



**Newmarket Vision Steering Group
Minutes of the meeting held on
Thursday, 3 September, 2015 at 9.30am at
Bedford Lodge, Bury Room, Newmarket**

Present:

Robin Millar
Warwick Hirst
Liz Watts

Sara Blake
Robert Feakes
Christine Rush

Apologies:

Sarah Stamp

Bryn Griffiths

1. Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair

RM nominated SS as Chair of the Steering Group.

2. Roles of Steering Group and Delivery Groups

LW gave a verbal report of how the Steering Group and Delivery Groups were originally formed and progress made to date.

- Projects naturally owned by the various councils.
- Four delivery groups (one of which has created four sub groups to focus on specific elements of delivery).
- All working though list of Princes Foundation Priorities.
- Spreadsheet of the Actions is kept updated.
- Delivery groups have frequently expanded their original actions to include further ideas and proposals.
- Representation on groups is varied and wide and interest has been maintained.

LW is to report the work of NV to the Forest Heath District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September and interestingly from looking at the make up of the groups it was found that 28% of members are from non horse-racing industry businesses.

A discussion followed as to how to progress the Newmarket Vision work, which included consideration of organising the groups around agreed projects/actions rather than themes.

3. Working Groups Progress and Priorities

Education Delivery Group are meeting up early in September linking with a Head Teachers' group meeting to look at how and where working together could be achieved.

- The Steering Group recognised Lisa Chambers' commitment to this group and working with Howard Lay.
- RM stated that he had seen the emerging focus on animal care and science coming through.
- The Racecourse tours and work with Primary Schools, led by Amy Starkey, has been welcomed and very positively received, and it was noted that the expansion of the off curriculum week to include local history characters, led by Rachel Wood, had been a tremendous success.

- RM stated that Locality Budgets are being used to assist with funding for much of these types of activities.

Community Planning Delivery Group has now developed into two groups, one still Community Planning, the other Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NNPSG). It was noted that the latter should be driven and owned by the Newmarket Town Council and Terms of Reference have been drawn up at the conception of the group by the Town Council and formally adopted. WH stated that the Town Council will have additional representation on the NNPSG to widen the membership and cross section of the group.

- The green corridor (which follows the water course) through town is developing with Forest Heath DC's John Smithson's management plan, working with GoWild and liaising with SCC's flood defence group. (4.12 and 4.15 of the original action).
- Other priorities (2.1 to 2.4) of the Community Planning Delivery Group have been linked with the NNPSG.
- 4.13 improving existing and new landscape assets (e.g. sports pitches) – sports strategy to be adopted in September.
- **Action:** RM to write letter to John Berry re NNPSG confirming leadership of NNPSG by Newmarket Town Council.
- The commitment and work that Rachel Hood and her team has been involved with in the Community Planning Delivery Group was noted.

Town Centre/Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group (TRET) meeting tomorrow on Friday, 4 September. Sub Groups to be discussed as to whether they regroup into one large group. Potentially, the green corridor could be passed to the Tourism sub group or wider group.

WH reported that the TRET Delivery Group were heavily involved with the enhancement of the High Street, from statues to street furniture and planting. Members had been asked to look at the Haverhill Masterplan document to assist with ideas and suggestions for consideration of the group.

- The Tourism group have been involved with promoting the local sausage in schools and food and drinks festival held at the racecourse. Publication of historical document, banners in the High Street, music festival to name but a few.
- The Retailers group involved with the BID process.
- Newmarket Market repositioning on trial basis and new market regulations which have recently been approved.

Traffic/Highways Delivery Group was established before the Newmarket Vision Steering Group was set up, but had become a formal delivery group within the Newmarket Vision. This group's main focus has been on horse walks and aspirations of local people. There is a lot of cross over work with the other delivery groups. LW stated that this group had largely finished what it had originally set out to achieve. The car park strategy is linked to the museum, but not only linked to the Traffic/Highways group; it cuts across all groups. RM suggested amalgamating the Traffic/Highways group and TRET group.

SB suggested that the Traffic/Highways Delivery Group support other groups. SB will update Councillor James Finch, Chair of the delivery group and Suzanne Buck, Transport Policy Specialist who supports this group.

Equine Hub Focus Group - After NV was set up, FHDC had initiated a meeting with the horse racing industry to consider their role in Newmarket Vision, specifically with actions relating to the industry. From this initial meeting, a Focus Group was established, which now regularly meets up every two months and has an action plan which can be found on West Suffolk Councils' website under Newmarket Vision.

4. **Communications and wider engagement, paper attached**

All agreed the e-Newsletter is an excellent and very useful communication tool. **Action:** LW will ask the current author to continue producing a newsletter every month for the next six months. A member of the Comms Team will edit after LW's departure from FHDC. £100 per month shared cost between SCC and FHDC as the last six months arrangement.

5. **Any Other Business**

Newmarket High Street Improvement Projects report (circulated previously) was discussed. WH thought this was the same work that the TRET group were doing. There was a discussion as to whether the Traffic/Highways Delivery Group could take ownership of this or a working group with representatives from both delivery groups.

Room Bookings - NV Steering Group wanted it noted in the minutes that the group were very appreciative of all the past, present and future room bookings that Newmarket Town Council have provided for the Steering Group, Delivery Groups and sub groups free of charge.

Newmarket Vision Highlights - RM suggested an info-graphics on what has been achieved by Newmarket Vision – showing

- the wide range of people engaged
- industries
- projects NV involved in
- e-Newsletters.

This could be used as a promotional flyer. **Action:** LW to draft.

Deloitte's report – an independent report commissioned by FHDC detailing what Newmarket means to local people and stakeholders. This report is an embargoed confidential report. RM stated that this report recognises the national and international significance of Newmarket as a sporting asset and that it could be used as a tool to take to the Government to obtain important infrastructure funding in Newmarket. **Action:** SB to brief SS. MPs, Councillors, Princes Foundation, all partners/organisations, stakeholders will be briefed on the impact of the report and its key objectives. After the launch there will be a link added to the West Suffolk Councils website to view the document.

6. **Future Dates**

Dates for 2015: 9.30am unless otherwise stated

Venue: Newmarket Town Council Offices

24 Sep 2015 Thurs
15 Oct 2015 Thurs
19 Nov 2015 Thurs

9 Dec 2015 Wed
◇2.00-4.00pm◇