



**Newmarket Vision Steering Group
12 September, 2016 at 9.30 am
Newmarket Town Council Offices**

Key Notes and Actions

Attendees:

Cllr Richard Smith MVO, Chairman
Cllr Robin Millar
Cllr Andy Drummond
Cllr James Finch
Richard Goss
Bryn Griffiths

Howard Lay
William Gittus
Richard Baldwin
Christine Rush
Michael Attwood
Chris Garibaldi (for item 3)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Richard Smith opened the meeting and introduced himself as the new chairman of the group and is the Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Finance, County Councillor for Aldeburgh and Leiston and has past and present connections with Newmarket. Each member in turn introduced themselves. Apologies received from Jill Korwin. Richard Baldwin attended on behalf of JK.

2. Minutes of meeting 11 July, 2016 and matters arising

The minutes were agreed as correct after a couple of small amendments.

- Racing Employment Figures – WAG to provide data to FHDC.
- Signage – JF reported that it had been decided that the signs into Newmarket are clear. The brown signs deemed satisfactory. To change would involve evening work and traffic management, and incur health and safety costs which are ridiculously high. It was felt that money was better spent on signing for the New Heritage Centre.
- On Street Parking Enforcement – RM and JF reported that this issue was being discussed shortly at the Suffolk Leaders Group taking place this Friday.

3. Home of Horseracing

CG unfortunately held up in travelling to the meeting initially so WAG reported:

- A soft opening this weekend to coincide with Newmarket open weekend which brings 6-7 thousand people into town. It is in its third or fourth year and benefits the whole town.
- Palace House is part of the ticket price (what is available to view).
- Country Life article WAG will circulate.
- Equine stars in attendance to draw interest.
- CG arrived and was very happy to report the Café opened last week and the shop opens this week!
- CG and WAG reported that an early feasibility study had been completed with two options – one to build on the outskirts or - two in town. It was the intention to get foot flow from the south side of town and into Sun Lane.
- CG reiterated that this weekend is Newmarket weekend, show casing the site, with live horse demos, taster tours etc.

- From Monday Palace House galleries will be opening, visitors will be able to buy a ticket with official opening within the next few weeks.
- 98 staff to be trained in the next two weeks and orientation.
- Second phase CG stated is to up grade the High Street, CG stressed this is a must. RM shop front guide reflects this upgrade initially and the future High Street improvements are intended.
- WAG commented it was unfortunate that the shop front guide does not have any retrospective power to change the original shop fronts since its launch.
- CG reported that the traffic calming between Palace House and the Trainer's Yard site - sleeping policeman was proposed, but not physically possible due to the camber of the road.
- It is now beautifully linked, and people will see it as pedestrian area. However a safety audit needs to be done, as some cars seemingly intentionally race down there and problems with delivery vans also.
ACTION: MA to action to monitor all traffic in the Palace Street area and CAR to note as an agenda point for the next meeting.
- Palace House, National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art Newmarket this is the museum strap line
CG left the meeting at 10.15am

4. Updates from Delivery Groups

Equine Hub Focus Group: (William Gittus)

- WAG reported that the planning application is going through for the Uphill Gallop.
- Stable waste recycling proposals being looked at. BG stated that he had seen something similar before, but trying to get all interests lined up and economics unfortunately did not work.
- AD FHDC recently invested in Solar Farm, council has been working on rent a roof. However grid is not able to take power locally.

Education Delivery Group: (Howard Lay)

HL working on strategic areas

- Academies
- Helping with that transition.
- Improving quality
- Sites, infrastructure
 - HL reported there are some good schools across the area, but schools need investment.
 - HL is working with partners and with Abbeycroft Leisure increasing sports provision where by if land is given, pupils have access to facilities during school time.
- Staffing - drafting excellent staff across academies.
- Language – English as additional language. There is significant progress when language is not a problem.
- Government measures schools on progress now, and not on attainment. Press have not caught up with this as yet, unfortunately.
ACTION: RB to add Gov. measure - progress not attainment, with good news story to comms grid.

TRET Delivery Group: (Richard Goss)

- RG will be inviting the BID Manager who starts on 3 October, to the next TRET meeting – Monday, 31 October.
ACTION: RG will also invite BID Manager to a future Steering Group meeting.

- Di Robertshaw, also a member of the BID will be giving a presentation on "Love Newmarket WiFi" at the next meeting. Di will be asking for funding, and ask the Steering Group to note this request at the early stage of this project.
ACTION: RG will report back details of the "Love Newmarket WiFi" project to the next Steering Group meeting.
- RG expressed his concern that the Design Brief Project is no further forward. RG said the Design Brief met the S106 criteria. RG stated the Retailers group felt the project would really help the footfall in the High Street.
ACTION: RB and RM to look at resources.
ACTION: When appropriate RG to bring the Design Brief to the Steering Group.
- RG stated that the trees in tubs on the High Street in conjunction with the BID, is however planning to go ahead. Maps being looked at by the Tourism Sub Group.

Traffic / Highways Delivery Group: (Cllr James Finch)

- JF advised Abellio won the rail franchise.
- JF explained RIS1 and 2, that there were missed opportunities with RIS1. JF stated that RIS2 will make a difference – a major programme. A14 capacity is not a problem it is the junctions. Rougham J45 - 5 month project, for better flow between the Business Park and Bury St Edmunds. There are improvements planned for all junctions and JF has groups working on these. Highways England has to put a plan to Department for Transport.
- Devolution may change this process.
- Exning junction is part of they study. Evidence based on priority. If the application is successful work will commence Spring 2020 onwards.
ACTION: JF to ensure no road works around Newmarket during the museum opening celebrations.

5. Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan: (Cllr Andy Drummond and Cllr Robin Millar)

- NNP is owned by the Town Council
- Local plan is the whole of the FHDC area.
- Single Issue Review October date.
- Planning applications will still come through for Newmarket. Taken on own merits and locations. Planning permission is not affected by the Hatchfield decision.
- NNP to have update at next meeting.

6. Car Park Provision: (Christine Rush)

CAR gave an update on the car parking provision in Newmarket:

- A comprehensive Car Parking Review report went to FHDC Cabinet on 22 December 2015.
- It concluded that currently there is sufficient car parking, however it is to be reviewed regularly once the HoH visitor numbers are realised.
- A couple of 'Residents Parking area' consultations was due to take place this month, however has been deferred until next year, as SCC felt that the survey would not reflect the thoughts of the residents until the HoH visitor numbers and parking habits were known.
- The areas to be consulted are adjacent ends of the High Street from the Clock Tower – Lisburn Road/ All Saints Road - basically TK Maxx store and

immediately behind HoH area and the North is from Grosvenor Yard car park area and St Mary's Church going towards the Race Course.

RG mentions that the BID group are employing two town rangers - RG not sure how official, but will attempt to gently move people on. RG to advise the BID to check the legality of this. JF stated that SCC is the official body of traffic enforcement.

RM not convinced - the area to the north of High Street is not a problem, it is the side to the south that has the problems. A public consultation proved this with people placing dots on a map identifying areas where they thought problems were.

7. Communications (Richard Baldwin)

RB stated that the NV support officers met with JK last week.

Following that meeting JK drafted a communications sheet, 'Summary of opportunities and approach' which was circulated with the agenda.

- Supporting officers will co-ordinate stories and the plan can be shared and developed with the local press.
- Comms team will be working with us.
- RS thinks once a month is not too frequent for comms.
- WAG stated the idea was to show a strand of NV working along side news stories and that NV has contributed to the themes.

8. Funding, S106 Money

The group approved the following recommendations:

- The TRET group (High Street Design Project group) continues to progress the design brief work and actively seeks match funding, with the support of FHDC and SCC.
- Newmarket Vision steering group keeps track of the progress of these initiatives and through a communications plan ensures that the improvements are promoted and the role of Newmarket Vision is made clear.
- Ultimate approval for the schemes will remain with FHDC as signatory to the 106 agreement.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Date of Next Meetings

14 November – 9.30am

It was agreed that the Steering Group would meet quarterly after next meeting on a Monday.

ACTION: CAR to arrange quarterly meetings for next year.