



**Newmarket Vision Steering Group  
Minutes of the meeting held on  
Thursday, 19 November, 2015 at 9.30am at  
Newmarket Town Council,  
Sir Ernest Cassel Meeting Room**

**Present:**

Sarah Stamp, Chair  
Bryn Griffiths  
Warwick Hirst  
Noel Byrne  
Howard Lay

William Gittus  
Simon Phelan  
Christine Rush  
Will Partridge Student, King Edward  
Upper School

**Apologies:**

Robin Millar  
James Finch  
Rachel Hood

Sara Blake  
Robert Feakes  
Isabelle Barrett

**1. Welcome to Delivery and Focus Group Chairs**

SS welcomed all to the first whole group meeting and stressed how pleased she was to have NB, HL, WAG and JF as part of the Vision Steering Group. SS stated that she was really pleased to be the Chair of this group and it is her desire to improve communications across the board and work on bringing everyone together to deliver what is best for Newmarket.

SS extended her thanks to Liz Watts who was instrumental in the forming of this group.

Will Partridge who is the head of a politics group at King Edward Upper School is shadowing SS today as part of National Takeover Day to give young people an insight into local politics.

**2. Minutes of the last Meeting, 24 September 2015**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct.

**3. Update on Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan**

Unfortunately Rachel Hood, the guest speaker from the Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NNPSG), was unable to make the meeting. WH gave a brief update in her place. He reported there had been more town councillors co-opted onto the NNPSG with an aim of producing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Newmarket. The Terms of Reference have been updated and will be agreed on Monday 23 November at the Town Council meeting.

Referendum, WH would be interested to know who pays for this, he is hoping FHDC, but needs this confirmed.

3 November NNPSG held a consultation in the Town Hall on the proposed key objectives to be included in the NP. Initially the area covered by the NP included the cemetery; however it is now the Town Council boundary – Severalls, Studlands, St Mary's and All Saints - excluding the Exning cemetery and those areas that overlap into East Cambs.

1 December, 10am to 2pm NNPSG Public Consultation on the Objectives at the Guineas Shopping Centre; plus one other potentially to be held at Tattersalls which is currently being organised.

**ACTION:** All to advise groups of the consultations and raise awareness.

**NNPSG Seven objectives:**

Objective 1:		to promote and maintain the character of the town
Objective 2A:	Housing	to ensure sustainable development within the boundary of the designated area
Objective 2B:	Transport	to ensure sustainable development within the boundary of the designated area
Objective 3A:		Newmarket High Street to ensure a vibrant town centre
Objective 3B:	Market	to ensure a vibrant town centre
Objective 3C:	Information and Parking	to ensure a vibrant town centre
Objective 4A:	Sites	to promote the town's economy and employment o Promote the Town's Economy and Employment
Objective 4B:	Diversity	to promote the town's economy and employment
Objective 4C:	Education and Skills	to promote the town's economy and employment
Objective 5:		to promote the town as a Tourist Destination
Objective 6:		to value our environment
Objective 7:		to promote health and well being

**4. Delivery and Focus Group Updates**

**NV Town Centre/Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group (TRET):**

NB gave an account of the last meeting held on 6 November; discussions on

- The High Street Project  
A working group has been formed to take the project forward. Boyd Nicholas convened a meeting on 22 October with various members of the different sub groups. Main points discussed were the area boundary; guidance and best practice; funding with possible Heritage Lottery money and S106 money.
- Newmarket Market  
The market is not moving to the front of the Guineas, further work to identify a solution Cllr David Bowman had reported.
- Alcohol Free Zone  
Newmarket is covered by a Designated Public Place Order (DPPO), however due to changes in the anti-social behaviour legislation this is due to change to a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). Tom Wright, Licencing Manager / Helen Lindfield, Families and Communities Officer both FHDC, will ensure that any DPPOs currently in place are still fit for purpose as part of the Night Time Economy Group.
- Underground Survey  
An underground survey has been commissioned for various projects for the High Street and is now available.
- Car Park Signage  
NB advised provisional plan in progress, but need Tourism integrated signage so as not to double up on signs.

- Green Corridor  
John Smithson, FHDC Officer gave a very interesting presentation to the group of his ecological management plan for this area which starts from Exeter Road meandering over 17 bridges to Hyperion Way. Mike Jefferys has been given the job as project manager as he is keen to see this community project materialise. John and Mike have met on 11 November and propose to approach Tesco's who are interested in funding community projects in town. Anglian Water will also be approached. Mark Pendlington, Group Director's name was given as a starting point of contact (Chairman of New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership). WAG added that the route from the Laundry goes under the Jockey Club car park and reappears in Tattersalls land. NB suggested also sponsor a bridge funding idea. It was agreed that this project sits very nicely with the Tourism Sub Group.
- Business Improvement District (BID)  
240 business have been contacted with another 240 to be seen. Postal vote will take place end of January 2016; NB hoping for a positive vote and then a board can be formed.
- Town Centre and Traffic Group working together on signage.
- Tourism constantly working on initiatives. Cycling e-map - NB has agreed to run a working group to identify a plan for more wider cycling routes. Newmarket Hilly Cycle group want to do more. Renting bikes is a thought. In talks with SCC Colin Grogan, Sport Health and Inclusion Development Manager. BG suggests Suzanne Buck gets involved. Network Rail - NB spoke about adopting disused railway lines as done in Ireland, for leisure routes to attract visitors to the area.
- Local Economy Group working on new businesses start up packs.
- Shop Front Policy – several new retailers coming into town. Not sure how this communicated. How does FHDC enforce the policy? Rachel Hood is going to write to other retailers to ask them to be more subtle in a heritage landmark. One retailer has toned their shop front down quite successfully. Newmarket would like to see shop fronts that are elegant and sophisticated.

**ACTION:** SP to take this concern back to FHDC ask for note on enforcement of new retailers coming into Newmarket.

### **NV Education Delivery Group**

HL stated that the progress of establishing trust within the group has been slow and finding common ground to build a vision. However HL reported the aims and agreed actions of the delivery group were:

#### Aims:

- Raise Aspirations
- Building Confidence
- Creating Responsibility

#### 10 Agreed Actions:

- English Language as additional language/
- Support disadvantaged children
- Work with Local Community Projects
- Clarity and leads with Business People
- Governance – need to be strategic
- Common Programmes between Maths and English

- Celebration – awards idea
- Focus on Families and Parents
- Wider learning opportunities – enrichment
- Early years provision – of which there is a lack of, but working with SCC how to open up more spaces. Not enough Primary provision.

### **NV Traffic / Highways Delivery Group**

SS gave apologies from JF.

**Action:** update to be brought forward to the next meeting.

## **5. Equine Hub Focus Group**

WAG reported that

- Discover Newmarket going well – ongoing discussions to focus on marketing.
- Signage is an issue for them also.
- Royal Newmarket status – not sure when results will be communicated. Statue to celebrate Queen’s birthday next year. WH stated that planning application had been received; needs registering followed by a consultation.
- Equine infrastructure – a new uphill gallop for various training reasons in racecourse side of town. Jockey Club Estates working on this project and funding sought.
- Key worker housing issue for racing industry, mainly from Racing School as young people away from home, once they leave the school it is difficult for them to find accommodation that is affordable. Dawn Goodfellow, CEO of Racing Welfare heavily involved and will provide some accommodation. The Jockey Club are aiming to create and provide 140 racing related units.
- Crèche facilities and a refurbished gym specific to the racing industry - Dawn Goodfellow working closely with BHA and looking at sites near the Racing Centre, based on a French model of running crèches for racing staff e.g. 6.00am start – gap in the middle of the day when childcare not required and then further childcare available in the afternoon.
- Transport and traffic, WAG stated, is the biggest frustration not just for the racing industry but for town in general. WAG attended the Traffic/Highways Delivery Group meeting and gave a presentation of traffic issues and concerns. WAG was extremely disappointed that he has not received any feedback from the group. SS and BG were very concerned to hear this.

**Action:** WG and NB asked to send a briefing note to JF so that he can discuss with Suzanne Buck who supports the Traffic/Highways Delivery Group.

**Action:** SS, JF, BG, WAG, NB to meet to discuss new strategy/ way forward.

**Action:** SS/BG will give an update at the next meeting of what needs to be achieved.

## **6. High Street Design Governance**

A note from RF had been received prior to the meeting:

- ‘Representatives from the Town Centre, Transport and Retail Groups met on 22 October to discuss the scope of a High Street Design Brief.
- The intention was to identify the physical area which the Design Brief should cover, along with the topics it should deal with, in order to commission work by an urban designer or similar specialist.

- The meeting concluded that the Brief should address the area from the Clock Tower in the north to the last businesses in the BID area to the south, with the buildings facing the High Street and entrances to the side streets off the High Street also included to the east and west.
- The principle objective was identified as 'to improve the public realm of the High Street in a holistic and integrated manner.'
- Topics for consideration in the brief should include: location and layout of street furniture, signage, paving / hard landscaping, street crossings, traffic calming, parking, taxi ranks, public open space, planting / soft landscaping and lighting.
- It is suggested that the Group remains small, with officer and public representation from the TRET and Transport Groups, but Governance remains an issue.
- The Group's work is relevant to transport, retail, town centre, tourism and neighbourhood planning work. To whom should the Group report? The Steering Group appears to be an obvious candidate for simplicity and to cover a broad range of issues, though the TRET Group also has a strong claim.'

The Steering Group agreed that the High Street Project Working Group should report to the NV TRET Delivery Group.

## 7. Communications

- **NV Conference:** A half day celebration of achievements and progress event with key speakers giving an update from each group. An opportunity to discuss objectives and goals for the future. It would be an event held at the end of March / or beginning of April specifically for attendees of all the groups involved.

**Action:** CAR to circulate some dates and book NTC for venue.

## 8. Any Other Business

Appreciation for the support of LW in progressing the NV was noted and good wishes for future.

**Street Statues Project** - BG asked about this project. WH said that this project has been 'parked' until further notice. The Traffic/Highways Delivery Group had suggested a High Street Survey and as a result it had received a negative response due to restrictive parking if statues were in place.

**Railway** - WAG reported good progress being made with Abellio. Amy Starkey has been involved and a ticket machine is to be installed at some point in the future.

**Support** - NB reported that the support from CAR was really important taking minutes and raising agendas of the NV TRET Delivery Group and SS agreed that it should be minuted CAR is an intrinsic link who keeps everyone on track.

### **NV Agreed Priorities list**

**Action:** CAR to circulate the list for each group to update individual sections; return to CAR for collation in readiness for the next meeting.

## 9. Future Dates

**Dates:** 13 January 2016

**Time:** 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

**Venue:** Newmarket Town Council Offices