



Newmarket Vision Steering Group

Notes of meeting – 16 March 2020, 2pm

Memorial Hall, Newmarket, CB8 8JP

Attendees

Cllr Paul West (Chair) (PW)
Cllr Rachel Hood (RH)
Cllr Alan Sharp (AS)
Jill Korwin (JK)
Deborah Sarson (DS)
Will Wright (WW)
Laura Cockell (LC) – Note taker

1. Welcome and apologies

Cllr Andy Drummond (AD), Cllr Louis Busuttill (LB), Andy Cuthbertson (AC), William Gittus (WG).

2. Minutes of the last meeting (Monday 30 January 2020)

All agreed the minutes of the last meeting were an accurate account.

3. Anti-Social Behaviour and County Lines (Will Wright)

WW introduced himself to the group as locality officer for West Suffolk (more specifically, Newmarket) and explained his role overseeing anti-social behaviour (ASB) and current County Lines issues. WW delivered a short presentation. A summary is as follows:

'County Line' refers to the phone number or line used by urban gangs to control and facilitate drug dealing in rural areas. It is summarised as the supply of class A drugs from an urban hub into smaller towns or county locations. It is facilitated by a group which has networks across geographical boundaries to access and exploit existing drug markets.

There is a high proportion of 'lines' in West Suffolk in addition to a high proportion of arrests. Police are looking to take out these lines rather than individuals.

Those at risk are young people who are exploited (particularly through social media, dating apps and used as 'money mules').

Presentations have been delivered to the academy and feeder schools; attendees have included students, teachers, parents and governors.

A County Lines Panel has been set up.

The method by which police respond to County Lines issues in West Suffolk is slightly different to other areas due to the geographical location.

WW advised there is finite police enforcement in the West; therefore, there is an opportunity for the vision group to look at what can be done to reduce pressures on the police.

Action: WW to advise DS on future County Lines sessions in order for town councillors to be invited.

4. Key issues and concerns from delivery groups

Town Centre, Retail, Local Economy and Tourism (TRET)

JK confirmed Richard Goss had stepped down from his role as Chair and the position had not yet been filled.

JK reminded the group of the structure of the TRET group and their status. The group was supported by four sub-groups but some had not met for a while:

- **Town centre** has lost many members and not met for around a year; this group was driving the development of the High Street Design Project
- **Retail** has not met recently
- **Local economy** not a group that meets; however, West Suffolk Council leads on delivery and brings partners on board as necessary
- **Tourism** active; currently chaired by Rachel Wood, a local resident.

The group was responsible for delivering actions to support the following vision objectives:

- In 20 years' time, Newmarket will be a popular visitor and tourist destination by using its unique position as the home of horse racing. Through strong branding and marketing Newmarket will be recognised as part of the Suffolk Tourism offer and positioned as the Gateway to the East of England.
- In 20 years' time, Newmarket will have a successful and attractive high street, part of a more varied and accessible town centre, with a balanced range for different income levels of quality shops and vibrant local market that caters for the needs of local residents, visitors and tourists.
- In 20 years' time, economic growth will be stimulated to encourage businesses to develop and grow in a manner which complements Newmarket's existing infrastructure and horse racing industry.

JK advised that, since the original set up of the groups, Newmarket has seen the development of Discover Newmarket as its Destination Management Organisation, picking up tourism and Love Newmarket – the business improvement district (BID) for the town centre.

The group considered if TRET could be disbanded and instead the chairs of the boards for Discover Newmarket and Love Newmarket be invited to attend and pick up the relevant vision objectives (as they are already doing so in practice) and also asked the

group if Newmarket Retailers' Association should be included.

The group all **agreed** with the proposal in addition to a suggestion from DS that the Newmarket BID manager and Discover Newmarket manager also be invited to attend the steering group in supporting roles.

JK also advised the tourism group had submitted a funding bid to the Rural Tourism Infrastructure. The bid is for 100 per cent grant of £47,000. If successful, it will be used for improvements in the town, such as signage.

Transport and highways

RH advised there was work currently being conducted on pinch points; however, this was focussed towards Mildenhall. RH is meeting with Cllr Hicks at a later date and will raise concerns in regard to Newmarket.

Equine Hub

The equine group is developing a wider strategic view on what Newmarket should and can be. Priorities are:

- the Newmarket offer
- equine infrastructure
- employment in industry
- science, research and innovation.

The Jockey club has commissioned Turnberry consultants to develop a future view of growth for Newmarket and more specifically the equine industry. An update on 'Project Newmarket' will be provided to the group at the end of the month.

JK confirmed this work is part of a wider project; however, its will be a focus on Newmarket due to its significance in the racing industry.

Education

First meeting of school heads took place on 14 February. The group agreed to focus on the following priorities:

- **Enhancements to the education setting**
 - Calming rooms, sensory rooms or facilities
 - Reading and communications, vocabulary
 - Relationships and understanding more than the spoken word
 - Beyond Newmarket to broaden the horizons of young people who may not have left Newmarket
- **Enhance opportunities for families**
 - EAL – not just for young people but parents also to support the understanding of the schoolwork and so on
 - How can enhanced lessons on weekends support family learning EAL?
 - Tutor that can support all schools during the working week in the EAL arena, are there any professionals or translators who would give time to this, or funding?
 - The use of technology to complement face to face interactions
- **Safeguarding and partnerships**

- Policing approach and joint working with Police and social care when concerns for children are raised (such as not turning up for school)
- **Transition**
 - How can the transition year 6 to 7 be enhanced to support young people?
 - Explore transition workshops for primaries starting in years 5 and 6 so year 7 becomes natural progression; this could be blended learning or cross pollination teaching
 - Extended communication into the first term of year 7
 - Look at how supported students transition, utilise learning to have continuallsystems approach to developing this transition period into year 7.
- **Beyond curriculum**
 - Robotics STEM skate park
 - Art projects.

The group applauded the progress of the skate park. WW advised they are now only £10,000 short of the total funding requirement and will be looking to see what further funding can be raised. The group agreed a letter of support should be written to the students.

Action: LC and PW to draft letter.

WW noted the success of the robotics project, advising the group that an education team from BT had trained 10 students who were now in turn teaching others. Now looking to set up clubs for more students to attend and utilising locality budgets to buy robots for more schools.

Next project will look to be creativity and arts focussed.

Community planning

RH advised at the next meeting of the town council they will look to put the community actions arising from the neighbourhood plan in to action.

The steering group agreed it would be useful if a group could be created to implement the actions moving forward for the vision, which could draw in expertise from partners when needed to achieve the actions.

Action: DS to provide an update at the next steering group meeting. Will need a clearer understanding of the structure of the group.

5. High street design update

Officer meeting took place Friday 13 March to review next steps.

The consultation took place over a year ago and feedback was collated; however, several things have changed since:

- CPE
- move of the market
- taxi consultation.

In light of this, it was agreed that further work would need to be done on the design document to reflect changes with potential further consultation.

The group agreed there needs to be someone to take a hold of the project and move it forward.

Action: SE to send the group a list of people who sat on the High Street Design Group when it was set up and minutes of the last meeting. Is there an opportunity to get them involved again?

Update to be provided at the next steering group.

6. Communications update

Website has been updated and can be found here:
www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/community/newmarket-vision

The Twitter is also being updated regularly, see here: <https://twitter.com/nmktvision>

The group agreed there needs to be more content that the vision can post itself rather than just sharing or promoting content from other organisations and businesses. SE also requested more be done by group chairs to work together on content and sharing.

Action: SE to liaise with Christy at the town council to work together on posts for the town calendar and for the vision social media.

The group agreed it would be useful to include a short update note on each delivery group page on the website which outlines what the last meeting consisted of or what the group had been doing.

Action: LC and SE to discuss.

7. Forward plan of meetings

Next meeting to focus on the vision priorities, including those from each delivery group.

To be arranged for early June.

8. Any other business

DS advised the group that the town council had formed a Newmarket Vision review group and was looking to request four more seats within the steering group, in addition to requesting it be kept more informed as to what work the vision was conducting.

The group agreed the format of the steering group worked effectively with each of the chairs attending and there is also opportunity for town council members to join the delivery groups which are open for anyone to attend.

The group agreed the terms of reference should be reviewed at the next meeting and no decision regarding the group membership be taken until it has been discussed.

Action: JK to bring full outline of proposal to the next meeting. LC to add terms of reference to website.

WW advised the good news that he had put forward Rachel Wood as a nomination for volunteer of the year and she has been shortlisted.