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NEWMARKET VISION E-NEWSLETTER JUNE 2015

A Year of Vision with 20:20 clarity

At this point in time being half way through the year, the work of the Vision Groups is proceeding well. Many Groups have revisited the original action plan document making sure they are on track with the tasks identified and it is pleasing that many completed tasks have the appropriate tick beside them but may not always be evident from the outside. Newmarket Vision is a long term plan and it must be remembered that the ground work and detail has to be clearly and carefully worked to achieve the aims for the benefit of Newmarket.

Town Centre, Retail, Local Economy and Tourism

Priority 5.9 of the Vision document has seen Newmarket Racecourses continue with their commitment to the children of Newmarket Primary schools, who enjoyed a day at the Adnams July Course as the culmination of the 'Under Starter's Orders' Educational Programme. The 'Under Starter's 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.

The children took part in a three stage educational programme beginning at HH Sheikh Mohammad's Dalham Hall Stud where breeding information regarding Darley stallions was imparted to the children.

At The National Horseracing Museum, which was the second venue for the students, they learnt about the history of the sport as well as the cultural significance of the town and local area in which they live.

The day at the races provided the climax of the programme with Newmarket Racecourses when they witnessed the painted horse demonstration with the British Racing School kindly supplying G Major who had his organs, bones and muscles depicted in bright colours.

The children were then free to enjoy a lovely summer's afternoon racing with their families having learnt about the wider significance of the horseracing industry as well as experiencing academic learning in environments outside the classroom.



'Pathway to enhance the High Street' was presented under 3.5 of the Vision document to give an interpretation of what could be achieved for Newmarket. The Town Centre, Retail and Tourism groups have largely been working independently on the High Street remit and now that the NED project is not proceeding in its original form, these three groups must come together with officers to write a briefing document which can be worked through with vision and detail.

The Tourism group have been working really hard on the Newmarket Music Festival and this has been achieved with limited finances and many hours of hard work, particularly by Rachel Wood and Joy Uney. A great deal of support and advice has come from Amy Starkey in her role as Regional Director of Jockey Club Racecourse which has been gratefully received. Details of the remaining events in the festival can be found here:

<http://www.thenewmarketfestival.co.uk/2015-events/details/53-the-music-festival.html>

At last some good news about signage and car parking now that the two seem to be coordinating together a little better. Suffolk County Council have been in discussion with the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art about the detail of their needs for car parking and signage which will result in clarity of both for the benefit of Newmarket in conjunction with the ongoing parking reviews and consultations.

With reference 3.8 of the Vision document, Cllr Bowman gave details of the trial move of the Market to the front of the Guineas, the area of hard standing in the area of the car park, toilets and bus stops. The new market regulations should give the traders the necessary guidelines to improve the offer and overall appeal of a thriving market, providing uniformity in a pleasant environment with associated facilities.

The Community Planning Delivery Group has continued to make great strides thanks to the expertise and commitment of John Smithson (*West Suffolk Park Operations Manager*). The next task is for the group to familiarise themselves at ground level with the 'Yellow Brick Road' and the 'Number one drain' so a walk and talk is the next matter on the agenda.

The Open Space at Studlands is being managed extremely well seeing areas cared for and enjoyed as was intended, until it became an overgrown jungle. Go Wild has been encouraged and supported to carry out some wonderful projects and has engaged with the community to gather further support to get work done. The old BMX track has been rejuvenated and is being utilised again.

The planned consultation of the designated area for the **Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan (NMP)** went ahead in June unfortunately public participation left a lot to be desired and this will be reviewed at the next NMP Steering Group Meeting. The likelihood is that another consultation will be held by the end of July, particularly with clearer maps showing the agreed area.

The B.I.D for Newmarket which was detailed in last month's Newsletter appeared to have hit a brick wall mainly due to the lack of promotion, although this has now apparently been addressed. A list of potential projects to be developed by the new BID has been generated from the feedback by local businesses, and work is now underway to work these up into a business case for the new BID. The project is on target to hit the original timescale for a vote in October/November. Further information can be found on the website <http://www.newmarketbid.com/> (the links didn't work for the author first time, but everything is there, so keep clicking!).

A B.I.D newsletter should be available shortly and further workshop dates are as follows:

- **Wednesday 22nd July 2015 [Waitrose]**
- **Monday 27th July 2015 [The Best Western Heath Court Hotel]**

Unfortunately both the B.I.D and NMP consultations have suffered from apathy from the people who we are trying to engage with but perseverance will prevail rest assured!