

**Notes and Actions of the Newmarket Vision  
Steering Group Meeting  
Thursday, 22 January, 2015 held at 9.30am  
at Newmarket Town Council**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Lisa Chambers, Chairman (SCC)	Richard Baldwin (FHDC).
Cllr Warwick Hirst (FHDC)	Christine Rush (FHDC)
Cllr Rachel Hood (NTC)	
Liz Watts (FHDC)	

**1. Apologies**

Bryn Griffiths (SCC)

**2. Notes and Actions from last meeting 1 October, 2014**

The notes from the last meeting were agreed as correct.

- RH reported that she has spoken to the manager of TK Maxx who was very understanding, but asks that any questions on the signage be referred to Head Office. **Action:** RH will advise LW name. It was suggested that this is something Boyd Nicholas could take on, once the guide has been adopted. The lease on this property finishes in 2020.

**3. Update from Delivery Groups and Equine Hub Focus Group**

[http://westsuffolk.gov.uk/Council/Policies\\_Strategies\\_and\\_Plans/newmarketvision.cfm](http://westsuffolk.gov.uk/Council/Policies_Strategies_and_Plans/newmarketvision.cfm)

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

The group will meet on Friday, 23 January. The original meeting was planned to meet earlier, but had to be changed due to room accommodation. WH has asked each Sub Group to give an update on their groups' activities tomorrow. On the 13 February meeting the Sub Groups are expected to update their progress for the agreed priorities list.

**Equine Hub Focus Group** – minutes in the form of an action plan are on the website.

- Discover Newmarket Launch successful on 13 November and the marketing officer, Lissie Hope, has been provided with temporary office space at the Jockey Club.
- William Gittus had been looking into the possibility of stable waste recycling, however RH reported the technology is not quite there as yet.
- RH stated the group had discussed skills, local apprenticeships which RH and LW to follow up with Education Group. LC suggested meeting with Judith Mobbs. **Action:** LC to contact Judith Mobbs with a view of attending a future Equine Hub focus group meeting. LC would also attend if her diary permitted.

**Community Planning Delivery Group**

- Neighbourhood Plan - RH stated that the NTC will be meeting on the evening of Monday 26 January and the Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan (NP) will hopefully be approved to take forward. With reference to an action from the last meeting: **RF to action:** if locality can provide support/advice – cross border cases on NPs.
- Open Spaces – John Smithson, West Suffolk Councils Parks Operations Manager has been incredibly helpful and progressing with the walk way, ecological corridor through the town.

- No. 1 drain - Jeff Horner, Suffolk County Council's Flood and Water Manager will be attending the delivery group tomorrow with potential ideas of how to prevent the drain being a fly-tip area.
- Shop Front Guide – scheduled to be adopted by FHDC in February, subject to response from the consultation.
- Housing – Kim Langley, West Suffolk Councils Strategic Housing and Enabling Officer joined the last meeting and explained that to be accepted on to the Housing Register certain criteria has to be met, one important fact that the applicant has to have is a local connection. Owners of empty homes are being encouraged to bring their houses back into use. KL stated that there is an insufficient amount of affordable housing.

**Royal Newmarket:** RH reported that in order for Newmarket to apply for Royal Status it had to be ratified by the NTC. Hopefully this will be approved at Monday's Town Council meeting. Newmarket Journal has reported the article in the newspaper today. Sandra Easom has got the documentation together in a form of a book. RH will call Sandra to explain progress. RH and Isabelle Barrett will take a small covering report to inform the NTC meeting. **Action:** RH will call Sandra Easom to advise progress.

**Transport Delivery Group** – LC stated the last meeting was held on 20 January.

- LC mentioned a cycle network review and circulated a copy of a map showing cycling routes through Newmarket, local and national.
- LC asked if the Community Planning delivery group and Town Centre group would like to give feedback. **Action:** LC asked RF to supply copy for their respective next meetings, and a copy to be circulated to all members of the Steering Group. WH asked for a more detailed map to be produced. RH added that at a recent meeting at Studlands she saw a lot of young children cycling home from school and wondered why there is not a cycle route? LC commented that potentially Route 51 could be extended or marked more clearly.
- LW commented also that Rachel Wood has been working on maps, and thought it would be a good idea that she be included in the consultation. The group thought Horse Walks should be added to the map.
- WH requested that Peter Horn, SCC officer could attend a future meeting. **Action:** RF to arrange.
- The delivery group conducted a survey of businesses in the Newmarket High Street asking what their needs and views were on parking provision and about the proposed NED art installations on the High Street.
  - 70 questionnaires were handed out, 58 replies received which is a response rate of 82%.
  - Primarily the parking bays were of general interest and comments received; 68% of businesses were sure that customers used the parking bays for visiting their shops.
  - When asked if businesses were aware of the NED project putting art on the High Street 31 said no and 19 said yes.
  - Also a high percentage did not think the art would increase the footfall.
  - Location and number of taxi ranks appropriate – 20 no and 25 yes.**Action:** LC will arrange for the survey to be circulated to the Steering Group.

- Darren Dixon gave a verbal report on the capacity of car parks to the group, with a promise of a written report to follow. It is expected that 150 visitors per day to the museum. Darren Dixon is leading on the car park strategy to meet this demand by Spring 2016.
- LW asked if there was a plan to survey visitors on the High Street. LC reported that this is the first element of the car parking strategy.
- Signage and tourism impact discussed.
- Fornham Road and Snailwell horse walks slight delay.

**Education Delivery Group** – LC reported that at the end of last year all the head teachers in Newmarket had agreed to report back within the next month about the support they need from the Education Delivery Group. LC and Howard Lay, Chair looking forward to the next meeting.

#### **4. Communications**

- LW reported that all being well the eNewsletter co-funded by Suffolk County Council and the District Council will go out at the end of January.
- Cycling already identified.
- LW needs to follow up on car park information re museum.
- WH will feedback to NED group outcome of the Newmarket High Street survey.
- LW stated that the NED group needs to do more work with the retailers. A compromise may be the solution.

The Steering Group would like copies of the confirmed minutes of each delivery group to be added to the FHDC West Suffolk website:

[http://westsuffolk.gov.uk/Council/Policies Strategies and Plans/newmarketvision.cfm](http://westsuffolk.gov.uk/Council/Policies_Strategies_and_Plans/newmarketvision.cfm) ).

**Action:** All to remind their groups to send dates of meetings and confirmed minutes to CAR, so that arrangements can be made for them to be posted on the website.

#### **5. Neighbourhood Plan**

As reported above, waiting approval on Monday at the NTC. Alex Munro awaiting instruction.

- Neighbourhood Planning Suffolk Masterclass event, Monday 9 March to be held at West Suffolk House - Isabelle Barrett and RH have signed up to attend.

#### **6. Action Plan**

LW will update the action plan after today's meeting. May need to go through the list of actions at the next meeting as there may be new actions to add from the community since the last review.

#### **7. Studlands update**

RB reported that the Studlands Residents Association met for the first time recently. The group of 12 will meet monthly. 50 people interested originally so there is a waiting list to become a member. The Terms of Reference of the group were agreed. The group will communicate via a 'Studlands Residents' facebook page, notice board and newsletter. RB will assist as little or as much as needed. The group has great potential. They are setting up a Community Watch. Keith Horton, Chairperson of Southgate Area Association has been asked

to support the group. WH stated that the meeting also agreed to trim all shrubs etc.

### 8. Any other business

RH commented that she had received an email from Joanne Rogers, FHDC Town Centre Manager inviting RH, as Mayoress to attend a photo shoot Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February at 12noon at the Guineas shopping centre to celebrate Newmarket's achievement as Newmarket is the first town in England to achieve WorldHost recognised destination status. Unfortunately due to the short notice, RH stated she was unable to attend the event. RH requested more lead time was needed to ensure her availability. LC was also not aware of the event. LW to advise JR for future reference.

RH stated that the efforts of the Skate Park meeting organised last year had resulted in a disappointing attendance. **Action:** LC will contact Nick Froy. LW to follow up with Simon Pickering.

RH also mentioned how disappointed she was and the NTC with the outcome of the FHDC Licencing Committee approval of the renewal of the Lap Dancing Club Licence. RH appreciated that this is not something the NV Steering Group could influence, as the decision was the ultimately that of the district council. RH just wanted it noted as it is in the High Street and potentially conflicts with the Prince's Trust suggestion of improvements of the High Street.

**9. Date and time of next meeting:** Monday, 9 February, 2015 at 9.30am  
Apologies from CAR. Richard Baldwin will be taking the minutes.

**Dates for 2015:** 9.30am unless otherwise stated

**Venue:** Newmarket Town Council Offices

16 Mar 2015 Mon

23 Apr 2015 Thurs  
1.00-2.30pm ♦

14 May 2015 Thurs

~~18 Jun 2015 Thurs~~

**New date:**

Wed 24 June 9.30 am

NTC, Council Chamber

16 July 2015 Thurs

13 Aug 2015 Thurs

24 Sep 2015 Thurs

15 Oct 2015 Thurs

19 Nov 2015 Thurs

9 Dec 2015 Wed  
2.00-4.00pm ♦