

**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision
Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group
held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 25 June, 2018 at the Newmarket Town
Council Offices**

Present:

Richard Goss	Peter Hulbert
Christine Rush (Minutes)	Chris Burton
Michael Jefferys	Megan Pollexfen
Julie Eden	Warwick Hirst
Inspector Mark Shipton	Rachel Wood from 10.45
Jon Miles	
John Smithson	

Apologies:

William Gittus, Boyd Nicholas, Graham Philpot, Di Robertshaw, Sara Beckett, and Roberta Bennett

1. Minutes of the last meeting and Welcome

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct. RG welcomed Chris Burton, Regional Marketing Executive - Promotions from the Racecourse to the meeting.

2. Green Corridor Update – John Smithson

- **Lighting, George Lambton Playing Field** – FHDC repairs have been more difficult to resolve than first thought, vegetation has been cleared around them, so they can be winched to the ground and refitted with more modern sensors. This should happen this month.
- **Litter picking** – session on Saturday, 16 June went well with 12 volunteers and a truck full of assorted litter from the brook. JS reported it was fortunate that the group were on site at George Lambton Playing Field as JS was able to serve notice on the Travellers who had moved on to the site the previous evening. They left after three to four days.
- **Benches** – A trial bench was installed in May next to the cycle path on George Lambton Playing Field; there have been no complaints so far. More will be introduced over time.
- **Ironwork** – Installed in May without having to close footpath, opinion divided over suitability and what else could have been funded in its place. It is JS's view that it is important to make a statement of intent and that it is the start of trying to raise the profile of the Yellow Brick Road.
- **Public Meeting** – There will be a public meeting on Wednesday, 27 June at 6pm at the Memorial Hall to discuss progress with the Yellow Brick Road. It is a year since the last public meeting. JS will give a presentation. All welcome.
- **Grass Cutting** – WH stated this is a sensitive issue in Newmarket. JS stated that the grass cutting is in house now at FHDC and there is a degree of catch up to be done. JS noted comment to pass on.
- **CCTV** – PH raised concern over the safety of using the Yellow Brick Road again and JS is in discussion as to how to implement and the best, cost effective way of doing it, if it is feasible.

3. Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan (NNP) – Michael Jefferys

RG invited MJ to give a brief update on the NNP. The Plan had been written and submitted to FHDC for comments. FHDC planning section had responded to MJ with suggested amendments. In particular the Housing Section needed to be reviewed. Employment and Economy of the town section was combined with

Wellbeing of the Residents in Town. MJ distributed a copy of the NNP to the meeting and asked all to read. (A scanned copy is attached for those that were not present). NNP Steering Group welcome the group's feedback. RG suggested that the copy be read and comments can be fed back to MJ at the next meeting.
ACTION: CAR to B/F agenda item to 30 July.

4. Newmarket Parking Update – Richard Goss

RG reported at the last Newmarket Steering Group he had requested an update on Newmarket Parking. Sally Easton, FHDC Comms Officer has sent through a briefing note which reports on the current facts.

ACTION: CAR to circulate a copy of the briefing note to the group to read.

RG sent an email to Robin Millar asking if any progress had been made inviting Tim Passmore or Matt Hancock to join a future Steering Group meeting. Unfortunately, no response has been received.

5. Policing Newmarket Update – Insp. Mark Shipton

Priority is still the county lines. Everything else is normal business. No increase in any particular crime, so concentrating on county lines currently. Summer months – expecting low level anti-social behavior may increase. There will be an increase on late shifts over Friday and Saturday evenings.

MS stated the Travellers have gone. WS Councils swiftly served notice supported by the Police, so all went relatively smoothly. Shops shut early, and MS reported that it is the easiest way of avoiding potential issues. Extra officers were in town on the Sunday. The Chairman and group sang the praises of the two organisations.

MS reported that Mildenhall Police now have a Facebook site, are on Twitter and Instagram – lots of viewings and thumbs up from the community.

RG asked the views of MS on parking to which MS replied that the Police give tickets every week. MS believes it is physically impossible to prevent people parking irresponsibly, unfortunately. If parking causes a danger, or obstruction, etc., the Police have to engage.

6. Specific Actions of the sub groups:

Town Centre Sub Group – High Street Design Group: Boyd sent an update which RG shared with the meeting.

The High Street working group has met twice since the last TRET group. Both meetings were well attended with several new members joining the group including Amy Starkey and Carl Ashton from SCC Highways.

14 April the group discussed the content of the working draft brief and got about half way through the document. It was agreed a sub group would look at street furniture as some members were not happy with the items proposed.

16 June the group worked through the remainder of the brief, agreed a Terms of Reference for the group. (This set out what the current group would work on producing the brief, and once approved a new group chaired by Richard Goss would take over its implementation) and a timeline for producing the brief. Planned to go out for public consultation in October.

27 June or a following meeting the project will be presented to the Newmarket Transport Delivery Group to ensure they are supportive of any proposals.

4 July is the date of the next meeting of the High Street Design Working Group. The main agenda item will be feedback from the previous consultation and discussion regarding any proposed amendments as a result of the responses received.

RG was pleased with the positive progress. WH added he hoped that BN will get the support and resources needed from the NV Steering Group and WS Council.

JE had a few concerns, but RG reminded the group that the project was ultimately the High Street, but JE spoke of early discussions that S106 money initially would include Sun Land and Market Street as well. JE stated that lots of people turned up at the first meeting that had not been seen for a long time all giving ideas. JE, unfortunately, had not attended the second meeting.

RG stated he was very pleased to have seen the timeline which he felt was very clear.

Retailers Sub Group: JE reported the group had not met for four months, however the next meeting is to be held on 4 July at Bedford Lodge 6.15pm. Letter to go out to the group. Retailers working closely with the BID on Christmas festivities.

The BID: No one was available to give an update, but GP will be getting additional administrative help to assist GP.

Local Economy Sub Group: JM encouraged Newmarket businesses to enter the Business Awards. There are 11 categories to enter.

ACTION: JM will send a link for CAR to circulate to the group.

Business Awards: <http://imlevents.co.uk/> - a plea to Newmarket businesses to enter!

JM reported a meeting is to take place this Friday, 29 June, 10am at Palace House to assess demand of co-working, shared space, hot desking organized by Alan Trim. It is hoped there will be regular meet ups to assess take up and then a suitable space to be sourced. Cambridge does this, so trying to have a first for Newmarket.

Negotiation on Hughes premises are still current.

The Guineas:

- M&S leaving in August. Some members of the group were astonished that the flagship store are leaving and hoped a suitable replacement would occupy the unit.
- Mountain Warehouse will be opening soon.

A discussion on the shift on the High Street took place. On-line shopping and buses being cut, which reduces the footfall too. Independent, niche shops could entice visitors.

RW added an independent opticians in the High Street have repainted their shop front and looks good.

Tourism Sub Group: RW stated the group had not met, but have been very busy – July Music Festival and leaflets. RG thanked the Racecourse who helped with the design of the leaflet.
Cricket Match – inter faith – Severals.

Discover Newmarket: MP reported visitor numbers were up from last year. Lot of work with The Travel Council and familiarization trips with the personnel from Lakenheath base etc.

Visit Britain direct flights from Dubai.

Newmarket is a destination to market and promote.

Also working with BID and NTC website three outward facing brands for the town with a shared calendar for promoting events.

Recent recruitment process for marketing executive, interviews to take place and will update at the next meeting.

ACTION: CAR to add Discover Newmarket update as an agenda item.

7. Any Other Business

Railway Station - PH reported the ticket machine is not working again and has reported.

8. Next Meeting Date: Monday, 30 July, Sir Ernest Cassell Room, NTC

Future Date:

Monday, 10 September, 2018