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NEWMARKET VISION E-NEWS LETTER OCTOBER 2015

Darker evenings but the light is still at the end of the tunnel

The High Street

The Newmarket Vision Steering Group (NVSG) has formed a new project group to take forward the brief for the high street. The group, chaired by Boyd Nicholas from Forest Heath District Council, held its first meeting in October. It has already begun work to look at its aims and objectives, as well as funding and the tender process. This will feed into a design brief and the detail from this will then form part of a Heritage Lottery Fund application from the Town Centre Sub Group.

Neighbourhood Plan

Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NNPSG) has submitted the application for the approval of a designated area. This is out for public consultation until 03 December 2015 and is available at <http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr15110301.cfm>

The NNPSG recently undertook its own consultation event during which it invited residents and businesses in Newmarket to identify their wish list for the town including the important planning issues that they would like to see addressed by 2030.

The consultation will give a steer to the kind of policies that will need to be written for the Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan, which will eventually become a supplementary planning document (SPD) to be referred to when planning applications in Newmarket are considered.

On the back of the consultation, the NNPSG has drafted seven aims and objectives:

- to promote and maintain the character of the town
- to ensure sustainability
- to ensure a vibrant town centre
- to promote the town's economy and employment
- to promote the town as a tourist destination
- to value our environment
- to promote health and well being

Green corridor

Work is also ongoing on a project to turn the number one drain and yellow brick road into a green corridor. The 1.7 mile area runs from Exeter Road to the Orchard next to the A14 and has previously suffered from misuse and neglect. The vision is for it to become an attractive walking and cycle route through to the town centre from Studlands via the new Tesco store.

Forest Heath's parks manager John Smithson has developed a management plan for the area. As this includes elements relating to flood defence, both Suffolk County Council and Anglian Water will need to input into this scheme. One of the major hurdles to overcome for the long term management and further development of this area is clarifying who owns the various parcels of land involved.

Newmarket BID

The retailers are continuing to work on promoting the benefits of a B.I.D (Business Improvement District) for Newmarket. Voting has been delayed whilst further one to one talks with businesses take place. More than 240 businesses in Newmarket have been contacted by the team leading on this, while a similar number will be approached in the coming weeks.

Equine Hub

The Equine Hub Focus Group met during October and discussed creating a sign posting webpage to integrate existing Newmarket websites (Discover Newmarket, B.I.D, Newmarket Town Council). It hopes to secure European funding to help take the project forward. Housing for key workers in the HRI was also discussed in relation to the emerging local plan for the District. The Jockey Club and Racing Welfare are both looking at ways in which they can further assist in providing housing for those involved in the industry.

Education

Following on from the 2015 'Under Starters Orders' week of activities it is hoped to engage further with the primary schools and the Academy to provide more initiatives, reaching to pre-school, after school and apprenticeships.

Car parking and signs

Many of the Newmarket Vision groups have looked at the issues surrounding of car parking and signage with the aim of providing a long term plan to address traffic issues. Work on this is continuing.

Railway Station

The Railway Station is receiving a makeover thanks to funding from the Racecourse, Tattersalls, SCC, FHDC and Abellio.

At the same time three companies are bidding for franchise to run local train services. They are:

- Abellio East Anglia Limited (a joint venture between Abellio and Stagecoach)
- First East Anglia Limited
- National Express East Anglia Trains Limited

The link below provides further information following the consultation earlier in the year

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461382/east-anglia-rail-franchise-stakeholder-briefing-document-and-consultation-response.pdf