

**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision
Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group
held at 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 6th November, 2015 at the Newmarket
Town Council Offices**

Those Present:

Noel Byrne, Chairman (NB)	Julie Eden (JE)	Alison Hayes (AH)
Cllr David Bowman (DB)	Jonathan Miles (JM)	John Smithson (JS)
Warwick Hirst (WH)	Rachel Wood (RW)	Christine Rush, (CAR) Minutes
Sara Beckett (SB)	Richard Fletcher (RF)	
Peter Hulbert (PH)	Michael Jefferys (MJ)	

Apologies received:

William Gittus	Boyd Nicholas
John Morrey	Jill Buckingham
Amy Starkey	Chris Garibaldi
Diane Robertshaw	

1. Welcome and Minutes of the last meeting 4 September, 2015

NB welcomed a couple of new members to the group, everyone introduced themselves. 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/ meeting of all NV groups:** WH reported that this will be discussed at the next steering group meeting on 19 November, but potentially end Jan/early Feb had been suggested as potential time for a get together.
- **The High Street Project:** NB reviewed the draft notes that BN had supplied prior to the meeting, points discussed were:
 - The area boundary.
 - Guidance and best practice for reference - link circulated and to be discussed at next meeting.
 - Funding and tender process and possibility of Tesco and Morrison Section 106 money; other sources maybe Heritage Lottery Fund Townscape Heritage Initiative, and Newmarket Town Council.
 - Membership of Project Group – non officer member from the transport group to be requested.
 - Governance of the group and who would the project group report to.

The TRET members agreed that the High Street Design Project Group should report to this group, the Newmarket Vision Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group. Any relative points to be passed to the Traffic/Highways Del. Grp.

This has been agreed by the Chair of the NV Steering Group.

- **Newmarket Market**

RF asked if there was a conclusion to all that had been discussed at the last meeting. DB reported that all views had been taken on board and the market was not moving to the front of the Guineas.

- **Retailers Sub Group**

JE reported that DR and RW are still to arrange a meeting to discuss the historical information that needs adding to the proposed furlong posts.

ACTION: JE to report back at the next meeting.

- **Alcohol Free Zone**

Tom Wright, Business Regulation and Licensing Manager for FHDC sent an update to NB which advised that the representatives of the Night Time Economy (NTE) Group discussed the matter and the opinion of the group is that there isn't a problem in Newmarket, i.e. little evidence to support otherwise the perceived problems claimed by a Newmarket resident as reported to the NV TRET Delivery Group.

The Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) for Newmarket, as with any other in West Suffolk, will remain in place for the next three years. However, these will need to be changed to a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) before the end of this time due to the changes to the anti-social legislation. Helen Lindfield, Families and Communities Officer, FHDC is to liaise with relevant Police Sergeants and Inspectors to ensure that any DPPO's currently in place are still fit for purpose, as part of the NTE Group.

- **Underground Survey**

DB has not received any requests to see / use the information of the underground survey but they are available when needed.

- **Car Park Signage** – NB stated he thought there was link to Tourism signs – DB agreed that all needs looking at together.

3. **Green Corridor Presentation** from John Smithson, FHDC

NB explained the NV Steering Group chair, SCC Councillor Sarah Stamp had approached NB to take on this project which the NV Community Planning Delivery Group had successfully nurtured from the Princes Foundation priority list over the last year, and had agreed that the project would sit very well with the Tourism Sub Group and their work. NB introduced John Smithson, Parks Operations Manager from FHDC to the group.

JS gave a presentation on the Green Corridor alias the Yellow Brick Road or Number One Drain. JS has asked various members of the community, and no one has a definitive answer as to the proper name. JS was initially asked to get involved to look at the ecology for Newmarket and was asked to do an audit of the area, what was significant and what wasn't to the community. JS decided to write a management plan of the area. Recording what is there, what is best for the future. Researching who owns various areas along the green corridor and consulting and working with partners, local groups such as GoWild who have been involved with voluntary work such as clearing the Guarded Orchard and various areas; replanting; encouraging wild life; BMX cycle track is being used again by a group of various ages. JS stated that consultation forms the basis of the management plan.

JS explained survey work and issues to resolve are:

- Interpretation and signage
- Street furniture
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Flood Defence

- Biodiversity
- Landscape maintenance
- Recreation
- Connectivity
- Pollution

The path in question starts from Exeter Road, as a cycle route (route 51) to Hyperion Way; meanders over various bridges and links to other spaces, such as Tregonwell Green, George Lambton Playing Field, St Felix Meadows and Mill Reef Wood; is 1.7 miles long which is traffic free. The path is semi natural for wildlife, has existing and potential play and recreational value.

SB stated that JS has been inspirational for pulling this management plan all together and taking this forward.

MJ is very keen to see this project happen, feels very passionate about it and agreed with NB's suggestion that MJ would be happy to project manage. Members of the meeting agreed. JS said it would be very useful to have MJ on board.

JS will continue to write up the plan whilst in discussions with the various agencies and partners. JS stated that as Parks Manager he can instigate his management plan, so no fear of JS not carrying the project through. Processes, interpretation takes time and this group is important to the management plan and welcomes MJ's commitment to the project.

Funding – JS has some funding that can be used and can seek more from other partners. NB stated that Tesco's had asked him three times for any community projects to fund and manage. NB suggested that perhaps certain aspects of the Yellow Brick Road could be of interest to Tesco's.

RF mentioned that some time ago when he was involved in the very early vision work, there was talk about grassing over the culvert by the laundry / entrance to the Green Corridor and Anglian Water said they would match fund work to help the area look more welcome. Whether this would still be available now or not would have to be looked into. RF said that if it was a small project of its own, a small step to the mammoth task ahead.

JS stated that FHDC does not own this part, but could add into the project plan as a priority. SCC would have to be consulted, as part of the flood defence. Pollution, however would just be moved further along the water course.

NB added that perhaps a way forward is for local businesses to sponsor the bridges to enhance the area.

PH asked what happens when a tree falls in the water course? JS replied that as soon as problem reported this can be sorted out quite quickly. JS stated that no one has taken responsibility for this area for such a long time, but with his management plan it will work, and this winter you will see a difference.

WH stated that Anglian Water owns the culvert and have spent money on dredging.

JS talked the members through his presentation from bridge 3 to bridge 19. Each bridge and its surrounding area has been documented thoroughly. JS

last two slides were of a couple of drawings showing his interpretation of the walk and how it could look.

JS also mentioned that SCC Guy Smith has a contractor that regularly inspects this route and regularly clears on a monthly basis. However, please let JS or Guy Smith know if this is not happening.

ACTION: JS and MJ to meet on 11 November at West Suffolk House to discuss some actions that can be considered for the next meeting, including the approach to Tesco's and the Water Authority'

NB thanked JS for giving the presentation and stated that it was an interesting project which the local community can take pride in an area in the near future rather than a dumping ground like it is at present.

4. Specific Actions of the four sub groups

- **Retailers Sub Group**

JE stated work continues with the BID. There is a BID meeting in January. Task groups have contacted 240 businesses with another 240 to be seen. NB added there will be a postal vote over four weeks late February. Based on the vote to go with BID or not - a Board will have to be put together part time or full time to manage. There must be a definitive business plan to benefit the town.

- **Town Centre Sub Group**

SB reported that the signage and car parking went to committee at the end of October. Retail and Tourism Sub Groups working closely together and a member each on the High Street Project Working Group with NB.

DB stated car park ongoing and signage not quite right as yet as it wasn't 'joined up' so not finalised as yet.

ACTION: DB to give a carpark and signage update at the next meeting.

- **Tourism Sub Group**

The notes of the meeting dated 13 October, 2015 were circulated with the agenda.

RW gave a quick review of those notes. However RW requested assistance with the Cycle Route. NB commented that Councillor Robin Millar would probably be able to assist with routes around Newmarket and outside of the town. RW aware this is a big project and would really like someone with time to take it on.

ACTION: NB will take on and will co-op WH, Councillor Robin Millar and BN as a starting point with the Cycle Route Project.

Rail Service Upgrades – RW stated that she had not heard anything back from CG. The meeting understands that CG has heavy business commitments currently.

WH stated that £90K had been spent – AH has reported in newspapers. NB commented that there are times when Tattersalls car park is under used. WH stated there are no half hourly services, but potentially a project in the future. WH explained there are problems as they need

overhead cables and would need two tracks. Perhaps a new franchise would sway Abellio.

ACTION: WH to give Abellio feed back at the next meeting.

RW talked of the group's idea to have quarterly heritage awards, under the umbrella of NTC and run by the Tourism Sub Group. The members of the group thought that annually rather than quarterly may be sufficient. JE stated small businesses may find quarterly appealing. So it was potentially agreed to start off quarterly and vote at the end of the first year on frequency.

RW has looked at the leaflets in the tourist office as she was thinking that Newmarket should have a branded leaflet – how could we sell our town? JE stated that Cambridge has these. JM stated that Bury St Edmunds is doing the same.

Everyone liked the suggestion for the nomination for the best taxi driver.

ACTION: Dave Bowman to talk to Steven Wood Head of Planning and Regulatory Services, as Licencing comes under Steven's remit for his views.

RW mentioned that the Tourism Group were revamping the Horseshoe trail.

ACTION: RW to send an electronic copy of the Horseshoe trail to JS.

- **Local Economy Sub Group**

DB advised that the group were focusing on actions. Visitors invited to discuss Information Start Up Packs.

NB stated that a major brand wanted to create a mini development, but nothing was taken forward by FHDC.

ACTION: DB/JM to look further into this statement.

5. Any Other Business

NB stated that there were concerns with the Shop Front Policy not being enforced. NB was very pleased to report that Pandora are coming in to the town. A discussion followed on change of use, if same retail, what are the guidelines? Is planning permission required to change signs? Thingmebobs did not structurally change anything.

ACTION: DB to report back on the Shop Front Policy

6. Date of the Next Meeting

Friday, 22 January, 2016 at 10.00 am.
Newmarket Town Council, Council Chamber.