

Notes and Actions of the Newmarket Vision Meeting
Monday 12 May, 2014 at 9.30 am
held at Newmarket Town Council Offices

Attendees:

Cllr Warwick Hirst (FHDC), Chairman	Robert Feakes (SCC)
Cllr Rachel Hood (NTC)	Liz Watts (FHDC)
Isabelle Barrett (NTC)	Christine Rush (FHDC) Minutes

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Lisa Chambers and Bryn Griffiths, both Suffolk County Council also from Richard Baldwin, Forest Heath District Council.

2. Notes and actions from last meeting dated 2 April, 2014

Notes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

3. Royal Newmarket

RH had spoken to George Paul and John Warren regarding the potential of achieving 'Royal' status for Newmarket. RH was advised that a presentation pack should be carefully prepared on the basis of why Newmarket should become 'Royal' – setting out the extensive royal connections with Newmarket - and given to the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Tim Tollemache. Valery Hill is the Personal Assistant to the Lord Lieutenant and any contact should be made through her. The meeting agreed that any proposals should be ready prior to December 2014.

Action LW to set up a brainstorming group.

- Initial thoughts - statue; coincide with opening of heritage centre.
- LW will research Royal Wootton Bassett. The 'Royal' honour given because of the town's role in repatriation of the servicemen and women who lost their lives defending the country.
- WH recommends that Sandra Easom, Chair of the Newmarket Local History Society and Rachel Wood also of the Local History Society and Newmarket Library Group are involved in the initial brainstorming group.
- RH will supply racing contacts.

4. Strategic Role and timings of the Committee

LC and WH had spoken to the Chairmen not already on the Steering Group and agreed to set up a meeting for the four heads of the Delivery Groups and the Steering Group, mid June to share progress, coordinate plans and agree how the groups can be best coordinated, bearing in mind everyone's busy schedules..

Action CR to check availability of Noel Bryne and Howard Lay for a meeting immediately prior to the next Steering Group on 13 June at the Newmarket Town Council offices and to extend the room booking.

5. Communications Issues

This item was deferred until the next meeting. **Action** CR to bring forward.

6. Newmarket Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Meeting 29 April 2014

LW stated 40 businesses attended. 5-10 minute presentations were given by the Chairmen of the four Delivery Groups. LW was advised by the businesses that the best way of quickly keeping businesses informed was via Twitter. A Twitter account has been opened by FHDC Communications Team. RH agreed with LW that the session went well and there was a good atmosphere. Graham Abbey very positive. Businesses were asked what were their expectations of Newmarket; only about half of the businesses were aware of Newmarket Vision and the actions in the Prince's Report. WH is in the process of visiting large businesses, so will promote the work of the Newmarket Vision. LW waiting on receipt of the feedback from the Chamber of Commerce.

7. Equine Hub Focus Group 30 April 2014

20 people attended the Focus Group. RH commented that the Focus Group had been received extraordinarily well. LW stated the officers had met for a de-brief session, and were now ready to convene the group of volunteers from the equine hub focus group.

Next steps:

Convene a meeting with the volunteers - William Gittus, Amy Starkey, RH, Chris Garibaldi, LW and one representative from SCC to:

- a. Articulate the vision – horseracing (in its purest sense) or equine (in a wider sense), heritage or future, Newmarket vs surroundings etc.
- b. Draw up a shortlist of deliverables from the list reported back from the focus group meeting, which is congruent with the agreed vision.

Action CR to arrange meeting as soon as possible in May. Include IB on the email invitation.

8. Updates from Delivery Groups

Traffic/Highways Delivery Group: WH circulated and reviewed the group's notes from the 23 April 2014 meeting on behalf of LC, Chairman of the group. WH stated that

- the horse crossing was dependent on 106 monies from Tesco's and Morrison's. Detailed plans have been drawn up.
- Resident Parking Survey is complete; SCC studying results to report.
- Railway improvements on or near Newmarket to be provided – details to follow.
- Taxis – FHDC Tom Wright, Business Regulation and Licensing Manager is to be invited to the next meeting.
- **Attached are two notes** which give details of the 106 Agreements with the two Supermarkets – Tesco's and Morrison's.

Town Centre/Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group:

WH stated that all the sub-groups are continuing to meet in their own right and on Friday, 9th May approximately 40 people met as the Delivery Group. The aim of that meeting was for the Delivery Group to hear presentations on current work given from each sub-group.

- The **Tourism Sub-Group** gave an excellent presentation with a clear action plan covering short term and long term work.

- The **Town Centre Sub-Group** had clear ideas on state of the High Street and proposed a town centre manager with expanded responsibility. They talked of the lack of enforcement and a need for an overall plan of the High Street and furniture.
- The **Retail Sub Group** - Di Robertshaw reviewed the plan Richard Goss had worked on. The conclusion of which was that if you were parachuted in the middle of the High Street, you would have no idea that you were in the UK's home of horseracing. The group are working on an innovative idea to change this, using public art, high street furniture and other similar opportunities to create the feeling of a 'horseracing high street'. This group also suggested the need for a 'vision' logo.
- The **Local Economy Sub-Group** unfortunately did not have anyone present who were able to give an update.

The Delivery Group agreed to meet again on 6th June to look at the retail study and all the groups were asked to write an action plan using the Tourism Sub-Group's action plan as an example. WH has asked the action plan to be no more than three pages each and focus on the priorities as set out in the Princes Foundation document.

WH reported the delivery group has lots of ideas and interest and overall it was a positive meeting.

Community Planning Delivery Group: RH advised that NTC has confirmed that they want to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan. RH reported that SW thought really positive plans. RF and Marie Smith to source possible funding pots. May be an opportunity to pool resources with neighbouring communities.

RH stated that conservation and enforcement is an ongoing problem in the High Street.

RF mentioned QC, SCC property lead had brought up the subject of Public Access – Davina Howes from FHDC looking again at the District Council and public sector partners sharing buildings. **Action:** RF to request QC share the map of all buildings and list with the steering group, for information.

RH concluded with the new priorities that had been moved over to the Community Planning Delivery Group, that Councillor Jefferys had invited Peter Connelissen from GoWild Newmarket to the next meeting on 15 May re audit of existing landscape assets and the enhancement of biodiversity and ecological corridors within the Town Centre.

Education Delivery Group: The next meeting is taking place on 19 May. **Action:** RF to ask Clair Harvey to send a note to CR for circulating.

9. Priority / Action List

The updated priority/action list was noted and discussion on putting timings against actions followed.

Action: CR to invite Chairmen of the Delivery Groups to the Steering Group Meeting of Friday 13 June and extend the room booking 9.30am to 1.00 pm.

10. Local Economy Sub- Group

Comment noted.

Action: CR has included a note at 3.2 on the Priority / Action List.

11. Funding for delivery group initiatives

The Town Centre Sub Group would like funding to commission work on improving the public realm. It was agreed that in the first instance, proposals in the form of a project brief should be supported the delivery group as a whole (to ensure consistency across the various strands of work). The Steering Group would then seek to find funding sources for those proposals which will clearly deliver the actions as set out in the Princes Foundation report.

12. Proposed Conference

LW had prepared a draft programme, which was reviewed by the meeting. It was suggested that a couple of sessions were factored in as business people would potentially prefer a breakfast session, but trainers would prefer later. RH requested that Ben from the Prince's Foundation would be invited to attend.

Action: RH to advise a date to CR.

13. General bi monthly update

LW circulated the general update at the meeting.

Action: LW to circulate briefing note to the chairman of all the delivery groups.

14. Any Other Business

RH spoke of her concerns regarding the sports and open space provision in Newmarket. WH, Portfolio Holder for Health, Leisure and Culture assured the meeting that discussions are ongoing and when he sees a draft report, he will share with the Community Planning Group.

'Bid for Newmarket' was discussed in brief. The principle of a BID is that, once supported by a majority of businesses within a defined geographical area, the business contribute a % of their business rates over and above the bill that they already pay (usually somewhere between 1.5 – 5%) into a pot which can be used to support those things identified as important to the BID members.

15. Future Dates:

Time: 9.30 to 11.30 am unless otherwise stated*

Venue: Newmarket Town Council Offices

13 June, *Friday* - *Apologies from CR*
Meeting **extended** to 1pm

30 June, **2.00 pm***
Apologies from CR

13 August
8 September, 2.00 pm*
1 October
6 November
3 December, 2.30 pm*