

**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision
Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group
held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 27 June, 2016 at the Newmarket Town
Council Offices**

Those Present:

Richard Goss Chairman
Sara Beckett
Jill Buckingham

Richard Fletcher
Julie Eden
Warwick Hirst
Peter Hulbert

Jonathan Miles
John Smithson
Christine Rush, Minutes

Apologies received:

Cllr David Bowman
Michael Jefferys

William Gittus
Chris Garibaldi

Rachel Wood
Di Robertshaw

1. Welcome and Minutes of the last meeting 20 May 2016

The last minutes were reviewed and were agreed as correct.

Matters arising:

Directional Signs - the signs coming off the A14 and A11 and then the 'easy to follow' parking signs for visitors coming into Newmarket- WH stated that it is a SCC scheme headed up by Guy Smith. The updating of the signs paid for by retailers/businesses are in the Town Council's 'to do' list along with the pedestrian signs.

Green Corridor - JS circulated a further copy of the draft questionnaire for Public Consultation, unfortunately JS did not receive comments back from MJ. See update notes at item 3.

2. Coach Parking in Newmarket

RG stated that MJ had raised the question on Coach Parking at the last meeting, and no one had knowledge on this. RG mentioned that CR had asked the question to:

- Darren Dixon, Car Parks Manager who had stated there are no coach parking bays in the FHDC car parks
- Chris Garibaldi who had stated that there is Coach parking for the new National Heritage Centre. There is coach parking on site for a minimum of five coaches at any one time in the paddocks (and potentially a further three). If this proves insufficient arrangements can be made for a drop off at the National Heritage Centre and extra parking elsewhere – tbc as part of the museum's contingency planning.

The meeting discussed a few parking options with drop off in the High Street:

- In the Railway car park, permission would have to be sought from Tattersalls and would not be convenient on sale days.
- George Lampton play fields, although this was swiftly discounted as there is a height restriction bar in place.
- Tesco's – which used to run a park and ride scheme. JM will contact Tesco's to see if arrangements can be made.

3. Green Corridor

JS reviewed the draft questionnaire for Public Consultation with the group, taking on board valid points made adding:

- Q1: Main thorough fare/commuting route
Visit shops (Tesco's)
- Q2: Cycle Path
- Q3: Reword question – 'Which is your favourite green open space in Newmarket...'
- Q4: Give tick box options of likely improvements to aid the participant.
Include 'maintain' as a tick box.
- Q5: Check numbering sequence.

JS will be sampling during the summer holidays, working days and weekends to cover the different users to understand why and how people use the site, how they feel about it and to understand what improvements people would like to see in the future. JS needs the evidence to add to his management plan.

Lighting along the path was suggested by a few members of the meeting, as apparently the path is only partially lit. Perhaps could tie in with opening hours of Tesco's. PH suggested a camera would make people feel safer.

JS stated that three contractors had been approached to design bespoke iron, metal work feature piece for the entrance of the Green Corridor. They have been given a £10K budget (£106k money) to see what ideas they come up with to make the area more inviting.

JS reported that the top end of Studlands where the BMX track is has been fenced off for users of the track as they now have a much higher ramp for experienced riders to use and was seen as a high risk to leave it open.

The balancing pond (Willy Snaith location) currently a fenced off area, however it is an interesting piece of wetland, a high natural habitat, but cannot be accessed due to health and safety. JS is looking into how this can be managed and be a more accessible feature. There is lots of vegetation and the public may not realise there is water beneath; it may be that a portion of vegetation is cleared so that the water is visible – JS needs to find the best management solution.

At the last meeting the issue of flooding was discussed again. JS said the experts who belong to the flood prevention group are discussing potentially changing the contour of the land. It is not just silt that is the problem. Dredging is not always the answer. We will have to rely on SCC for their part.

4. Specific Actions of the sub groups

Retailers Sub Group – JE reported that Robert Nobbs and Amy Starkey have been working on the trees in the High Street project. The cost is £5K for trees, compost, man hours and metal work for tubs. Drainage of the tubs and support posts for trees are needed. Originally the BID were going to fund, but as this is part of the High Street the sub group felt that funding should be sought from the Steering Group.

Action: RG to put in a request for funding to the NV Steering Group.

SB was concerned that the Town Council were aware of the maintenance that goes with the trees. JE stated SCC are aware that there is a need to move

three tubs so as not to obscure the traffic lights and traffic sight lines and has the agreement of the Town Council Parks for the care of the trees.

Free car parking four weeks leading up to Christmas: JE stated that Darren Dixon, the FHDC Car Parks Manager has been given notice, but don't know the decision.

Action: JE to take back to the Retailers Sub Group for a follow-up.

Town Centre Sub Group / High Street Project working group – JB reported that BN still working on estimates for tenders. BN seeking professional advice as the three tenders received were all so very different, it was difficult to access fairly. Bring forward item to agenda in September. A request that BN attends the next meeting with positive information on moving forward.

Action: CR to B/F item.

Action: JB to request BN circulate a note giving update, as the group are concerned this project seems to be losing momentum.

Tourism Sub Group – SB reported the official Town Guide is with the Local Authority Publishing company (and stressed nothing to do with the Local Authority). All pages mapped out, leaving some space for pictures etc. The proof will go to the July meeting of the Town Council for final agreement. SB stated that RW had given up a lot of her own time to sorting this guide and put a lot of effort into the production of the map with the inclusion of the Green Corridor and would like £500 in recognition for this. RG asked if the production costs were being covered by the advertisements, which SB thought they were, but will double check before RG attends the next Steering Group meeting on 11 July.

Action: SB to confirm to RG production costs met by advertisements.

- July Music Festival – programmes available and going well.
- Heritage Business Awards – three businesses have been selected. Newmarket Journal will present award in Autumn.
- Champion Award idea – detail still being worked on.

Local Economy Sub Group - JM stated only three people attended the last meeting, so unfortunately not much to report. JM has a one page plan and three aims of the sub group.

Action: JM will arrange to circulate the one page plan and three aims.

5. Newmarket Vision Promotion Opportunities

RG would really like to promote the work of the NV groups. RG happy to liaise with AH Newmarket Journal.

Action: RG to raise with the Steering Group.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Date of the Next Meeting

Monday, 5 September, 2016 at 10.00 am.
Newmarket Town Council.