

**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision
Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group
held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 29 July, 2019 at Newmarket Town
Council, Sir Ernest Cassell Meeting Room**

Present:

Richard Goss	Peter Hulbert
Christine Rush (Minutes)	Rachel Darvill
Boyd Nicholas	Jon Miles
Sandra Easom	Michael Jefferys
Megan Pollexfen	Rachel Wood (arrived at 10.30am)
Will Wright	

Apologies:

William Gittus, Chris Burton, Sara Beckett, Simon Collin and Rachel Hood

1. Minutes of the last meeting 10 June, 2019

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

2. Green Corridor (Yellow Brick Road) Simon Collin sent an update in advance of the meeting:

- **Lighting** along the George Lambton section of the Yellow Brick Road: SC and WW have been looking at funding of an upgrade to the light heads along this stretch which is owned by West Suffolk Council.
- The overdue works to provide the brendon gravel path between Little Buds Nursery and the Studlands Park Sports and Social Club should start before the end of August.

PH concerned about light beam angle straight down to the ground rather than a splayed light across the area and that a tidy up of the YBR is required.

WW stated a project is to be organised to support the cleaning up of the area – Orbit Housing, Local Authority, Water Authority.

RD had reported one particular area around a bench that was particularly littered.

3. Newmarket Vision Conference 24 September, 2019 – John Miles

JM reported that the NV support officers had met and discussed the NV Conference:

24 September NV Conference is being lead by the Steering Group

- Sally Easton coordinating.
- Each group split into tables
- Each group has officer support.
- Filming to be done. Sally Easton will be in touch.

SE stated Tourism Grp meeting tomorrow to discuss their input. Newmarket historically significant and SE is not convinced that Newmarket sells its importance to tourism. Local and racing history complements everyone.

MP reported that she will be leaving Discover Newmarket so will unfortunately not be at the conference.

RG aim is to advise all what the groups have been doing and to be in a position to take questions.

4. Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Update Sara Beckett sent in an update: The NNP draft submission version has been out to consultation through West Suffolk. This is part of the formal process where views again are sought before going to Examination.

Any new consultation responses will be sent with the submission version to the Inspector for a decision. If acceptable, it will go to a public referendum (vote).

The consultation ends on Monday 29 July at 5:00pm.

BN advised of an initial slow response rate. These were mainly from statutory consultees and a few general public. -All submitted responses will be considered by the examiner / inspector.

- Sept/Oct would be a general idea of Inspector availability.
- Examination 1-2 months.
- Can opening a hearing if contentious issues.
- After the examination the examiner's report is sent to the district and town councils.
- The Examiner has 3 options:
 - Unsound – the plan does not proceed to referendum,
 - Sound with modifications – the modified version can proceed to referendum,
 - Sound, – the plan proceeds to referendum as submitted.

BN would need to check the rules if 'sound with modifications' whether there is a need to consult again.

5. Policing Newmarket Update

Cameras on YBR - RD questioned best location. RB was making enquiries to take this forward. WW advised that cameras were located where county lines had initially suggested - data driven. ASB meeting would make this decision as they have a process to follow.

WW spoke about engagement with young people, they have limited activities available to them, but are in discussions with stakeholders. All need to understand that open space is for sharing. Orbit Housing has funded a number of summer activities.

Parking: RD has been ticketing which clears spaces, but then are quickly back filled by the next batch of visitors. It appears people are oblivious to the rules of the parking bays.

RD reported she had been working with schools before summer break. RD involved with local crime reports also.

6. Sub Groups Update:

- **Tourism Sub Group** – Rachel Wood
Group meeting tomorrow. Will be discussing detail of the NV Conference.
- **Discover Newmarket** - Megan Pollexfen,
Really good visitor numbers. Increase of 441 people visiting the National Stud on last years figures
Coach numbers increasing

Supporting Newmarket Academy
Working with the Town Council and sponsor pupil events.
Attending lots of events like North Norfolk shows.
As reported earlier, 20 September MP leaving. Second week of August interviews being held for replacement.

- **Town Centre Sub Group:**

- **High Street Project Working Group** – Boyd Nicholas
BN saw the note on the last minutes S106 concerns raised. Since DB and BN have written a paper for the Steering Group to allay fears of losing the money. Considering spending some of the money on the market – main improvement on barriers, discussing with SCC Highways. There is a natural barrier where stalls are back to back, caravan refreshment stalls would be separate. An alternative might be 18 m spans of retractable mesh with a removable posts. Waiting to hear back from supplier. Could have a decorative design on the mesh barrier. RW concern for the market stall holders? Metal planters? RG concerns that money may be committed and if there is a price increase on rent, it may in turn have an affect on the stall holders.

ACTION: JM to bring to 2 September meeting an update on market actual costs – setting up the market, putting barriers up and taking them down at the end of the day.

High Street brief: still aim for September/October.

- **BID / Newmarket Retailers Association** – Graham Philpot and Di Robertshaw were absent from the meeting and no update forwarded.
- **Local Economy Sub Group** – Jon Miles
High Street funding bid: Newmarket just one of many JM has been working on. Heritage Action Zones, bid run by Historic England closes after summer. Fund a scheme for heritage projects for four years. JM mentioned Future High Street Fund entered Haverhill, over 300 entries were received. Haverhill wasn't deemed as in greater need as other areas.

RH thanked JM all for help with the Heritage Zone Bid, also SE and Town Council.

Pop up shops – need a good lead time for a fortnight run. From the agents prospective there is a reluctance as they have to do a lot of prep work for no payment. Some shops are empty due to leases.

Working with the BID with events and retail diversification.

Absent landlords – no penalty currently.

JM reported that there were no conclusive figures on largest employer of the town.

7. Any Other Business

PH mentioned where bus stops on A142 a crossing should be considered as a hazardous point for people to cross.

8. Future 2019 Meeting Dates

Sir Ernest Cassell, NTC 10am to 12noon on Monday, 2nd September.

Future dates - Monday 14th October :