

**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision
Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group
held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 14 October, 2019 at Newmarket Town
Council, Sir Ernest Cassell Meeting Room**

Present:

Richard Goss

Christine Rush (Minutes)

Tracey Harding

Will Wright

Roberta Bennett

Peter Hulbert

Rachel Hood 10.25

Rachel Darvill

Michael Jefferys

Apologies:

William Gittus, Insp. Mark Shipton, Jon Miles, Sara Beckett, Boyd Nicholas, Simon Collin, Warwick Hirst and Chris Burton

1. Minutes of the last meeting 2 September, 2019

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

2. Green Corridor (Yellow Brick Road) - Simon Collin/Will Wright

SC advised by email in advance of the meeting that the overdue works to provide the Breedon gravel path between Little Buds Nursery and the Studlands Park Sports and Social Club will start at the beginning of November.

- There was a discussion about the ownership and spread of the lights along the Green Corridor. Some are owned by West Suffolk Council and the majority by SCC.
- WSC lights are on all night (top end). RB state that the NTC liaises with Richard Webster at County re lights.
- Green Corridor and Studland are the areas that need to be lit for longer or all night.
- WSC / SCC have a management plan. MJ stated that there must be a safety plan within.
- A fresh ecology report is being written.
- Skate Park move to behind police station update – going through the planning process and envisaged Feb 2020.

ACTION: WW to discuss lighting with SC.

ACTION: RG to follow up with RH. RH to speak with Cllr Mary Evans/Andrew Reid.

ACTION: SC - is there a Safety Plan within the Management Plan?

Graffiti: WW working with young people on a long term art project. Working with Orbit Hsg, Jockey Club, etc.

3. Newmarket Vision Conference 24 September 2019 – Bobby Bennett

Conference was great reported RB. Data collection meeting is being held next week at West Suffolk House. However, it was felt there was a low engagement with the general public. The young people who were involved were fabulous and really engaged. Videos, graphics, comments received to be used on social media. As a newcomer, TH stated it was a great networking event for her. RH specified it had a nice atmosphere.

ACTION: RG to take the idea of the conference, being held in the Guineas Shopping Centre perhaps in July 2020 forward to the next Steering Group.

4. Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Update Sara Beckett, Michael Jefferys
BN sent in an update prior to the meeting:

The NNP is nearing the end of the Examination period. The Inspector has issued his fact check report (a first draft of his findings) which both NTC and WS have responded to. It is likely his final report will be received on Monday 14 October and that this will recommend that the plan proceeds to referendum with his modifications. West Suffolk then have up to 5 weeks to make a decision as to whether to accept the examiners recommendations and publish a decision notice. Once the decision notice is published and if proceeding to referendum it must take place within 56 working days.

Local Plans - Forest Heath Single Issue Review (SIR) and Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP)

Adopted by Full Council on 19 September and now part of the development plan for West Suffolk Council.

RG gave his congratulations to all those involved in the NNP!

5. Policing Newmarket Update – Rachel Darvill

RD Working with officers. Follow up calls. Working with public to reduce potential problems. Waiting for parliamentary time to decriminalise parking. RD stated parking fluctuates when different events on.

RH commented she could see there is greater police presence in the town and it is making a difference. Discussion on the absence of having a police station in the town.

6. Sub Groups Update:

- **Tourism Sub Group** – Rachel Wood - No report available.

- **Discover Newmarket** - Tracey Harding

7th week in post!

Tours being planned for 2020.

Review of those tours.

Non horse related tours being discussed too.

Widen tour remit.

Cater for younger experiences.

Visitor guide still required alongside digital.

Distribution wider and in local establishments.

Newmarket as the staying point with tours - visits off to other destinations.

Potential events - working with BID and NTC.

RB expressed how very please TH taking the lead on the visitor guide.

TH confirmed she and RW had met at the NV Conference.

- **Town Centre Sub Group:**

- **High Street Project Working Group** – Boyd Nicholas

BN sent an update through:

Some progress on design work and High Street TRO for relocation of the Market. October deadline for Brief slipped and timetable needs amendment to reflect this.

- RG has spoken to Chairman of NV Steering Group - Paul West to take the TRET concerns forward.
- RB advised the meeting that David Osborne is the new place officer for Newmarket. RB suggested he attends this meeting.

- Suggestions how to take this forward. **ACTION** RG to bring up at the Steering Group. Delay is completely unacceptable.
- **BID / Newmarket Retailers Association** –
TH went to the BID meeting and Paul Brown has been appointed. Starts in November.
- **Local Economy Sub Group** – Jon Miles
JM sent through shop report showing a below average shop vacancies:
Good array of independent shops (does not reflect shops / businesses coming in). Newmarket is above average.

JM provided footfall figures just for this year (circulated at the meeting):
The group requested previous figures so that a comparison could be made.
Percentage increase is requested for future comparisons.
ACTION: JM to organize the comparative figures.

7. Any Other Business

WSC Car Park Review Group run by Cllr David Nettleton. Cllr Nettleton is reviewing the carparking in the local towns.

- The group agreed that the car parks need to be smartened up.
- It was mentioned that Mildenhall do not pay parking.
- There was a conversation on resident permits. RD stated that she has heard people say why would anyone pay for resident parking if no guarantee of a space.
- All Saints car park runs at 80%, suggestion residents could use.
- Infrastructure needs to be improved to get to a car park.
- Signage for visitors into town is clearly lacking once parked.

ACTION: RH requested anyone with a view welcome to send through to her and RH would take forward to next car park review meeting on Wednesday.

RG would be happy to assign some of the S106 money for Market barriers and spoke of the potential bricking over the parking bays. RB pointed out that if those parking bays were not used, the barriers would not be needed.

NNP re taxis states no more than 6x taxis waiting on the high street at any one time.

Signage: RB stated that there are some new signs directing visitors to town - BID responsible. They are not ascetically pleasing. Interpretation Boards. The TRET group were very disappointed that the signs were put up without an opportunity to comment. RB has requested the Town Council see the Map before printing.

Thanks:

As this was the last meeting that RB would attend before her departure from NTC, RG thanked RB for all her work for the TC and her involvement in TRET.

8. Future 2019 Meeting Dates

The Chairman thanked Newmarket Town Council for the use of a room throughout the year, however on the following dates NTC cannot accommodate the meeting so likeliest to be held either at Bedford Lodge or Rutland Arms, RG will confirm.

10am to 12noon on Monday,
2 December,
13 January,
2 March.