

**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision
Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group
held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 12 June, 2017 at the Newmarket Town
Council Offices**

Those Present:

Richard Goss, Chairman	Chris Garibaldi	John Smithson
Christine Rush	Warwick Hirst	Jon Miles
Julie Eden	Richard Fletcher	Rachel Wood
Peter Hulbert	Graham Philpot	Alison Hayes
Michael Jefferys	Sara Beckett	

Apologies received:

William Gittus	Jill Buckingham
Boyd Nicolas	Cllr Lance Stanbury

1. Minutes of the last meeting 8 May, 2017

The minutes of the last meeting was agreed as correct.

2. Green Corridor update – John Smithson

JS explained his current priority – an invitation to anyone that wants to get involved with YBR meet on 27 June at NTC. Includes all stakeholders and anyone else that has shown an interest. JS to do a presentation. The aim is to get the community more involved. The group that evolves from this meeting will be asked to review the interpretative post wording and design.

A recent 'Litter Pick' included three politicians, six adults and a few children. The politicians were invited by Lucy, a local resident, who lives along the YBR. Mark Miller, West Suffolk Council's Comms Manager was consulted, but purdah prevented comms.

The meeting mentioned that incidents have happened along the YBR. Cameras were requested to help vulnerable people feel safer. Security is on the agenda at JS meeting. However, information on specific trouble spots would help as CCTV is expensive. It was reported that the High Street and some side streets are covered by CCTV.

WH thought SCC had agreed to keep the lights on 24 hrs along the YBR.

ACTION: JS to contact the police to see how much crime actually was in that area.

ACTION: JS to speak with Teresa Claydon as she is currently reviewing CCTV coverage.

The meeting were very appreciative of all JS involvement and achievements he had made so far.

3. Newmarket Markets – Sharon Fairweather update circulated with the agenda:

"Newmarket Market Proposal

The Newmarket market has been situated in the Market Square car park behind the Guineas Shopping Centre since moving from the High Street over 20 years ago. The area leading down to the market is not easily accessible and there is a limited retail offer surrounding it. Recently there has been substantial public support to return the market to the High

Street. Footfall is poor which has resulted in a significant decrease in stallholders. At present there are approximately 7 stalls on Tuesday and 10 on Saturdays.

Following a meeting with representatives from SCC highways department, the BID group, West Suffolk management, FHDC councillors, FHDC planning department and the markets operations team it was agreed to look at options to move the market to the High Street. SCC has agreed that this could happen in certain areas of the High Street as long as the stalls are arranged in certain ways.

The BID manager has spoken to the businesses in the High Street and most are fully supportive of a market move. The market operations team have looked at various options and at present the preferred one is to use the area between the Clock Tower and the Bill Tutte memorial. This would give enough space for 15 stalls which would be approximately 3m x 3m each.

These plans are still to be agreed with the council's health and safety department and have not been costed out. It is hoped that a detailed, fully costed plan will be available by mid July for consideration."

4. Specific Actions of the sub groups

- **Town Centre Sub Group/High Street Project Working Group**

BN sent an update via CR – the High Street Project will be consulted over the summer. Dates and details to be agreed by Ray Keeley, who is currently on leave. The NV TRET members will have a chance to review before the consultation begins.

RG raised concern that S106 money need to spend by 2019 as he understood it was 'use it or lose it' category. RG stated that we need to push this forward.

ACTION: JM will speak with BN to attend the next meeting to explain exact date. It maybe that if money is allocated it could be used later. Terms need checking and explaining, just to be sure.

CB advised that match funding could be sourced also. **ACTION:** JM to check this with West Suffolk Council's dedicated S106 officer.

- **Retailers Sub Group**

Trees in the High Street: GP reported that the trees are still waiting to be planted.

The BID have paid for the compost. GP advised planting this week. Brackets for hanging baskets will be provided by NTC. There are problems with Highways and post issues. A study has to be done initially to see what weight the posts can hold. Just waiting for permission from Adrian Last, SCC. The testing hasn't been done for 10 years, so cannot take the risk. GP happy that this is the right process going forward, we cannot take the risk of any accidents happening.

ACTION: Brackets is the NTC project - Brackets on buildings could go ahead, MJ will bring up at this evenings NTC committee meeting.

- **BID Graham Philpot**

Website is live: Discover Newmarket to be linked. NTC will also build onto this website, so one portal for the consumer. Cubiqdesign Ltd, a local company will do this. No need to be on the agenda again.

WIFI: conservation planners concerned with boxes on the lamp posts. Elephant have worked with FHDC - 8 weeks and probably August before available. Waiting for planning permission. Spent £35k so far. GP is not expecting a negative result, it has to follow the correct process.

Pedestrian Signage: providers sought and plans with indicative price. The BID working with CG. Costs are paramount with a 34 locations requirement. The National Heritage Centre will give a contribution.

ACTION: CG to seek information from conservation to enable work to progress.

ACTION: JM to send CG contact.

Discussion re signs off A11, and internal signs. Highways Group are looking into signage but at the last Steering Group, RG reported he had understood that no more would be spent on signs.

Charging points: Environmental Health Dept are keen to get a wider spread of charging points across the county. Looking at costs and how many required.

ACTION: JM to find out if Guineas points have been used and how frequently and if All Saints could be considered. JM to report back.

ACTION: CR to b/f as an agenda item.

No Idling Day: Nov/Jan/Dec potentially the best time to run this scheme all in discussion currently.

BID events calendar:

17 June: Dad's summer sports day this Saturday at the Clock Tower/Bill Tutte area, includes flight and horse simulator, golfing etc. all free.

22 July: 'Life's a Beach' event – pop cocktail bar, pop up cinema (noted around racing time too)

12 August: 1940's Day – spitfires involved. Traders will be asked to get involved. Friendly invasion team. Local history exhibition. AH can report community involvement re dressing up for the event.

17 September: Open House Weekend –Food and Drink Festival - from Bill Tutte to Palace Street.

(Palace Street potential closure from 10am until 4pm.)

14 November: Christmas lights switch on with Andy Drummond NTC Mayor plus events. Fairground rides.

8-10 December: Winter Wonderland.

Crystal Events will deliver these events and marketed by a local company. BID involved with SF for a Christmas Market in December.

- **Local Economy Sub Group**

ACTIONS B/F from 20 March meeting:

- **Lorry Park Issue**

JM reported there would be no lorry park provision in Newmarket. But application near Claas has been approved. Part of Simmonds Farm and Gittus complex. It was felt this should ease the problem.

Building Change of Use NNPSG update: Change of use – JM will send info to SB.

Sam Alper has 10 new units and have been let. Space for future requirement audit will be taking place across the summer. (for those businesses that need to expand). The old Dialight building has been part

occupied. There is potential for another large site to become available in August.

Shared Office space: Work is continuing on nurturing smaller businesses. JM will provide a future update.

ACTION: A Business Growth audit will take place and JM will update at the end of summer.

JM also reported that a new member of staff had joined the Growth Team who will be out on the road a lot and potentially will attend this meeting in the future.

Discussion on local businesses movement, homeworking etc. took place; and the merits of adding a 'waiting restriction' on some roads. Lorries parking in the road causing road blockages. Closure of Rouse Road talked of. Highways at one time spoke of doing a survey the meeting thought, but have not heard anything. Also a car parking survey was talked of after the initial rush of visitors to the National Heritage Centre. The meeting concluded it must be due soon.

ACTION: No parking, waiting restrictions and bottleneck causes - JM will request a rep from Highways to attend the next meeting.

- **Tourism Sub Group**

Clock Tower: MJ reported that a quote for a survey of the Clock Tower is on NTC committee agenda this evening. Pressure wash the Bill Tutte to be included in the contract. MJ will follow up to ensure this has been done.

Newmarket Town Guides: SB reported that no contract details on the Town Guide has been found.

ACTION: SB will continue to look into finding a copy of the contract.

RW advised that the groups focus is on Music Festival and would like to ensure that this continues. This group has good access into the community, but is aware there are other tourism groups out there and wish to streamline the groups so as not to duplicate work.

ACTION: Review after Music Festival and RW to research who the groups are.

The Town Guide: last year monopolised the Tourism Groups time and RW would not like to repeat this.

Tourism award: initially RW wanted small businesses, but then went to large and the group did not feel this worked.

The Princes Foundation - said anything you do for tourists should also benefit the community. Example local family tickets are available at discount price, but not everyone is aware. RW felt there was a lack of communication, however she felt the BID is getting the community involved and was very grateful.

Literacy project at the museum was a fantastic project RW reported, and will ripple out, but we need more and more communication.

RG praised RW for all RWs positive work and enthusiasm. RW would like some admin support. **ACTION:** RG and RW will meet to discuss.

CG has joined Visit Cambridge (used to be Information Tourism Board) CG to work with Cambridge. Cambridge have 14k visitors/day. CG asked how to get an hourly Sunday Bus Service? PH buses, trains do not run regular services on a Sunday. We need to show a business case to change

their mind that there is a demand, which in the past was the reason for the lack of transport. RF said he would happy to visit a coach group/ annual trade event link with Cambridge and Newmarket.

5. Newmarket Vision Promotion Opportunities

RG reminded all that any promotional ideas welcome.

AH monthly update - RG to write a piece and AH happy to send photographer out, but just need to know in advance so can arrange.

6. AOB

CG reported that the National Heritage Centre had been entered into **Museum of the Year**, judges have visited. CG urged everyone to use social media to say why the museum should win.

Newmarket toilet facilities on race days. At the last meeting it was felt that the Race Course needed to supply facilities for their visitors. There are no public toilets available on the station. RG met with Amy Starkey and stated that she had said toilets are not available due to public space, and insurance does not allow. Amy Starkey happy to support a scheme if we, as a group, can come up with an idea.

There was a discussion that the Station should have toilets available and if a more regular service was put on, more people would use the trains. We want to encourage the visitors, but we do not have the facilities.

RG ended the meeting with congratulations to MJ on his election.

7. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 31 July 2017 10.00am

Dates for the rest of the year and meeting held in the Sir Ernest Cassell meeting room, unless otherwise stated:-

Monday 11 September – Council Chamber

Monday 23 October

Monday 4 December