

# Newmarket Retailers Association



**Minutes of the Retailers Meeting**  
**held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010 at 6:15pm**  
**at the Bedford Lodge Hotel, Bury Road, Newmarket**

**Attendance:**

Tolly Considine, Tolly's Flowers (Vice Chairman)  
Ben Pym, Corney & Barrow (Treasurer)  
Marion Green, CC (Secretary)  
Vicky Bright, NTC (Minute Taker)  
Joanne Rogers, FHDC Town Centre Manager  
Simon Batey, FHDC TIC  
Cllr. Warwick Hirst, NTC  
Cllr. Joy Uney, NTC  
Graham Snelling & Chris Garibaldi, National Horseracing Museum  
Noel Byrne, Bedford Lodge Hotel  
Ross McKittrick, The Guineas Centre Manager  
Richard Goss, Venus Hair  
Julie Eden, Coffee & Co.  
Audrey Lewis, Audrey's Beauty  
Amie Setter, Peacocks  
Sue Carty & Caroline Frost, Squiggles of Newmarket

**Apologies:**

Andy Yallop, Hughes (Chairman)  
David Head, Page Fine Jewellers  
Tony Carr, Keto's Coffee Shop  
Kim Lane, Kitchen n Things  
Angelica Ferentinos, Pizza Express  
Ian Clemson, Best of Newmarket  
Alexa Jones, Anne Furbank  
The Newsbox  
June Griffin, The Stable Coffee Bar  
Premier Travel Agency

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Actioned by</b>
<p><b>1. Introductions and apologies.</b> The Vice Chairman made apologies on behalf of the Chairman and welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.</p> <p>Tolly then thanked Noel and his staff for once again allowing the Association to hold the meeting at the Bedford Lodge. Tolly also gave thanks to the Assistant to the Town Clerk for the time and work that she had contributed towards the admin and minutes etc.</p>	

**2. The Minutes of the Retailers Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010 were received and approved.**

**3. Matters Arising.**

- *Website – Minutes and Agenda's*

The contact/distribution list for Newmarket Retailers is still being updated; Ben is currently looking at approaching further businesses in Newmarket to ask them to join the list (Exning Road/Old Station Road). It was confirmed that the list currently has 184 members listed and we have email addresses for 76 of these retailers. It was stressed that it is important for retailers to supply us with a contact email address if they wished to receive copies of the minutes and agendas of meetings. It was discussed that hand delivering minutes and agendas is becoming costly and time consuming, and therefore once the Association's website goes live, date TBC, retailers who have not supplied an email address will be able to access the minutes and agendas on the website or via the Town Council offices.

- *Christmas Party!*

Tolly suggested that the Association may like to hold a Christmas get together for its members. The suggestion of holding it at the Bedford Lodge at a cost per head was discussed, and Tolly asked that if anyone was interested in attending (with partners), then they should let him know and he would make arrangements with Noel and the Bedford Lodge staff.

- *Royal Arcade (Angus Critchley-Warring) Proposal Decision Reply*

The Vice Chairman passed around a reply letter to Mr Angus Critchley-Warring, regarding the Association's decision regarding the Royal Arcade proposal for proof and approval. Each member present approved and initialled the letter. The letter will be sent to Mr Critchley-Warring by the Chairman upon his return from holiday.

**4. Empty Shop Sponsorship Scheme.**

Richard Goss, Marion Green and Julie Eden updated the Association regarding the progress of this scheme, which is to be auctioned in 2 stages:

*Stage 1:*

The committee has contacted the relevant Estate Agents asking them to pass on to owners of the empty shops, the Association's wish to place displays in the empty shops windows.

It was suggested by Joanne Rogers that the shop owners be invited to a presentation meeting, to promote the scheme more fully, with photos and example displays being viewed.

It was discussed and agreed that the initial target should be the owner of the empty units in the Guineas Centre, as it was felt that this would be a good starting ground and would help to generate publicity for the scheme. Ross McKittrick is to follow up and pursue this contact.

Joanne Rogers agreed to do a Public Land search at FHDC, to see if she could obtain further contact details for other empty shop owners.

**Treasurer, Ben Pym**

**Vice Chairman, Tolly Considine**

**Chairman, Andy Yallop**

**Empty Shop Scheme Cttee**

**Ross McKittrick**

**Joanne Rogers, TCM**

*Stage 2:*

Empty Shops competition: Initial projected costs would be £252,500, however it was stressed that this is not including any discounts that may be secured on rent/rates etc. It was agreed that securing funding from high profile sponsors or commitment from high profile shop owners would generate publicity and national attention. It was suggested that the promise of publicity and the chance to act as mentors offering support would encourage commitment for the project.

Richard gave his thanks to Julie Eden for her tireless work regarding admin for the scheme. He confirmed that Julie had so far written to and approached regarding sponsorship; Bill Gredley, Rachel Hood, William Gittus, Matthew Hancock and Edmond Mahony, Tattersalls along with Darley Stud and Godolphin Stud.

A meeting took place on 03/08/2010 between the committee and Bill Gredley, who was supportive of the idea, although he expressed concerns that the project may be too big and that the Association may be taking on too much. He has not confirmed his commitment to funding, but has expressed a possible interest with his commitment being confirmed at a later date following progress updates. Mr Gredley discussed his vision for Newmarket and supplied the committee with copies for their info, it was agreed that his vision was very much in line with the vision of the Retailers Association.

William Gittus and Rachel Hood have also replied and meetings with them are to be scheduled.

Richard has confirmed that he has had initial talks with the Press and TV, and that they are interested. Meetings and commitments will be confirmed following confirmation of sponsorship.

Chris Garibaldi and Graham Snelling from the National Horseracing Museum confirmed their support for the scheme and the Retailers Association. They confirmed that the Home of Horseracing Trust was expected to bring an extra 44,000 visitors and 2 million pounds per year to Newmarket, and as such the retail industry would benefit from this increased footfall. They confirmed that community consultation is now due to take place and apologised for the delay in information relating to the project being available; this was contributed to the hold up in securing funding for the project. The idea of the Retailers Association and the Home of Horseracing project collaborating with each other to tie in the launch event of the Association's Empty Shop Scheme and the opening of the project was discussed. As such, the retailers have been invited to attend a presentation of the project, to be put on at The Mews Palace House in Newmarket at the next Retailers meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September at 6pm, with a 6:15pm start.

**5. Reports from Sub Committee's.**

*Report from Marketing Sub Committee:*

Ben Pym confirmed the following:

- A meeting with twindots. To discuss the website design, build and layout has been scheduled for next week. It is hoped that a proof of the website layout will be available for presentation at the next meeting in September and it is hoped that the website may be up and running in approximately 5

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**Richard Goss/Julie Eden**

**Richard Goss**

**Ian Clemson/Ben Pym**

weeks.

- Work has been underway to compile of map of Newmarket's Retail industry and outlets in Google Maps. This is a work in progress and Joanne Rogers confirmed that FHDC could supply the marketing committee with a map to work from.
- Costings for printing of the town map/leaflet have been confirmed as £3,500 for 10,000 copies, if the artwork is contracted out. If the art work is done in-house then costs would be £2,500 for 10,000 copies. A meeting with a photographer has been scheduled for next week.

**Ben Pym  
Joanne Rogers,  
TCM**

**Ian Clemson/Ben  
Pym/Noel Byrne**

*Report from Parking Sub Committee:*

It was confirmed that FHDC are considering the Associations proposals and are due to meet to discuss the items on 12/08/2010. Joanne Rogers confirmed that the proposal of turning the top level of the Guineas Centre into a permit holder's car park is looking to be very positive and can hopefully be implemented very quickly. Other proposals may be ongoing long term projects.

*Report from Christmas Sub Committee:*

The bell ringers at Soham and Fordham have been approached and they have expressed interest in being involved. The committee is currently trying to contact St Mary's Church warden.

**Amie Setter**

6 local schools have confirmed their commitment to be involved in carol singing in the town on Saturdays in December.

**Marion Green**

Cllr. Warwick Hirst confirmed that NTC are planning a Christmas Lights switch on, to include the Christmas Tree in its new location at the Clock Tower Plaza. The Events Manager, Kay Dawson is currently looking into a carol service and a marquee on the Severals with an outdoor specialist market. It was suggested that retailers are welcome to stay open late at this event if they wish. It was also agreed that it is important for NTC and the Association to work together and therefore Kay will be joining the Christmas Committee and will attend the next meeting scheduled for 17/08/2010 at 12pm.

The National Horseracing Museum also expressed an interest in being involved in the Christmas festivities and suggested the meeting be held at the museum on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Any Other Business**

- *Shop watch Scheme*

Ross McKittrick raised the issue of the Shop watch Scheme, which bans shop lifters and trouble makers from shops and shopping areas. Members are then kept informed of prolific offenders and trouble makers by the scheme via website and email. So far the scheme has received poor attendance at meetings and the Bury St Edmunds scheme has proved to be quite successful. It was suggested that Newmarket might like to build up a successful Shop Watch Scheme of its own.

The Vice Chairman asked that Ross organise for a presentation to be given at the next meeting in September following the presentation by the Home of Horseracing Trust.

**Ross McKittrick**

- *La Tasca Marquee*

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The Vice Chairman raised an issue on behalf of The Newsbox newsagents in their absence. It has come to the attention of several retailers that during July Festival week (8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> July) that La Tasca restaurant pitched a marquee on the Clock Tower Plaza outside The Newsbox, and was subsequently selling food and promoting their restaurant in Bury St Edmunds. The Association asked if it was possible to find out if they had a licence or permission to do this or whether they were pitched illegally. This information would need to be obtained from either FHDC Licensing or SCC Highways. And as such, the Assistant to the Town Clerk agreed to look into the matter and report back to the Vice Chairman.

**Asst. Town Clerk**

The business of the meeting concluded at 7:15pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010, at 6:15pm at the

The following was suggested for the agenda for the next meeting:

- Home of Horseracing Trust Project Presentation
- Shop Watch Scheme Presentation

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Yallop, Chairman

Date : \_\_\_\_\_