistent.
 - DB also reminded the meeting that the new market regulations would deal with behaviours and time restrictions would be in place.
 - DB said there is a thought that stalls could be purchased and rented out.
 - JN said unfortunately there is nothing in Newmarket to draw new blood. Other local towns have good major branded shops – draw these in and market will improve naturally.
 - GL stated that from an economic point of view, realistically 'on-line' shopping has affected local shops everywhere. Major brands look at population figures and Newmarket is too small and FHDC has tried for a number of years to bring them in.
 - DR agree re shops in town, but BID should help to bring them in. However, only four businesses turned up for a recent BID meeting which was widely communicated. Business Plan and Action Plan will be circulated.

- NB stated that with regards to businesses not attending meetings, you need to go to Head Offices to speak and understand why the local branch does not attend meetings, there is a need to be proactive.
- NB did say however, that Newmarket has one of the lowest vacancies around, it is just unfortunate that they are all in the town centre.

3. Specific Actions of the four sub groups

- **Tourism Sub Group**

DR spoke about the Newmarket Sausage competition aimed at artisan butchers, although some do not want to compete as afraid to lose their status.

NB asked RW to send the recipe of the 'Newmarket Cake' for his pastry chef; CG stated he was already selling the cake in the Museum!

Music Festival - accomplished.

Cycle routes between Bury and Newmarket and Cambridge and Newmarket: NB asked if the sub group had looked at the cycle routes? RW would like to take this forward, but did not think she was the right person. BN wasn't able to help. WH will chat with RW and give her some ideas as to who may be interested in taking this on. There followed a discussion on a route that Bill Tutte was using which is half closed and the merits of using disused railway lines.

- **Town Centre Sub Group**

SB spoke of the Heritage Lottery Townscape Scheme that required an initial enquiry form and full first stage application to be submitted by the end of August.

Due to time constraints this has not been possible, but will be prepared for the next application deadline in 2016.

Seek clarification from LW regarding advancing a design brief / masterplan for the High Street. Please note that subsequently LW has asked BN to set up a meeting and lead on this. **Action BN.**

- **Retailers Sub Group**

DR reiterated the group working hard on the BID process. GL stated that Boots and Boots Optician have approached FHDC to talk about the BID. GL is happy to have 1:1 chats with businesses. If anyone knows any more businesses that would also like a personal visit, please advise and GL will oblige.

RW and DR to get together for the historical information that needs adding to the proposed furlong posts.

- **Local Economy Sub Group**

DB to send last minutes to CAR for distribution with these minutes, but the main thing is the underground survey has been done.

4. Alcohol Free Zones

NB has received a request from a resident as felt the High Street is too volatile due to alcohol. A discussion on an alcohol free zone in the High Street and points raised:

- Who is going to police it? We have designated areas already.
- Move from the High Street and it will just go elsewhere.
- Local public houses have furniture on the pavement.
- Gatherings in the Market Square and outside Ladbrokes are problem areas.
- Urination in doorways is also a problem.
- Want the same as Bury St Edmunds.

JE stated that unless a person is causing a nuisance, then the Police can confiscate the alcohol. Police have no power to move people on, unless causing a nuisance.

SB stated that Ipswich are not selling high alcohol content in off licence outlets.

Additional information: Please note subsequently after the meeting this has been followed up: The Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) already in place, (went live in June 2014) and has since been replaced by the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. PSPOs can be used to restrict the drinking of alcohol in a public space where this has or is likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life on those in the locality, be persistent or continuing in nature, and unreasonable. Designated area map attached. Tom Wright, Business Regulation and Licensing Manager will raise above points at the next Night Time Economy meeting which is due to meet before the end of September.

This link provides a bit more information in relation to alcohol:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/248753/01_DRUNKEN_BEHAVIOUR_IN_PUBLIC_PLACES_WEB.PDF

5. The Underground Survey

As mentioned in 2. Review of actions, and sub group update the underground survey is complete. DB had bought a hard copy to the meeting and was very pleased to invite use of the information gathered for other groups if they needed for their actions. JE would like a copy of Sun Lane area. NB mentioned that the statues were on hold until further notice but urged the subgroups to make good use of this information now we have it. NB suggested that Ramon Keeley would need a copy to work up his brief with the working party. SB will send to RK. RW asked for a copy. **Action** DB will arrange - particular areas can be honed in by an officer at FHDC.

6. Shop Front Policy

BN advised the group that the policy is not quite ready yet. However BN will advise when a link is available on the West Suffolk Council's website. (Only 200 hard copies will be printed and not available for wider distribution.)

7. Enhancement of the High Street

High Street project already covered in item 2. CG mentioned on 14 October the Traffic / Highways Sub-Group are to meet to discuss the signage survey and car park survey. NB is hopeful to have some information for the next meeting.

Additional information: Subsequently after the meeting LW was able to advise that the car parking signage is being led by the Traffic / Highways Group and the Tourism Group is being consulted at their meeting of 21 September. Also Darren Dixon, FHDC Car Parks Manager stated SCC had mentioned that their intention to

take the final draft for car park signage to the Newmarket Vision Traffic/Highways Delivery Sub-Group in October and subject to agreement and funding, the aim is to have the signs in place by the spring.

8. Any Other Business

NB mentioned the Local Plan Consultations that will be taking place in September:

- Friday, 11th - Core Strategy Single Issue Review and Site Allocations Local Plan workshops being held at Newmarket Town Council at 10am - 1pm (all NV Delivery Groups have been invited to come along);
- Tuesday, 15th - Exhibition Event at Severals at 4pm - 7pm;
- Saturday, 19th - Newmarket Market at 10am - 1pm.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

Friday, 6 November, 10.00 am.

Newmarket Town Council, Council Chamber.