**Minutes of the Newmarket Vision Town Centre/Retail, Local Economy and Tourism Delivery Group held on 13th February, 2015 at 10am - Memorial Hall, Newmarket**

**Present:**

N Byrne

R Fletcher

R Wood

D Bowman

J Buckingham

P Hulbert

J Rogers

S Beckett

A Starkey

D Robertshaw

B Nicholas

W Hirst

**Matters Arising**

1 Banners in the high street-Proposals being prepared by NTC and the Racecourse to promote activities in Newmarket in 2015.

2 The Guineas banners have Planning permission.

3 The overground survey of the high street is completed. The same company asked to confirm their indicative quote of £7,700 for an underground survey of the high street.

4 There is on going input on the future needs of the Cambridge to Ipswich Railway line and on the need to upgrade Newmarket Station.

5 Newmarket now has world host status and is the first market town to achieve this in England.

6 The new shop front policy is approved. It will be applied to all applications for planning or advertisement approvals.

7 Taxis are a constant issue in Newmarket. Ask Steven Wood to a future meeting to emphasise the need for new and much tighter regulations requiring them to obey all road signs and markings.

**LOCAL ECONOMY**

* The inward investment pack will be available in April 2015-
* Delegation from Hong Kong coming to Forest Heath
* Deloittes Study on the Racing Industry due out in March 2015.
* Market Regulations Document is approved and will be launched in May. All current Traders will need to re apply for a licence. Identical terms to those operating at Bury Market on competitive stalls
* On going survey of local businesses by John Miles.

**RETAIL**

* The Business Improvement District scheme is now progressing. First committee meeting held on February 19th at Waitrose
* Question raised on business rates. Do Suffolk or Cambridge rates apply to CB post codes?
* Consultation period now for the Retailers High Street Scheme has started.

**TOURISM**

* Basis is the excellent Tourism Report issued at the previous Vision Meeting
* Everyone asked to input to the Rail Futures Surveys. Stress the unacceptable state of the Station at Newmarket and the need for half hourly services
* Need for a Railway User Group for the whole route from Cambridge to Ipswich.

**TOWN CENTRE**

* Need for a litter conference for Newmarket
* Car Parking signage very poor. Need to clarify which group and who are leading on signage in and out of town
* Public Realm bid opportunity from English Heritage.

**GENERAL**

Next Meeting is at 10am on March 20th at the Memorial Hall.

Key item for all at the next meeting is to go over the Princes Foundation Actions for each sub group.

Warwick Hirst