

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

2pm Wednesday, 27 August, 2014
Held at Newmarket Council Offices, Council Chamber

Members Present:

Cllr Rachel Hood (Chair), NTC
Cllr Michael Jefferys, NTC
Julian Wilson, Stud Farmers Association/NHG
Claire Elbrow, Blue Lizard Marketing and rep for Newmarket Chamber of Commerce
Sara Beckett, Resident
Neil Anthony, West Suffolk Head of Leisure, Culture and Communities
Steven Wood, West Suffolk Head of Planning and Regulatory Services
Graeme Lockey, West Suffolk Principal Growth Officer
Robert Feakes, SCC Planning Officer (Policy)
Christine Rush, FHDC minutes

1. Apologies received from William Gittus, Cllr Rona Burt, Quentin Cass, John Smithson, Marie Smith and Lee Webster. RH apologised for having to re-arrange the date of this meeting due to unforeseen circumstances and thanked all those that could attend.

2. Minutes of the last meeting 17 July:

There were a few minor amendments to the minutes of the last meeting (*changes in italics*).

- First Page: 'A member's discussion concluded that Forest Heath DC had only assisted Go Wild initially with the Management of these areas, but support *had* lapsed over the years, despite JS's previous understanding that FHDC Parks Management had *been involved*.'
- Item 3 Open Space/Go Wild: "JS also mentioned that the Guarded Orchard is now semi natural so he will be in further discussions with Claire, the field officer of GoWild.'

3. Matters Arising

Open Spaces: No update available, although CE added that GoWild were advertising for a fund raiser and marketing voluntary posts. NA stated when the positions filled, he would be very happy to introduce to FHDC Commercial Manager. RH stated that she would like them to apply for some of her Locality money. **Action:** SB to call GoWild and ask them to apply. SB reported that she was very impressed how much work has been done already and work promised to be done. The members agreed.

RH invited NA to speak about the sport facility and outdoor space strategic work. NA was happy to report that a contract specification had been sent out. Expect to start work early Autumn Sept/Oct. Nine months length of time, as looking at all West Suffolk for the next 20/25 years – looking at buildings and open spaces that will serve the community for many years. MJ had concerns that planning may put a block or blight on Scaltback / Anglia Leis work, but NA reassured that he could see no holdups on that site.

A discussion regarding the Football Club followed with mention of St Felix site. NA stated the St Felix site would be very suitable. However RF stated that land would have to held until a decision was made as to whether a new Primary School was needed or not. There is a question of both Football Club and a new Primary School sharing sports facilities. RF reminded the meeting that SCC

would have a bidding process to go through. Hatchfield Farm outcome would give a better understanding where allocations can be made stated RF. Overall a positive situation.

RH mentioned pockets of open spaces on Studland Park. A discussion ensued regarding potential new houses, complaints of cars being vandalised, police involvement. **Action:** SW would circulate a map showing SCC and FHDC land ownership.

SW reported that the Steering Group were looking at the anti-social issues including illegal parking and vandalism etc. and Community engagement was in the pipeline. **Action:** Clair Harvey of SCC and Richard Baldwin FHDC were leading on this initiative and it may be timely for them to be invited to attend the next meeting. RH thought this may also form part of the work for the Neighbourhood Plan. JW raised the question that some houses on Studlands may be privately owned. SB reported that some of the garages are coming up for sale. RH stated that Studlands issues fitted into 2.2 of the priorities list. **Action:** CAR to add Studlands item on to the next agenda.

No. 1 drain – change of name: RF spoke to Jeff Horner of SCC who welcomed this idea. With regards to a weir being introduced to the drain, would need a lot of work looking into water courses and land ownership – a complete survey of the area, RF said it wasn't out of the question, but perhaps a longer term project. RH stated that there may be some local money that could be put towards the cost.

Action: RH asked RF to check the process of a change of name and ask JH to provide a brief that the Delivery Group could understand regarding the weir.

Action: CAR to add suggestion to Conference planning to have a suggestion board for a name.

Conservation and Enforcement Update: RH recounted the meeting that SW arranged at the NTC on the evening of 19 August 'unauthorised advertising and A-boards.' She was delighted that the meeting ended in applause, and she was impressed with the 'will' to get things done and very much looked forward to hearing about Studlands.

SW stated that speaking to retailers and holding the meeting all went well. Enforcement has already commenced. SW explained that an issue had arisen highlighting the limit of the Council's powers particularly relating to those adverts that are considered to have deemed consent. This was particularly relevant to the Nightclub in the High Street. He suggested that the Council applying for an Article 4 direction which would take away permitted development rights (deemed consents) covered by the conservation area. This however, takes time. SB stated that out of office hours, retailers were bringing out their A-boards! SB and other members of the meeting were disappointed that local paper was reporting FHDC were 'heavy handed'. SB wanted the general public to understand that the rules and regulations were always there, but just never enforced in the past. The meeting as a whole were satisfied how things were being moved on.

Queensbury Lodge: SW reported that a surveyor was being employed to establish the list of repairs needed to preserve the building from further damage. SW also mentioned that a development brief would be drafted which would specify the extent and type of development needed to bring the building back into use. SB stated the news had made front page of the local newspaper this morning.

RH stated that NTC was totally behind FHDC. JW asked how far FHDC was willing to go SW informed the meeting that the Council at this stage were prepared to consider acquiring the property to carry out the improvements.

Public Realm: QC was on annual leave so there was no update to be given. However RH stated that she had a meeting in her diary for Friday at 9.30 am to be held at the old museum. This meeting was called to look at the property to see if it could lend itself to become a 'one stop shop' for Suffolk Libraries, Newmarket CAB, Tourist Information, Police, etc. All would like a presence on the High Street. A regular meeting is diarised for next week on the return of Clair Harvey and QC.

Action: CAR to bring forward item to the next agenda.

4. Affordable Housing Map – Lee Webster

CAR has emailed Lee a request to email a map through. **Action:** CAR to bring forward to next agenda.

5. Newmarket Vision Conference

RH presented the draft programme to the meeting. CAR reported that Liz Watts was to meet with a representative from the Prince's Trust Foundation and would confirm who would attend the Conference. JW and MJ did not think they had seen an invite. CAR stated that she had sent out over 400 invites, just over a hundred by hard copy the remainder by email. To date CAR had received 44 acceptances (which since the meeting has risen to 53 as at 29.08.14). A reminder is due to be sent out to those on email the following week.

Action: CAR to resend invite to JW and MJ.

6. Delivery Group - Quick update

- **Traffic /Highways re landscaping:** Grass cutting mentioned at the Steering Group, as NTC unhappy with the spasmodic way the grass is cut by the different agencies. CAR informed the meeting that dates were still being sought. A meeting would be fixed as soon as acceptable convenient date found for SCC and FHDC officers. A discussion on grass cutting followed, different budgets, different priorities. RH wondered if NTC own staff could be added to the timetable to assist with consistency of cutting. If who does what is known - MJ stated that a NTC meeting could be called to discuss in detail. **Action:** NA to find out what areas the District cuts; and RF to find out what areas SCC cuts. Both asked to report back.

Action: RH would like the Traffic / Highways Delivery Group to communicate with this group what it has done on mapping routes. MJ stated it would be interesting, he mentioned it was a shame that some footpaths are overgrown. He would like to see more cycle paths and would like to feed into the Transport Delivery Group.

- **Equine Hub:** GL advised that a meeting with the LEPs to visit Newmarket has been arranged on the morning of 29 September, Chairs and CEOs and will hear about the Jockey Club Expansion.
- **Newmarket Experience** is now going to be known as Discover Newmarket.
- **Town Centre/Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group and Education Delivery Group** both to review their action plan in the next few weeks.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

RH to meet with MS on her return from annual leave, on 4 September, along with Isabelle Barrett.

8. Update of other Delivery Groups and Equine Hub Focus Group

7. Priority Timings:

2	Community Planning Delivery Group	Timings
2.1	Identify gap / redevelopment / 'brownfield' sites in the most sustainable locations, i.e. more central areas and / or where new trips are more likely to be by walk, cycle, bus or train.	Neighbourhood Plan identified <i>Seek public view of objectives and aspirations at Conference on 19 September, 2014.</i>
2.2	Identify existing low quality, low density, low occupancy residential sites in less sustainable locations and create plans for redevelopment.	Neighbourhood Plan
2.3	If growth is required beyond the capacity of brownfield sites throughout the district, bring forward a masterplan for a new, mixed use community in / around Studlands, developing existing community assets, incorporating new and greatly improved links for walking, cycling, and new supporting bus services (refer to the 'renewing the Northern area' map on page 43 of NEnq.byDesign) .	Neighbourhood Plan
2.4	Develop integrated and purpose built housing for elderly and down sizing in any development.	Neighbourhood Plan RF has seen some drafts on Extra Care Eastern Housing Toolkit and can provide something shortly.
4.12	Conduct an audit and character assessment of existing landscape assets within and surrounding the town with a view to create a landscape strategy. (moved from Traffic Group)	<i>John Smithson Parks joint work with Planning / potentially assisted by GoWild. ?</i>
4.13	Explore ways of improving existing and new landscape assets (e.g. sports pitches) through development agreements and potential donations. (moved from Traffic Group)	<i>John Smithson Parks joint work with Planning ?</i>
4.15	Explore strategies to enhance biodiversity and ecological corridors within the Town Centre linked into the wider landscape. (moved from Traffic Group)	<i>John Smithson to support GoWild.</i>

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

10am Monday, 15 September, 2014 at Newmarket Town Council.