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NEWMARKET VISION E-NEWSLETTER JULY 2015

A Year of Vision with 20:20 clarity

It's gone rather quiet with regard to the meeting of the individual groups but that doesn't mean that the Vision itself has gone quiet, far from it. Lots of really positive activity is evident; you only have to cast your gaze to the pavement along both sides of the High Street. There you will find some rather cryptic markings in various colours which is evidence that at long last the detailed underground survey of services hidden from view has been undertaken. It is vital to know what lies beneath the High Street before any future plans for improvements can be developed and carried out and this survey will provide an excellent basis for future planning.

Community Planning Delivery Group

The majority of members from this group went on a '*walk and talk with John Smithson*' along what is locally known as the Yellow Brick Road, providing also an opportunity to 'inspect' the number one drain. A detailed report will follow but clearly it was two hours very well spent and extremely enlightening. John Smithson had a prepared worksheet that detailed each of the 18 sections and it soon became clear that each section presents its own problems and issues that will need to be addressed. The Yellow Brick road provides an excellent route from Studlands through Newmarket into the Town with the adjoining water course and the challenge will be to enhance biodiversity and ecological corridors within the Town Centre linked into the wider landscape. (4.15 of Newmarket Vision Priority Actions)

Town Centre, Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group

Plans to investigate the Heritage Lottery Townscape funding have been put on hold, in light of the possibility of setting up a Working Group that will look at 3.5 of the Priority Actions list 'Working towards improving the public realm in the High Street. This working group will hopefully include local authority officers from Planning, Conservation and Highways, representative members from Town Centre, Retailers and the Tourism Sub Group and include a representative from Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The Tourism Sub Group have been extremely busy throughout July with the Music Festival, but found time to meet to listen to an extensive report from Chris Garibaldi about the issue of parking and signage for the *National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art*. Both aspects seem to be well under control now, but there is still a lot to finalise with an ever decreasing deadline. The Railway Group have made significant progress in securing funding for aesthetic improvements to the station platform, which will be reported in more detail next month, and positive news that the Cooper Memorial may well be lit to give it the prominence it deserves, having consulted with Newmarket Town Council.

The Local Economy Group Sub Group continue to highlight the importance of attracting inward investment. An investment pack to attract start up businesses into the area was discussed and further work is being carried out to ascertain the needs of start ups wanting to locate in Newmarket.

The Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group progressed to a second consultation on the proposed designated area, the boundary being the Parish of

Newmarket excluding the Cemetery at Cemetery Hill (as this is under the care of Exning Parish Council). It will include the St John's Ave/Crocksford area of Woodditton together with triangle of Ashley Road and Duchess Ave where people feel part of Newmarket confirmed by the results of the consultation. Involving these areas outside the Parish of Newmarket means that it is now a cross border plan with East Cambridgeshire. Consultation with Cheveley and Woodditton Parish Councils has taken place and formal confirmation is awaited that they are happy for those small but significant areas of their Parishes to be included in the Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan. Both Parish Councils have meetings during August and Woodditton have invited a member of the Steering Group to attend. Importantly, the Newmarket Neighbourhood plan will not change the boundaries of these villages and they will still receive all of their services from East Cambridgeshire DC and Cambridgeshire CC.

Once the application for Designation is made, the lead Authority will *publicise and consult on the area application for a minimum of 6 weeks*. The result of that Consultation undertaken should be known *20 weeks from the date immediately following that on which the application is first publicised*.

Transport Delivery Group ~ no further update available.

Education Group Delivery Group

The Education Delivery Group last met in March and will next meet in the new academic year (Sept). Whilst the group hasn't formally met since then, excellent work is underway in the Town for example local schools being involved in the recent Raising the Bar Awards and the Under Starters Orders Primary school education programme.

Thursday, 25 June saw 164 students and over 100 parents and teachers from six local primary schools attend the Adnams July Racecourse for the culmination of the Under Starters' Orders Primary School Education Programme.

The Under Starters' Orders Programme was created, delivered and funded by Newmarket Racecourses as part of a variety of community and education projects the racecourses have committed to deliver to benefit local children.

Aimed at 9/10 year olds the three day programme sought to engage the pupils with the history and heritage of the town in which they live and to enable them to possess a greater understanding of the horseracing industry. Theoretical as well as practical skills have been gained during the three stages of the programme allowing the children's academic potential to be explored and expanded in various environments.

Before attending the racecourse, the children had already completed tailor-made educational days at Darley's breeding headquarters, Dalham Hall, as well as enjoying time at the National Horseracing Museum. The race day visit on Thursday concluded the programme by providing the school children the opportunity to witness first hand the thrill and excitement of a day's racing and enables them to see some of their previously acquired knowledge put into practice on the racecourse.

Activities on the day saw a two part presentation by the Vets from Newmarket Equine Hospital using a real life painted horse showing the anatomy of a racehorse, a parade of retired racehorses that have been retrained in a new equine discipline and talks from Newmarket based finalists from the Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards.

An activity map was also specifically designed to provide information about the racecourse as well as detailing fun activities for the children to complete throughout the days racing.