



Don't forget to follow us on @NMKTvision



NEWMARKET VISION

E-NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

Autumn leaves of change.....

The summer has gone, but not without a lot of activity on a number of fronts. The Newmarket Music Festival, which was spread over a month in July, the ongoing programme of racing education led by the Racecourse (more below), the publishing of the Deloitte Report by Forest Heath District Council (FHDC), and the upgrade works to the station to name but a few....

But there is – as ever – a lot more to do if we are to deliver our 20 year vision!

Steering Group

The Steering Group itself has seen a change of leadership. Cllr Sarah Stamp, Suffolk County Council Cabinet member for Communities has come onto the steering group representing the county council. Following a career in communications, Sarah became a councillor four years ago and was appointed as Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Communities in May this year, having previously served on the Cabinet of St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Sarah's diverse responsibilities include Trading Standards, Arts, Culture, Heritage and Libraries, equality and diversity, communications and engagement, relationships with the voluntary and community sector and communities and localities, hence her appointment to Newmarket Vision. She is also working with Felixstowe Forward, One Haverhill, Sudbury Connect and Lowestoft Rising, projects which will enable her to bring experience from across the county to Newmarket (and no doubt take some of our good practice back in the other direction). Sarah is a huge champion of supporting and working in amongst communities to help achieve their goals. She has already met a number of people from the delivery groups and is keen to continue to build strong links between the county council and the Newmarket Vision.

The Steering Group have met twice in September and have started a discussion about the potential of organising the groups around agreed projects and priorities in order to make sure that we focus on delivery. **The Steering Group are planning to hold a 'mini-conference' early in 2016 – a working meeting of everyone involved to date – to hear your views, and help shape the work going forward, ensuring we focus on key priorities of the community.** Please contact Christine Rush if you have thoughts on how this conference should be organised (or would like to help!) so that she can feed them through to the Steering Group (christine.rush@westsuffolk.gov.uk).

FHDC is now represented by Cllr Robin Millar, and NTC representation is being confirmed by the town council on 26 October (Cllr Warwick Hirst has attended on behalf of Cllr John Berry for the most recent meetings).

The Steering Group felt it was important to extend its membership beyond local authority councillors and officers and have therefore invited Noel Byrne (TRET Delivery Group), Howard Lay (Education Delivery Group), James Finch (Traffic / Highways Delivery Group) and William Gittus (Equine Hub Group) to join them on a permanent basis. The next meeting is on 19 November. It is hoped that this wider membership of the Steering group will improve communication between and across delivery groups, avoiding the trap we have occasionally fallen into over the past two years of one group not knowing what another group is doing.

All of these changes were undertaken thoughtfully after some care and consideration. The aim is to refocus things and ensure the right project has the right 'home' and that a broader group of people lead the vision at Steering Group level. To date feedback has been largely positive, and we hope that this momentum will continue.

Minutes from meetings of Steering Group and Delivery groups – we have made a concerted effort to get all of the minutes onto the website, so if you read anything in this newsletter and you'd like to find out more... have a look at the Newmarket Vision page:

http://westsuffolk.gov.uk/council/policies_strategies_and_plans/newmarketvision.cfm?aud=council

Community Planning Delivery Group

In tandem to changes at the Steering Group, the work of the Community Planning Delivery Group (CPDG) has been split. With the agreement of Newmarket Town Council, it was felt important to ensure that responsibility for the Neighbourhood Plan rests solely with them – mainly to ensure that it can follow the proper legal route if it is to become formally adopted as planning policy (more of this below....) The remaining work around the Green corridor of the Yellow Brick road/number one drain has been combined with the Tourism projects under the overall leadership of the TRET group (and the Tourism sub group). The Steering Group wrote to the CPDG to thank them for their phenomenal work in getting the Neighbourhood Plan off the ground – one of only three in West Suffolk that has so far reached designation stage – no mean feat in itself – and also to encourage them all to continue working in the vision within other groups.

Car Parking, Cycling, the BID (Business Improvement District) and a Brief for the High Street

Recently the Tourism and Town Centre groups have been working together and met with Darren Dixon (West Suffolk Car Parking Services Manager) and others to discuss and review the proposed **Car Parking strategy and signage for Newmarket**. Darren also presented to the NV Traffic / Highways Delivery Group in September. These were highly valuable exercises and demonstrated really well how the Vision works. Great communication resulted in frank discussions about the past, present and future of car parking and how to negotiate the way to the most suitably located car park depending on the requirements of visitors seeking parking spaces, especially in light of the future needs of those visiting the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art. The important focus was to see Newmarket from the outside looking in. Those who live in and around the town know their way around without the need for signage or a sat nav, but it has to be remembered from a visitor point of view and it's not always best for the Town, in terms of secondary spend, to guide the visitors to just one car park but rather leave the choice open to encourage them to explore the Town and a desire to return to seek out further, the treasures of Newmarket. Rachel Wood has most stoically written an extensive report of the views and ideas of the Tourism and Town Centre Groups which will be forwarded to Darren Dixon who will be consulting further before the results come to fruition in February 2016. The residents parking scheme has been shelved for now (parked!!), because residents did not support the implementation of residents parking zones.

At the last NV Town Centre/Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group (TRET) meeting it was reported that the **BID** was still on course, recently holding workshops for specific sectors. However, since that meeting, a decision has been taken to delay the vote until February 2016, as some concerns had been raised that businesses in the town have not yet received enough information to be able to make decide how to vote. **Further information for businesses is included at the bottom of this newsletter.**

Cycling routes in and around Newmarket is a major project that has still to get peddling and it's hoped that a specific group of enthusiasts with knowledge will come together to work on this project.

There have been **so many ideas for the High Street** (and the underground survey has been completed, so we now know exactly what's underneath it).... we now need to think a bit more about coordinating everything into an overall deliverable vision. What do we want the High Street to look and feel like in the future? Boyd Nicholas from FHDC will coordinate a newly formed group which will look at preparing a design brief, so as to take the Newmarket High Street Improvement Projects forward in a coordinated manner with new enthusiasm. This group has representatives from the TRET Delivery Group and key officers from FHDC and SCC. Watch this space!

Neighbourhood Plan

The Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan has progressed extremely well, particularly during September. The Vision Steering Group wanted to clarify the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan being 'owned' by the town council, an important element if it is to become formally adopted as Planning Policy. At the end of the month Newmarket Town Council approved the proposed designated area for the plan which is the Parish of Newmarket excluding the Cemetery on Exning Road at Cemetery Hill as this is Exning Parish Council's jurisdiction. The application for has been submitted to West Suffolk, who will undertake further consultations prior to approval. This will take a number of weeks but in the meantime the **Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NNPSG) have arranged a public consultation on the Aims and Objectives of the plan which will take place in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 between 08:00 and 20:00 so please do attend to make your views known.**

Liz Watts (West Suffolk Director) will be leaving West Suffolk in the middle of the month so we wish her well with gratitude for her help and support to all members of the group over the last two years. Her role will be covered in the short term by Simon Phelan, Head of Housing at Forest Heath District Council.

DUBAI FUTURE CHAMPIONS EDUCATION WEEK UPDATE

Following the success of the Dubai Future Champions Education Week project in 2014, 147 Year 8 pupils from Newmarket Academy participated in a series of events culminating in a day's racing on Friday 9th October 2015, the first day of the Dubai Future Champions Festival at Newmarket's Rowley Mile Racecourse. The programme aimed to engage children with the unique heritage of their local area and raise their employment aspirations as well as introduce them to the variety of employment opportunities offered by the racing industry. This initiative was made possible by the generous support of the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Newmarket Racecourses.

The five-day education programme was designed to enable students to undertake racing-related learning sessions incorporating topics such as science, geography, history, art, fitness, nutrition and photography. Newmarket's main racing bodies came out in force to support the project, including the National Horseracing Museum, the National Stud, Tattersalls, TOPSPEC and the Newmarket Equine Hospital. This year also saw Rossdale Veterinary Practice and the British Racing School involved for the first time.

Amy Starkey, Regional Director, Jockey Club Racecourses East Region, said;

"Newmarket Racecourses is committed to providing educational opportunities to local students. We are thrilled with the response from the students, teachers and parents at Newmarket Academy to the Dubai Future Champions Education Week which place the horse racing and bloodstock industries at the centre of their learning. It is our aim to help inspire these students through racing in whatever direction

or industry they wish to work in and also further strengthen the ties between Horseracing and the local community.”

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) UPDATE

The prospective Newmarket Business Improvement District (BID) task group (supported by the Mosaic Partnership) have recently finalised a draft business plan which can be downloaded here: http://www.newmarketbid.com/downloads/Newmarket_Bid_Summary-Business-Plan.pdf

The members of the task group are also listed on the Newmarket BID website and they have identified key potential project areas that they feel need to be delivered within the BID boundary. The draft business plan will be delivered to businesses within the BID area to try and encourage engagement and feedback. Businesses will have the opportunity over the next couple of months to feedback to members of the task group and/or the District Council regarding any issues or questions that they may have. The proposed vote will now take place in February 2016 after a revised (and final) business plan has been produced following this period of consultation. Interested parties can find out more information at the Newmarket BID website www.newmarketbid.com or contact Graeme Lockey at Forest Heath District Council via email at Graeme.lockey@westsuffolk.gov.uk or by phone on 01638 719471.