

**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision
Town Centre / Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group
held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 12 December, 2016 at the Newmarket
Town Council Offices**

Those Present:

Richard Goss Chairman	Peter Hulbert	Michael Jefferys
Boyd Nicholas	Alison Hayes	Jill Buckingham
Sara Beckett	Warwick Hirst	Julie Eden
Rachel Wood	Graham Philpot	
John Smithson	Christine Rush, Minutes	

Apologies received:

Cllr David Bowman, William Gittus, Jonathan Miles and Richard Fletcher

1. Welcome and Minutes of the last meeting 31 October, 2016

The last minutes were reviewed and were agreed as correct.

Coach Parking in Newmarket Update included in the minutes

- RG has spoken to Amy Starkey at The Race Course and she has agreed to let coaches use the Rowley Mile as a temporary coach park until the parking survey is completed. Amy Starkey has said there will be no charge for coaches parking at the race course. Obviously this will only apply whilst this temporary agreement is in place.
- RG has also emailed SCC Cllr James Finch, chairman of the NV Traffic/Highways Delivery Group asking for his support in looking for a solution.

2. Newmarket Prospectus – Richard Goss

RG reported that JK had approached him to get together with a group to discuss the 'Newmarket Prospectus' – RG is keen to find out more detail and exactly what this is.

A discussion was held on what it might be, was it really needed; is it just another unnecessary layer? Newmarket already has the Newmarket Vision, enquiry by design document which the Princes' Trust produced.

ACTION: RG report back at next meeting.

3. Green Corridor update – John Smithson

Following the last meeting, JS passed on the comments to the metal work designer. Agreed arch would look better and the integration of similar art work along the path. Designer has been asked to come up with some more ideas.

JS in the meantime is identifying more areas that could be worked into his formal maintenance programme.

JS advised that FHDC is getting a part time Warden to visit one day a week to check areas such as the Yellow Brick Road, recreation grounds etc. The Warden will be responsible for other areas too. It is hoped that a regular patrol of this kind of area will mitigate misuse of the various sites, i.e. dumping of sofas etc. The Warden is due to start on 1 February, 2017.

4. Newmarket Website – Graham Philpot

GP circulated hard copies of how the website would look and advised that the website is planned to be available toward the end January / beginning of February.

- It will have the strap line 'Love Newmarket'

- Newmarket shops have different websites for different people, so the idea is to bring this all together as a one stop shop!
- Visitors looking to access information can do so all in one place. There will be reciprocal links to other websites.
- 'Love Newmarket' will be catering for various visitors –a broad spectrum of people so going for bold colours, and hopefully a distinctive look compared to other towns.
- Local radio – link to news feeds will be available.

There will be a business side with:

- BID news
- Members log-in for BID board papers
- Seen to be competitive.
- Funding for the website has come from the BID, Tattersalls, Newmarket Jockey Club, Newmarket Town Council, amongst others
- Live already holding pages – Winter Wonderland etc.
- BID town ranger, will be issued with uniform, royal blue and white. Safe and welcome. Promoting town. Will have flyers and maps. Can report any issues.
- Questions raised how to get to Newmarket? Discover has this info and will be sign posted, but more work is to follow in the future. Signage is being worked on.
- Coach and train station will have information leaflets.
- WiFi phones will have link.
- Social media has been live for a month. If anything outrageous, it would be removed. But it is a platform for people to comment.
- Correcting mis-information was a concern which GP noted. However, SB stated that she corrects any mis-information posted where possible.
- DMO destination management will be linked.

5. Specific Actions of the sub groups

- **Town Centre Sub Group/High Street Project Working Group** update BN reported appointment has been made Urban Design consultant
 - Initial meeting before Christmas.
 - Wider group inception meeting dates to be identified.
 - 6 months work anticipated.
 - Budget will be tight.
 - Members of the group are: BN,JB, SB, DR, WH, Guy Smith - SCC Highways, Des Burnett, Cllr Chris Barker, Rachel Hood from Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
 - The Brief should highlight action areas.

A discussion on Pedestrian Signage took place. GP stated that the BID is happy to take this on as DR has other commitments. Mark Walsh and GP would like to review signage. There is a budget and businesses want to see improvement on signage. GP thinks it could easily be delivered by the NV as all three tier councils on the groups.

- **Retailers Sub Group**
Trees in the High Street:
 - Planting going ahead - trees and bulbs.
 - NTC will be under planting.

- A discussion followed as to what was happening to the box trees, concluding that Amy Starkey is part of discussions, so all should be going forward.
- **BID**
GP gave a quick review of all the BID involved in.
 - 'Love Newmarket Wifi' - Technical queries have been answered and the BID have agreement of the Steering Group to go forward.
- **Local Economy Sub Group**
JM sent his apologies, but note sent:
'The Local Economy Sub Group last met on 28 October, however the group and officers are focussing on those Newmarket companies at risk of relocating and looking at those potentially coming in to fill the recently vacated larger units.'
- **Tourism Sub Group**
 - Town Guide, approved and at printers.
 - Music Festival, at planning stage RW would appreciate GP's involvement as keen to develop in a sustainable way. Also has the potential link to Love Newmarket website.
 - Newmarket Calendars on sale...
 - Promoting the town whilst raising money for the library.
 - RW would love to hear suggestions from anyone to assist with sales.
 - RW asking for input.
 - Mobility info to be added.
 - Christmas map delightful, but has been modified as too busy for BID Wardens.

7. **Newmarket Vision Promotion Opportunities**

A discussion over all the good things going on in the town was held. AH agreed that positive items would be welcomed by The Newmarket Journal. Articles will be run on the BID and rangers; Love Newmarket and WiFi. There is a possibility of a column for The BID.

RG really keen to promote NV and its success. NV logo to be used and is supported by encouraged by NV group.

ACTION: AH will add link to minutes in the Community section of the paper.

ACTION: CAR to supply AH with logo and link to minutes on the website.

8. **AOB**

PH stated that Matthew Hancock MP would be meeting those people affected by the potential closure of the Weatherby Level Crossing on Friday, 16 December at 9am and wanted the group to be aware.

ACTION: RW to supply link to the petition against the closure and CAR to circulate to all. Level crossing petition: <https://www.change.org/p/network-rail-network-rail-keep-the-weatherby-level-crossing-in-newmarket-open>

9. **Date of Next Meeting – Monday, 6 February, 2017 10.00am**

Future meetings to be held five or six weeks apart. Richard Goss thanked everyone for all their support and look forward to an exciting 2017!