

**NEWMARKET VISION**  
**MINUTES OF**  
**COMMUNITY PLANNING DELIVERY GROUP**

10am Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014

Held at Council Chamber offices, Newmarket Town Council

**Members Present**

Cllr Rachel Hood (Chair)  
Sara Beckett  
Claire Elbrow  
William Gittus  
John Smithson, WS Parks Manager  
Lee Webster

**1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Rona Burt, Cllr Mick Jefferys, Christine Rush and Marie Smith, West Suffolk Planning Service Manager.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting:** Approved

**3. GO WILD**

RH reported that she and SB met with Clare Hoskins from Go Wild for a meeting with the purpose of seeing the 3 sites owned by FHDC and maintained by Go Wild:

1 St Felix Meadow

2 The Meadow

3 The Orchard (Studlands)

Having walked around all 3 sites and the redundant BMX area, it was agreed that CH would request through RH what she felt the Go Wild project needed in terms of assistance of man power/funds to achieve the work deemed necessary and equipment that Go Wild could use themselves.

## Highlighted in discussion

Grass cutting

Provision of dog bins

Provision of litter bins

Replacement trees between the Orchard and A14 (previously destroyed by fire)

Removal of litter / fly tipping (signs to prevent this) When taking rubbish to Newmarket rubbish depot Go Wild have been charged!

Note: Councillors' Locality Budgets may be allocated to assist.

John Smithson, W.S Parks Manager, apologised for not knowing Newmarket well. W.S has been involved in Newmarket for about 2 years. Since November 2013, a new policy for Open Space in Newmarket, Brandon and Mildenhall has been tasked with finding out what Open Space there exists. There has previously been an audit and map, but there are still question marks over who owns what.

With regard to Go Wild, JS has corresponded with CH's husband Anthony and discussed the position of the areas managed by Go Wild. There is an existing management plan in place, but it is now old and outdated.

JS is ascertaining how to manage Open Space and what problems have been identified.

JS has visited certain of the areas, in particular the area known as the Guarded Orchard, which has 4 areas: The Orchard, BMX area, MUGA and a 4<sup>th</sup> area (not specifically identified).

JS generally observed:

1. BMX area ~ redundant
2. Small buildings ~ derelict
3. The Orchard ~ really nice with paths to maintain access
4. The 2 meadows (Noel Murless) side and The Orchard (Studlands) have good connectivity and join to make a nice corridor.

A member's discussion concluded that W.S. had not assisted Go Wild with the Management of these areas, despite JS's previous understanding that W.S. Parks Management had.

In particular:

1. Grass which had been requested for cutting had not been cut and the height that it is now is unacceptably high.
2. There is not great connectivity.
3. Whoever may have been managing it from whichever authority is now not doing so.

**GO WILD** are a group of like-minded people who care about the environment and wild life and try to care for these areas on a voluntary basis even to the extent of purchasing items with no funding from W.S. Indeed, apart from Councillor Anderson who lives close to the areas concerned and organises litter picks and removal of items following fly tipping, nothing much is being done and this needs to change.

JS explained that in the Annual Maintenance Plan such areas are accommodated for grass cutting and that takes place towards the end of each year. This plan covers the whole of W.S. but JS would put in place an AMP for the areas managed by Go Wild in a month and present it at next meeting (July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014).

A specific Management Plan for all the areas for Newmarket would take longer, but should be in place by the end of 2014.

It was felt important, that work should be carried out for the Go Wild areas so that they can be used this summer.

JS will contact Go Wild and find out:

1. What their capacity is.
  2. What support have they had?
  3. What support do they have?
  4. What support is needed and how this can be facilitated.
4. Re 4:12 of the Vision Audit ~JS produced a basic map which shows Open Space as we need to be able to identify ALL Open Space and ownership of that Open Space.

Examples that of Open Space (but not necessarily considered open space) are:

1. The Cemetery;
2. Allotments (Exning Road and Cheveley Road): the allotments are well used and well managed.
3. The Yellow Brick Road and the Number One Drain (This needs a new name and a vision of how it could be. It is man-made and Go Wild had previously suggested that it could actually become effectively water

flowing, which would discourage litter and dumping of material if it was obviously cared for). Again, ownership of the whole would be needed.

### Summary of ACTION for JS

[1] Map needed to identify Open Space and ownership;

[2] Annual Maintenance Plan;

[3] Process how a bigger Master Plan can be rolled out over the next 6 months with consultation of other people's views.

### 5. Other Areas

A discussion took place about:

1. St Felix being used for the Football Club, with GLPF as an overflow.
2. Funding from Sport England for audit of all sports facilities in WS District.
3. Conservation and enforcement.
4. Enforcement has dropped as W.S. Planning Dept. has no enforcement officer.

RH will meet with Steven Wood (Head of Planning) and, hopefully, this is high on his list of priorities.

6. Gym Sports Bar had now realised they were offending people and re painted their columns etc. in plain white. FHDC had said they had no enforcement power, which was questioned as the Gym Sports Bar is in the Conservation Area.

7. Public Realm RH reported that she, Cllr Warwick Hirst and Isabelle Barrett had attended a meeting arranged by SCC's Quinten Cass looking at how 'bodies' of the Public Realm can be brought together. The current NHRM was mooted as a possible location for the POLICE, LIBRARY, C.A.B., and TOURIST OFFICE.

### **8. LW FROM FLAGSHIP SPOKE OF HIS CURRENT WORK**

- a. St John's Avenue project for 22 dwellings. Problems with access. This is ongoing.

Both FHDC and East Cambs are involved.

- b. Millbank: 4 bungalows;
- c. Windsor Road: 5 or 6 dwellings;
- d. Flagship are looking at parcels of land in Newmarket but some have ownership details missing.

LW expressed concerns about FHDC not really knowing the number of dwellings which have been built; what has now received permission; and what is the need.

SB had previously asked FHDC about this and had received an outdated response. SB will re-send her enquiry.

LW will hopefully come to next meeting with map to identify Social Housing locations.

- 9. Equine HUB Group ~ Due to have a second meeting. RH will report at next meeting.
- 10. Newmarket Vision Steering Group to hold event on 19<sup>th</sup> September: There will be workshops, Prince's Foundation to attend. Details to be provided at next meeting.
- 11. AOB: none
- 12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 10am, July 17 2014, Council Chambers Offices, Newmarket Town Council.