

**NEWMARKET VISION
MINUTES OF
COMMUNITY PLANNING DELIVERY GROUP**

10:00 am Thursday, 15 May, 2014

Held at the Council Chamber Offices, Newmarket Town Council

Members present:

Cllr Rachel Hood (Chair), NTC

Cllr Michael Jefferys, NTC

Neil Anthony, West Suffolk Leisure, Culture, Communities

Julian Wilson, Stud Farmers Association/NHG

Claire Elbrow, Blue Lizard Marketing and rep for Newmarket Chamber of Commerce

Sara Beckett, Resident

Quentin Cass, SCC, Property Transformation Manager,

Robert Feakes, SCC, Planning Officer (Policy), Planning and Development Team

Graeme Lockey, West Suffolk Principal Growth Officer

Christine Rush, FHDC minutes

Guest Speakers:

Peter Cornelissen – Go Wild

Claire Haskins - Field Officer, Go Wild

1. Apologies

Apologies received from William Gittus Group Property Director and Managing Director of Jockey Club Estates Limited, Lee Webster, Development Project Manager, Flagship Housing Association and Marie Smith, West Suffolk Planning Service Manager.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as correct. Matters arising:

- **progress on Open Space/Sports Report** – NA stated that he would like to identify Newmarket in the first phase of this work in the sports strategy. RH stated that she felt nine months was far too long. MJ felt there was a missed opportunity with the school sites which have been empty for two years already.
 - A discussion on the skate park took place. NA stated that the Bury St Edmunds Skate Park was driven by young people. The Borough Council and SCC facilitated this.
 - QC stated that Scaltback is going ahead and will be the home for Newmarket Rugby Club and Athletics.
 - The meeting spoke of the concerns of the football association as there is a low up-take for football in Newmarket.
 - The group spoke of it's wish for a serious swimming pool with a fun pool for children within Newmarket.
 - Summary of requirements:
 - Football resolution not sufficient grass space, may have to consider synthetic pitches;
 - Informal recreational space
 - Skate Park **Action:** NA to refer to Richard Baldwin and Simon Pickering to work with the young people.
 - Leisure Pool – will require a major study to encompass Newmarket and the surrounding area.

- Conservation and Enforcement – SW not in attendance. **Action:** CR to bring forward to the next meeting.
- Affordable Housing Map – Newmarket area LW off sick. **Action:** CR to bring forward.
- Public Access / Public Realm Buildings – to be a regular item on the agenda for updates, when available. **Action:** CR to note.

3. **Go Wild**

Go Wild in Newmarket was formed in 2008 with help of the Green Light Trust with the aim of creating wild spaces and pockets of woodland for everyone in Newmarket to enjoy. The group work closely with schools so local children have the chance to grow wild plants and to learn about biodiversity.

Go Wild in Newmarket started managing two areas of land; St Felix Meadow, land adjacent to bridge and Wildwood Meadow and has since acquired from Forest Heath District Council (Andy Evershed and Jane Orton) the license for the Guarded Orchard in Studlands Park. They also have the use of Tregonwell Meadow and an area of woodland within Studlands Park.

- Hedges have been donated by FHDC and planted by GoWild. Received grant for a second hedge in 2011.
- SP Landscapes have donated time and equipment to help keep the grass at the Community Orchard maintained.
- Picnic tables have been donated.
- Peter mentioned Studland's social had given them storage space for equipment, but storage and tools were always required.
- Go Wild relies on volunteers which have mostly been from the USAF base and a few locals who work along side seven committee members to run events, help maintain sites and provide funding.
- They hold nature rambles and walks including flower walks, litter picking, apple days, general maintenance of the areas, planting campaigns like planting saplings and bird box building.
- Working with schools they have planted bulbs, tree saplings and hedges.

RH would like to help the group with communicating their events. NA advised that FHDC have a West Suffolk Diary – a guide to what's on in West Suffolk and will introduce Richard Hartley, Commercial Manager to the group so events can be added.

NA suggested Claire to get in contact again with the Suffolk Volunteers – Community Action Suffolk.

<http://www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk/how-we-help/volunteering/>

The contacts for St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath:

Elaine Hewes - elaine.hewes@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

Glenn Hubbard - glenn.hubbard@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

RH asked the meeting if anyone had heard of 'Rubbish Friends?' Fiona Unwin and a group of friends have organised themselves to pick up rubbish locally. They have picked up about four to five tons of litter over a two

year span. FHDC nominated them for an award from Suffolk Greenest County and Fiona has won the Green Hero award. RH wondered if this group would be interested to volunteer with Go Wild activities.

With regards to Priority 4.15, areas along Yellow Brick Road from Studland Industrial Estate to Town could be classed as a wild corridor.

MJ and RH commented that they would both like to see green corridors criss-crossing across Newmarket Town.

Peter talked of the flood that happened two years ago and stated that the ditch in the area of the flood could have a weir installed at the western end and have permanent water which would enhance the area and actually stop people filling the ditch with rubbish. It would be a feature and improve biodiversity. MJ believes Anglian Water and SCC have ownership of this area.

Claire stated that together

- Existing sites could be improved;
- Wild flowers sown;
- Create log piles for insects;
- Plant more trees and hedgerows;
- Change mowing patterns of meadows for insects and animal use;
- Create compost heaps.

More volunteers involved and more sites made available could be same or similar biodiversity and ecological areas within Newmarket.

NA would also like to introduce John Smithson, FHDC Parks Operations Manager and Richard Baldwin, FHDC Families and Communities Officer and Locality Officer for Newmarket to Go Wild.

Go Wild has already got a link from the NTC 'link' page.

RF stated that Suffolk Biological records http://www.suffolkbrc.org.uk/public_html/ - **website changed to <https://www.suffolkbis.org.uk/SuffolkBRO> (amended 1 September 2020)** may have information on designated sites. QC explained that the organisation is hosted by SCC and is a lead resource co-ordinating knowledge and skills information from several organisations to one local point of contact.

RF also mentioned Guy Smith <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/environment-and-transport/suffolk-s-natural-environment/ecological-services/>

RH welcomed an audit of what Go Wild could do and what work Go Wild and the Newmarket Vision Community Planning Delivery Group could do together in the very near future and invited Peter and Claire to come back to the delivery group with a brief outline of where the two groups could help each other. Peter and Claire both would be delighted to return, but asks that Claire in particular has some notice, as she would have to get time off work to attend.

Action: NA to introduce Richard Hartley, John Smithson and Richard Baldwin to Go Wild. CR to exchange contact details to enable this to happen.

Action: RH would like the delivery group and NTC to support Go Wild with publicity.

MJ suggested to the delivery group that those interested in a site visit to see work done by Go Wild.

Action: MJ to liaise with Peter and Claire for SB, RH, MJ to visit one of the sites.

4. Neighbourhood Planning

RF circulated an information sheet 'Neighbourhood Planning – Funding and Support' and is also available at

<http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/review/community/neighbourhood/guidancenotes/>

along with other very useful guidance notes. RF informed the meeting that the group needed to be able to demonstrate what the money will be spent on. Also Community Action Suffolk will provide funding advice free at this stage.

RH reiterated SW suggestion that the group work with neighbouring towns and asked the question what area should the neighbourhood plan cover, what will the plan achieve? An in-depth discussion took place and a map was provided of Newmarket and surrounding areas, in particular Cheveley, Snailwell, Exning beyond the railway line, and Newmarket Fringe which is in East Cambs.

Action: CR to circulate section 6 of the Cringleford Objectives to the delivery group. Members to report back their thoughts at the next meeting.

- 5. Public Realm buildings:** QC reported that Clair Harvey will be sending an invite to the NTC asking for a couple of representatives to join a review of public sector buildings such as FHDC, Suffolk Library DWP, Job Centre, Police. QC to give an update at the next meeting.

6. Update of other Delivery Groups

RH gave a brief update on the Education, Traffic/Highways and Town Centre/Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Groups.

The FHDC, Newmarket Vision webpage being updated as and when notes available and have been agreed at the delivery groups next meeting.

Link:

http://www.forest-heath.gov.uk/info/100003/community_and_living/605/a_vision_for_newmarket

RH and RF stated that an Equine Hub sub group has been arranged to take ideas forward following on from the focus group held on 30 April.

7. Priority Timings:

2	Community Planning Delivery Group	Action	Timings
2.1	Identify gap / redevelopment / 'brownfield' sites in the most sustainable locations, i.e. more central areas and / or where new trips are more likely to be by walk, cycle, bus or train.	Agreed to write Neighbourhood Plan with NTC supported by officers at FHDC and SCC.	
2.2	Identify existing low quality, low density, low occupancy residential sites in less sustainable locations and create plans for redevelopment.	Members to agree actual neighbourhood area and have sound objectives to take to NTC. Members have a copy of Cringleford's objectives to consider and a map of Newmarket and the surrounding area.	
2.3	If growth is required beyond the capacity of brownfield sites throughout the district, bring forward a masterplan for a new, mixed use community in / around Studlands, developing existing community assets, incorporating new and greatly improved links for walking, cycling, and new supporting bus services (refer to the 'renewing the Northern area' map on page 43 of NEnq.byDesign) .		
2.4	Develop integrated and purpose built housing for elderly and down sizing in any development.		
4.12	Conduct an audit and character assessment of existing landscape assets within and surrounding the town with a view to create a landscape strategy. (moved from Traffic Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go Wild have agreed to report back audit at a future meeting. • Peter is retired and an active volunteer with a lot of experience. Peter has recently given up his chairmanship to Claire's husband - Anthony Haskins. Claire is a Field Officer in biodiversity and planning and has two degrees in biology. 	
4.13	Explore ways of improving existing and new landscape assets (e.g. sports pitches) through development agreements and potential donations. (moved from Traffic Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA to invite John Smithson to a future meeting. • NA to keep the group updated on future provision on out door sports in the area. • NA to potentially identify Newmarket in the first phase of the West Suffolk Open Spaces sports facilities provision. The report needs robust, careful planning. This will greatly assist funding too. • NA to refer to Richard Baldwin and Simon Pickering to work with young people with regards to the Skate Park. 	
4.15	Explore strategies to enhance biodiversity and ecological corridors within the Town Centre linked into the wider landscape. (moved from Traffic Group)	<p>RH stated Locality Budgets are available from District Councillors. Insurances and public liability need to be looked into.</p> <p>In short RH summarised the way forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go Wild to meet with suggested contacts; • Audit; • Come back to meeting; • Funding; • Volunteers; • Press and Communication. 	

8. Any Other Business

RH stated she was disappointed with how Bury Road looks and wondered what people visiting the races think of its untidiness. NA had arranged for grass verges to be cut, and has advised contractors, SP Landscapes, of the race timetable so they are aware for future. MJ thought the Horsemen's Group responsible for hedges. RF/QC will talk with Guy Smith, SCC Highways as he commissions work - FHDC Damien Parker. Also area from Traffic Lights to Clock Tower, the meeting thought this may be called Fordham Road? Do they have similar problems.

Action: QC to report back clarification and what is the co-ordination between the organisations at next meeting.

9. Next meeting Monday, 23 June 10.00 a.m. at the Newmarket Town Council Offices: Apologies in advance from Councillor Michael Jefferys, Christine Rush and Graeme Lockey.

Future Meeting 2014 dates

Thurs 17 July
Thurs 21 August
Fri 19 September
Fri 17 October
Fri 21 November
Wed 17 December