

**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision
Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group
held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 11th September, 2017 at the Newmarket
Town Council Offices**

Present:

Richard Goss
Julie Eden
Di Robertshaw
Graham Philpot
Jon Miles
Rachel Wood

Sara Beckett
Michael Jefferys
Peter Hulbert
Warwick Hirst
Christine Rush

Apologies:

Boyd Nicholas
Chris Garibaldi
John Smithson

1. Minutes of the last Meeting dated 31 July, 2017

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

2. Green Corridor update – John Smithson (supplied)

Friends of Yellow Brick Road meeting was held on 8 August, 2017, Agenda items: waste bin siting, new welcome map, raise profile of Yellow Brick Road (YBR).

17 attendees – the meeting was very productive and the group elected a chair, secretary, treasurer and two more committee members to move forward with becoming a constituted group.

The group agreed on where new bins could go and a process for naming some of the areas along the YBR. Concerns about security and flooding were raised again as issues that Friends would like to see addressed.

- **Lighting** – Information was received from SCC on which lights were left on and which went off at 12 midnight. However it is not certain, if what happens on the ground, matches the information sent.
- **Security** – A separate meeting with the police and interested parties will be organized through the councils Families and Communities team.
- **Land ownership** – John met with the Jockey Club and the council tree officer to look at land adjacent to the Horse Walk where there are trees that are not being managed actively. John will bring further information on this meeting to the next TRET meeting.
- **Litter Picking** – A group of 12 volunteers helped to collect over 30 bags of rubbish along the brook on the 26th August and a further litter picking session is due to take place on Saturday, 30th September.
- **The Skate Park** is currently closed for refurbishment. This work will carry the current installation on for a further 2 years or so and in the meantime a consultation will start on what could replace it for the future.

MJ reported Friends of Yellow Brick Road (all local residents) have met twice since the last TRET meeting. The entrance gate due to be erected shortly.

MJ reported there is a general feeling of insecurity of those using the path. Incidents are reported to the police, but the police do not recognize the path being under their jurisdiction.

WH was told the lights along the path were on all night, controversially other members of the meeting said different. **ACTION:** WH to get confirmation from SCC as to how long the lights stayed on for.

It was reported the path was well known to drug users.

ACTION: RG, in support of the YBR project, will invite Newmarket SNT Sgt. Mel Leaman or Insp. Mark Shipton to attend on 23 October to discuss the future of policing in Newmarket.

3. **SCC Highways – Traffic Movement in Newmarket**

ACTION: CAR to bring forward item to the next meeting due to lack of representation by SCC.

ACTION: JM will report back and / or get a written response if necessary.

4. **Specific Actions of the sub groups**

- **Town Centre Sub Group**

High Street Project Working Group brief update - BN sent his apologies and has explained that RK, as a consultant should not attend a meeting until such time as there is something new to report, as this would have cost implications. RG agreed that the money would be better spent on the project. RG has asked BN to report back to the next meeting.

News on the planting of **350 trees** for 350 years:

This was an original discussion RW had with Nick Patton, seemingly the wrong time; tree management and maintenance would need to be discussed in more depth. RW suggested a potential idea for the future.

- **Retailers Sub Group** – Di Robertshaw

YBR, S106 monies Morrisons site discussions. WH to ascertain what the position is.

Voluntary member of the BID.

Supporting the BID on sub groups.

Only meet quarterly and membership dwindling, crossover of work with the BID. Will work on more membership for the future.

Looking at more trees, planters are £1K each. Good news the BID and Town Council all wanting the same thing.

- **The BID update** - Graham Philpot

Number of Events:

June – Dad’s Summer Sports Day

July - Life’s a beach

August - 1940s Day, with Spitfire – very well attended.

September – Newmarket Open House Weekend and Food Festival

26.09.17 - AGM and celebration of the BID’s first year

October - Halloween

November - Christmas lights switch-on and potential late night shopping (GP reported new Christmas lights had been brought.)
Christmas Trail proposed.
December - Winter wonderland – the BID supporting the Town Council.
March – Giant Easter Dash

GP circulated Tour of Britain booklets (BID supported FHDC and Abbeycroft Leisure in communicating), Spring/Summer 2017 BID Newsletter, copy of Newmarket BID Business Plan 16-21.

The BID are running a Saving Scheme every £1 they put in, they get £6 back. 20 businesses taking part. GP feels businesses are feeling the benefit of the BID progress.

WiFi – Town Council approved their part of the consultation. Public consultation still in progress until the 2nd October.
Planning conservation held up the project initially, which GP stated had conservation been provided with more information initially, there would not have been a problem.

ACTION: JM will check with planning on behalf of BID to see if any other unforeseen problems could arise from the application.

Data on car charging points not available, JM reported.

- **Local Economy Sub Group** – Jon Miles

- A couple of Newmarket businesses wanting to expand and space is the challenge.
- Investor looking at putting money into the town.
- Clare is busy engaging with Newmarket businesses. Grant funding etc.
- WS Business festival starting in Oct. JM to send link to website. Info on funding, networking etc. Ends with BFP Business Awards 13 October. 110 businesses entered from in and around Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill and Newmarket.
- Annual economic tourism 2016: 2% increase in the town. Amount of people coming to stay and for longer has increased. Tourism jobs has increased. 53% of all trips are holiday 19% are business.

ACTION: JM will send link to all.

JM stated that the LEP and LA are putting more influence on tourism.

ACTION: JM will get comms out on this good news.

Empty shops in Newmarket High Street is below the average.

- No reports on local firms and employment issues after closure of a couple of firms.
- Town Council has no spare money for extra toilets reported MJ. The Race Course are taking another look at the facilities and issues on event days. TC had a presentation and details will be circulated.

ACTION: SB sent information to CAR to circulate.



Memorial Site
Survey Form.docx



Presentation
Newmarket.pptx

- **Tourism Sub Group**

- Clock Tower refurbishment update - scaffolding needs to be erected in order to pursue this.
- Newmarket Town Guides Contract update – no news on contracts. SB cannot find any current paperwork.
- RW meeting shortly and will be looking at fresh ideas. JM will attend to give a brief on the Tourism figures.

5. Bus Timetable and Routes – Peter Herbert

Stagecoach Andy Campbell was invited by the town council to attend a meeting due to changes in timetable and local people not satisfied. Issues with timing and shelters being on the wrong side, etc. Lack of evenings and Sunday service. PH want support of the group. RG and the group supports, however Stagecoach is a private company and need to be economically viable.

RW stated that circular routes within Newmarket would potentially help, as Health Centre moving could use such a service.

RG stated that PH could bring this item back to next meeting with any further updates and if the group can help, we will.

ACTION: CAR to note item for next agenda.

6. Any Other Business

- **Neighbourhood Plan** - opinions/feedback required.

ACTION: B/F to December meeting. MJ to give presentation.

ACTION: MJ to supply documentation to go out with the agenda for members of the group to read prior to the meeting.

7. Next Meeting Date: Monday, 23 October, 2017 Sir Ernest Cassell Rm
(Mon 4 Dec Sir Ernest Cassell Meeting Room)