

**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision
Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group
held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 4th December, 2017 at the Newmarket
Town Council Offices**

Present:

Richard Goss	Warwick Hirst
Julie Eden (Minutes)	Rachel Hood
Inspector Mark Shipton	Michael Jefferys
Chris Garibaldi	Jon Miles
Graham Philpot	Boyd Nicholas
Rachel Wood	John Smithson
Sara Beckett	
Peter Hulbert	
Roberta Bennett	

Apologies:

John Morrey and Christine Rush

1. Minutes of the last Meeting dated 23 October, 2017

Two amendments:

- RW commented that the minutes of the last meeting gave an unfair impression of their activities. Tourism were present at the BID community meeting held at the end of November.
- Public Toilets are also at the bus station as well as by the Memorial Hall.

2. Green Corridor update – John Smithson

Lighting – Still not working.

Land ownership – JS still unsure who is responsible for ownership of land. There is some unregistered land – meetings with CC and Jockey Club to investigate. Trees currently not being managed. Some drug usage at beginning of land, process started for District to adopt this triangle of land.

Litter Picking – Progress made with clearing land through volunteers on 18 November – six people cleared brambles and other work carried out. 10-12 new litter bins to be installed shortly.

Benches – looked at designs, want to trial different rustic looks.

Entrance – The iron work almost completed and should be installed soon.

Friends of YBR – have set up their own bank account, new website and have had meeting at Sudlands. It has been agreed that the two groups will work together.

Metal fence – RW asked if the ugly metal fence at the entryway would be painted. JS said this will be investigated.

3. Policing Newmarket Update - Inspector Mark Shipton

In answer to questions raised from the last meeting:

a. Question: Can Inspector Shipman confirm how many years the YBR has been within their remit?

MS stated that crimes on YBR reported as bugbear at an adjacent road as YBR not adopted but a footpath. It is policed by Suffolk Police. There have been 197 crimes related to this area in past 12 months of which 60% are related to only five addresses.

PH challenged that the YBR was not patrolled.

MS stated that it is patrolled regularly, but all reports are graded A-D based on 'threat-risk-harm.'

Two crimes per week is not considered high risk.
JS stated it is easier for crime to take place here due to its isolation. By improving lighting etc., this should add to an improvement.
Public need to take responsibility and pride in area. CCTV option to be explored but it comes down to costings and how viable it is.

- b. Question: Occasional Police PCSOs presence in town. Norfolk getting rid of their PCSOs, are Suffolk going to do the same?**
MS stated there were no plans in place currently to cut any PCSOs numbers.
- c. Question: The Town Council has funded a 35hrs a week PCSO as extra on street presence. A presence suggests law and order.**
TC funded a PCSO but no feedback re this from police at present. Unsure if anyone has been recruited as yet.
RH unhappy at lack of response but chasing.
- d. Question: Is there anything we can do to formally register the name YBR, a Public Right of Way?**
- e. Question: Tim Passmore said it was inappropriate for businesses to wait 50 mins for a police response. What can be done to speed things along?**
Police presence helps with law and order.
Grade A report - 20 minute response time.
Comments that businesses waiting a long time for a response
Grade B - no specific response time, if someone is available they will be sent but otherwise not.
Grade C - 24 hour window and attended by PCSO.
Grade D - no response.
- f. Question: What support is available for Police Officers / PCSOs when confronted with people carrying knives?**
If police are confronted by someone carrying a knife, they wear stab proof vests, have handcuffs, spray, batons, and are trained in unarmed defense tactics.
- g. Question: On Street Parking Enforcement, how can this be managed?**
- **Cars parking all day on double yellow lines;**
 - **Bollards being knocked over;**
 - **Signage being damaged?**
- Plan to adopt roads by LA.
Half day enforcement done per week.
Poor parking is low on the threat, risk harm scale although it's raised as a contentious issue.
RG asked if a private enforcement company could be used. This couldn't happen until the LA adopts the roads.
MJ wants to make representation to West Suffolk to move ahead with plans for parking enforcement. Process has started but nothing will be in place until at least 2019.
Matt Hancock MP invited to TRET meeting but he has not attended.
Question - is this a political issue?
If TC can get their funded PCSO in place, this person can be utilised to tackle asking issues.

ACTION: RG and RH to contact Matt Hancock

ACTION: JS to check with FHDC why process is taking so long.

h. Question: Shop lifting is reported and nothing is done about it?

Anti Social Behaviour decreased significantly over the past few years. Other emergency services are overstretched, resources being put into serious crime.

Awaiting a response from Tim Passmore and Matt Hancock ref a meeting. Nothing in place as yet. Suggested it would help to have a regular update in the local paper.

Inspector MS happy to return to future meetings.

RG thanked Inspector MS for attending the meeting, which is much appreciated.

4. Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Consultation – Michael Jefferys

- MJ reviewed the 20 year Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan (NNP) that had been circulated to the group for reading prior to the meeting. MJ captured comments.
- GP - USP is horse racing, good to focus on this or we become just any other market town.
- The general consensus was the NNP plan was good.
- CG - can NHRM be thought of as a community hub?
- Something specific needs to be put in place about Palace Street becoming a pedestrian only area.
- Coach park - permission from racecourse to park temporarily although consider use of coach park at NHRM which currently has space for 7 coaches.
- Somethings in Town plan to be rewritten to incorporate additional plans and ideas such as uncrossed leisure activities.

5. Specific Actions of the sub groups

Town Centre Sub Group

High Street Project Working Group brief update – Boyd Nicolas

- Copies provided on working document.
- BN would welcome email feedback.
- No public consultations as yet.
- Now needs updating mainly due to relocation of market to the High Street.
- Also knock on effect on planting and parking.
- Market traders were negative about using top end of the High Street, would prefer to be located from Nationwide down to the Post Office.
- Internal consultations to be held with involved groups.
- April - public consultation.
- Summer - adopt plan.
- S106 monies earmarked for this scheme.
- CG wants Palace Street included in the main Primary Shopping Area.
- A one page document needed on all town plans with a timetable.
- BN to prove a timeline for this project.

ACTION: All comments on the project to be emailed to BN.

Retailers Sub Group –no report available.

The BID update - Graham Philpot

- BID lights switch on - 12k people on the High Street that day.
 - High attendance for Lantern workshop.
 - Upcoming events include Christmas Market in The Guineas.
 - Winter Wonderland.
 - Marketing to encourage an 'eat and shop' local campaign.
 - Wi-Fi currently in place although not yet being advertised.
 - January campaign to promote Wi-Fi.
 - Generally good feedback from levy payers.
 - Challenge for 2018 to get them more engaged and aware of BID involvement.
 - BID providing a Santa's Grotto - some negative feedback around lack of communication with Lions who were not asked to be involved this year.
- ACTION:** GP will provide a quarterly report for TRET on Wi-Fi numbers.

Local Economy Sub Group – Jon Miles

- Homebase being rebranded.
- Hughes Electrical building up for sale and on the market.
- Anglian Water to have a 'pop up' shop in Newmarket until end of January 2018 with water saving initiatives.
- More information can be found at www.smarterdrop.com.

Tourism Sub Group - Rachel Wood

- RW will speak about tourism at BID community meeting.
- Need to focus on positive things happening, more communication needed with the public.
- Vision is a decision influencing group more than a decision making group.
- However projects are in progress including YBR, High Street redesign, policing etc.
- PH raised transport issues and stated the group has given a platform to raise concerns.

ACTION: No official up to date tourism plan but JM will look for the old plan.

6. Any Other Business

• **Crossing update**

Network Rail have put back timescale for consultation.

The meeting should be held in Newmarket, but no date for this as yet.

Supporters can email PH or WH at the Town Council.

Public will be informed on the new date for the meeting. There is a need to prove that an alternative route is not acceptable or practical.

• **Future Meetings**

RG - group agreed 6 weekly meetings were acceptable.

ACTION: Dates for meetings in 2018 to be circulated.

7. Next Meeting Date: Monday, 15 January, Sir Ernest Cassell Room, NTC

Meeting closed at 12.15pm

Further 2018 dates circulated since the meeting:

Monday, 5 March

Monday, 16 April

Monday, 4 June.