

**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision
Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group
held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 6 February, 2017 at the Newmarket Town
Council Offices**

Those Present:

Richard Goss, Chairman	Michael Jefferys	Boyd Nicholas
Warwick Hirst	Julie Eden	Rachael Wood
Christine Rush	Sarah Beckett	
Peter Hulbert	John Smithson	

Apologies received:

Graham Philpot
Di Robertshaw
William Gittus
Jill Buckingham

- 1. Welcome and Minutes of the last meeting 12 December, 2016**
The minutes were agreed as correct. Update on item 8, potential closure of the Weatherby Level Crossing - Matthew Hancock written to network rail. Successful meeting reported PH. Although Network Rail did not attend sadly. Being referred to Secretary of State for decision. NNP group have identified as a significant route, so this is hoped that it may help sway the decision.
- 2. Newmarket Prospectus – Richard Goss**
Unfortunately nothing to report RG has a meeting Monday, 13 February with Jill Korwin.
ACTION: RG will report back at next meeting.
- 3. Green Corridor update – John Smithson**

 - **Warden for FHDC** – JS was appointed 1 February 2017 - part-time/two year contract post for three days a week with one of those days dedicated to Newmarket and the YBR. JS will be carrying out actions from the work plan identified in the management plan. The Chairman expressed his congratulations!
 - **Iron Work Entrance uplift** – JS is liaising with the designer following consultation with TRET to establish how the theme/branding of the ornamental metal motifs of oak leaves and acorns could be continued along the YBR. The designer is working on how the metal work could be used as part of a number of interpretive posts that JS is planning to produce over the next few months. Tentative themes for the posts at the moment are waterways, historic trails and landscape history. JS will share the ideas with the TRET group. JS said he will be chasing Anglian Water more regularly, as still waiting consent to install ironwork.
ACTION: JS to bring plans to next meeting and will chase Anglian Water for agreement.
 - **Landscape works** – There is a significant list of improvements identified by the parks team and JS will be meeting contractors before the end of February to get some of this work started.

- **Community Involvement** – as part of JS’s new role he will set-up a number of volunteer days over the year, so that local people can get involved in caring for the YBR – Newmarket Brook. Not just litter picking. JS is liaising with GoWild’s Anthony and Claire and with the BMX enthusiasts.
- **Facebook Page** – There is a new Facebook page for Forest Heath sites and JS will be posting photos and news about the sites he is supporting as and when projects unfold and interesting things happen.
ACTION: JS will be talking to the authorities about the dumping problem in and around the area, the cycle path, green corridor and brook are important.

JS reported that Tues, Wed, Thurs are the days he will work, however, he will be flexible and work around contractors availability as and when required.

The new Parks Manager may like to attend in the future, however JS plans to attend unless otherwise directed. JS can be contacted on his mobile: 07919 658483 email remains the same John.smithson@westsuffolk.gov.uk.

4. Specific Actions of the sub groups

- **Town Centre Sub Group/High Street Project Working Group** update
BN reported that there will be an inception/vision event tomorrow – run by Ramon Keeley of Ubiety in NTC in the Chamber. SWOT analysis, examples of good practice will be discussed. A public consultation will be held in the near future, after Ray has worked up something following the brief and the vision event. RG is keen to have minutes of the meeting.
ACTION: BN to circulate minutes to the group.
- **Pedestrian Signage** – SB reported the BID has taken this on.
- **Retailers Sub Group**
Trees in the High Street: There was a discussion on the funding of the temporary measure of planting trees in the existing planters along the High Street and then whether they would be used in the High Street Project. The BID wanted a quick win, however with costs doubling – the planting of trees is now on hold, JE reported. BN explained about supermarket’s S106 money. BN stated that after tomorrow Ramon Keeley design may incorporate trees. RW stated on a positive note we all want trees in the High Street. An underground survey had been undertaken by SCC in August 2015.
ACTION: BN to give feed back of tomorrows meeting, as last action.
- **BID** (Graham Philpot)
Although GP had sent his apologies he gave a brief update to RG:
 - The BID website going live on 12 Feb.
 - FHDC and Town Council looking at signage from station to Town Centre. JE added there is talk of a land train being set up between the months of April to October. Transport is already available from Town to Rowley Mile.

- **Local Economy Sub Group**

JM did not supply an update. RG reiterated last meeting note that the sub group had met in October and focussing on those Newmarket companies at risk of relocating and looking at those potentially coming in to fill the recently vacated larger units.

WH would like an update as a couple of local large employers were talking about leaving the town.

ACTION: RG will ask Cllr Dave Bowman/Jonathan Miles for an update.

PH talked about paying for car parking on Sundays - were any further meetings planned and how will charging be policed on a Sunday?

ACTION: CAR to contact Darren Dixon, FHDC Car Parks Manager for an update.

Car Park Update: Charging on a Sunday, started 4 April, 2016 and FHDC have car parking attendants enforcing the restrictions.

- **Tourism Sub Group**

RW was pleased to announce that the **Town Guide** is published and a wash up meeting has taken place. The group are working with the Town Council on the distribution of the Town Guide. The BID are going to be asked if the wardens will help distribution also. RW wants to take to other local towns and monitor how many given out and where. The guide contains lots of advertisements, but this is how it is funded. Next time categorise ads, perhaps. RW found it incredibly hard to get nice pictures to use in the guide, particularly from attractions. The merits of commissioning a photographer to take pictures of the town, was debated. The meeting thought this would be incredibly expensive. Ideas of hosting various competitions from schools to amateur photographers club was discussed and would need to have specific guidelines i.e., high resolution photos and subject. The Newmarket Journal could get involved also.

Heritage and Tourism Awards for businesses actively promoting Newmarket: needs to be developed more. What does the group think the categories should be? Any ideas how to take this forward, link with CIVIC events? Welcome suggestions.

Music Festival and Carnival 7-9 July - Velodrome as part of celebrations. The Tourism Sub Group liked the idea from one of its members and would like to think of a way to engage the community/promote the cycling theme in the town/Tour of Britain - painting old bikes. Bikes painted and marked around town. 'Saddle to Saddle'. Something similar has been done in Bath. Collect abandoned / dumped bikes by the Police may be a source. There is potential for DIY firms to donate paint.

Advertising the Festival: NTC have given advert space in Journal for the Music Festival, which it has done over previous years, leaflets etc. This year will tap into the BIDS social media. It is always publicised. When analysed, it was found the best way to hear about the event is by word of mouth.

Other suggestions of advertising by Tattersalls, Local Radio but would need reason to get involved.

More music has been requested and lots of other ideas coming forward. Music every Saturday 11.30-12.30pm. GP getting a licence to cover Bill Tutte area.

Other items discussed: Arts project next week – story telling in the town and will take place in schools.

Tree walk – map – prototype for a larger tree walk for people to admire and enjoy.

Buskers competition around town, Newmarket Journal involved with this. Vote by token for best performance perhaps.

7. Newmarket Vision Promotion Opportunities

RG would like further defined information regarding the High Street Project Group before taking this further.

ACTION: RW to contact AH at the Journal re Town Guide.

8. AOB

Clock Tower – RW advised it is not in a good state. Lion head missing, broken glass. Stone work damaged. Very dirty. RW would appreciate what others think. It is an iconic symbol of the town. Best to look at now rather than later when in a worse state and more costly. NTC property. Budget for community services WH and MJ will bring up next week at the NTC meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting – Monday, 20 March, 2017 10.00am

Dates for the rest of the year and meeting held in the Sir Ernest Cassell meeting room, unless otherwise stated:-

Monday 8 May

Monday 19 June – Council Chamber

Monday 31 July

Monday 11 September – Council Chamber

Monday 23 October

Monday 4 December