

Newmarket Retailers Association



Minutes of the Retailers Meeting held on Wednesday 5th January 2011 at 6:15pm at The Bedford Lodge Hotel, Bury Road, Newmarket

Attendance:

Andy Yallop, Hughes (Chairman)
Tolly Considine, Tolly's Flowers (Vice Chair)
Bev Beak, The Dressing Room
Christine Lister-Gilder – Moons Toymaster
John Thacker – The Sandwich Mill
Julie Eden – Coffee & Co.
Noel Byrne – Bedford Lodge
Ross McKittrick – The Guineas
Luke Driver – Lloyds TSB
Carolyn Frost – Squiggles
Sue Carty – Squiggles
Richard Goss – Venus Hair & Beauty
Robert Andrews – Swynford Hotel
Amie Setter – Peacocks
Audrey Lewis – Audrey's Beauty
Chris Garibaldi – Horse Racing Museum
Joanne Rogers, Town Centre Manager (FHDC)
Cllr. Warwick Hirst (NTC)
Cllr. Joy Uney (NTC)
Vicky Bright, Assistant to Town Clerk (NTC) – Official Minute Taker

Apologies:

Ben Pym – Corney & Barrow (Treasurer)
Marion Green – Country Casuals (Secretary)
Denis Ferguson – Fotoshop
Jamie Gaskin – Tindalls
C. McBride – Dorothy Perkins
Simon Batey - TIC

Minute	Actioned by
1. Introductions and apologies. The chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year!	
2. The Minutes of the Retailers Meeting held on 1st December 2010 were received and approved.	
3. Matters Arising. The Chairman thanked all committee members for committing so much time and effort to the Association's projects last year. Thanks were also given to the Bedford	

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Lodge Hotel and Noel Byrne for their support and provision of meeting facilities. The Chairman also announced that he had received confirmation from the Manager of Marks & Spencer in the town that he would commit to attending at least 2 meetings per year as a representative of M&S.

Unfortunately the Chairman had no progress to report regarding the Manager of Waitrose; however he is hoping to meet with him one to one to persuade him to commit to the Association.

'Signage'

The issue of High Street signage and A-Boards was raised by the Association and it was stated that all A-Boards bar two had been successfully removed from the High Street. Joanne Rogers explained that the two exceptions were appealing against FHDC's Enforcement, using Deemed Consent of 10 plus years as an appeal. Joanne Rogers explained that FHDC Planning and Legal team were investigating and dealing with these appeals.

Overall it was agreed that the new signage was a success.

It was asked that the Town Council provide the retailers with receipts for their payments for the panels on the new signage.

4. Reports from Sub Committee's.

Report from Christmas Sub Committee:

Positive feedback was voiced from all present regarding the Christmas lights and trees in the High Street this year. It was also agreed that the Carolling day was a success and was received very positively.

It was agreed that the Late Night Shopping night needed to be improved and needed to be better defined. Several suggestions were put forward regarding having a Christmas Fair over a Fri-Sat weekend, and incorporating the late night shopping within that. Or alternatively having late night shopping separate. It was agreed that more Saturday events throughout December were needed.

It was suggested that the Christmas Committee needs to start planning the Christmas events earlier and needs to improve and expand promotion and advertising of the events.

Thanks were given to the Majorettes for their help at the late night shopping this year.

The Christmas Committee are meeting for a de-brief meeting on 26/01/11 at 2pm at the Horse racing Museum, all are invited to attend and submit ideas for Christmas 2011.

Report from Parking Committee:

Joanne Rogers confirmed that she is chasing the dates for the works schedule for the Guineas car park refurbishment. She also advised that she will chase up on an update on the Premier Inn parking issue from David Burnip.

It was agreed that targets for the committee for the forthcoming year should be to try

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Chairman**

FHDC

**Vicky Bright,
Asst. Town Clerk**

**Joanne Rogers,
TCM**

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and get Pay & Display meters on the High Street, to try and stop all day parking. It was agreed that the parking charges and the free parking between 4pm-8am, should be better promoted and displayed.

Report from Marketing Committee:

The Leaflet/Map design is currently being drafted for approval.

Ben Pym and Vicky Bright have been working on a website page to be added to the NTC website. The draft version is ready for approval by the Association, however due to Ben's absence at the meeting it was not brought to the meeting. It was agreed by the Association that the Marketing Committee be given Delegated Powers to approve the draft page at the next Marketing meeting, to be held on 20.01.11 and to forward this to the Assistant Town Clerk for sending to the website Manager at the end of January. Following approval the Assistant Town Clerk will get the page added to the NTC website for February 2011.

Marketing Cttee

**Vicky Bright,
Asst. Town Clerk**

The next Marketing meeting is to be held 20.01.11 at 6pm at the Bedford Lodge Hotel.

Report from Empty Shop Scheme:

'Strictly Come Newmarket'

The Information day held on 07.12.10 went well and was given very positive feedback with good attendance. The scheme received 44 enquiries and received 15 completed applications by the deadline. All applications were positive and exciting.

The Pitch day is to be held Wednesday 19.01.11, each application will have a 15 minute slot to sell their proposal; this will be followed by a 15 minute Q&A session. It is hoped that the judges will announce their decision by the Thursday. The judge's stress that successful applications will improve Newmarket's street scene and retail experience. The Journal will be printing profiles on all applicants in next week's edition, to enable residents and public feedback on the applications submitted. It was confirmed that the applications, as long as retail will be granted Planning Permission.

The prize package is available to all applicants; however the Financial assistance will only be available to the 2 winners.

'Empty Shop Windows'

Several ideas are being discussed and looked at to update the displays in the empty shop windows.

5. Newmarket Town Council Report

'Memorial Hall Refurbishment'

The refurbishment is going well and is on schedule. The work is due to be completed June/July 2011. NTC plan to hold two opening events, one for dignitaries/VIP's and a second event for the General Public. The events details are to be confirmed.

'Carnival 2011'

Due to booking problems, this year's Carnival is to be held on Saturday June 11th. Please contact Kay Dawson 01638 667227 kay.dawson@newmarket.gov.uk, if you wish to have a float, stall, or enrol a Tug of War team, or if you have any ideas or wish to volunteer on the Carnival Committee.

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'Horse About Newmarket'

10 schools have signed up to paint 10 small horses. These will be displayed on a float at the 2011 carnival.

The large horses are to be displayed on trail through the Town Centre, from July till autumn. The horses will then be auctioned off in the autumn, 80% of all profits will be shared between Racing Welfare and St Nicholas Hospice Charities. There is a prize of £200 for the best painted horse.

'Newmarket Vision Document Draft'

The draft Newmarket Vision document is available for download on the NTC website www.newmarket.gov.uk/aboutus/news and is available to view in hard copy at the Town Council Offices and at the Library. Any comments or suggestions should be put in writing to:

Vicky Bright – Assistant to the Town Clerk
Newmarket Town Council
Palace Coach House
Palace Street
Newmarket
CB8 8EP
Or email Vicky.bright@newmarket.gov.uk

Submissions of comments in writing are due no later than 31st January 2011.

'Proposed Trees in the High Street'

Cllr. Hirst confirmed that NTC had committed £1,600 to carry out feasibility surveys, which will take place in January 2011.

'Newmarket Horseshoe Trail'

The suggestion of designing and installing a 'Horseshoe Trail' throughout Newmarket, which would attract visitors to historic or important Newmarket landmarks, was suggested by the Association to the Town Council. Cllr. Hirst agreed that this would be put forward to the Community Services Committee at their next available meeting. Chris Garibaldi offered the services of the Horse Racing Museum to assist in this project, if needed.

NTC

6. Any Other Business

'F/2010/0842/COU Planning Application'

The issue of a planning application submitted by Paddy Power, to change the use of a retail unit to a betting shop in the High Street, was raised, and it was agreed that the Association would write to FHDC Planning Department, to voice their recommendations against the application F/2010/0842/COU. The Town Council are due to review this application at their Development & Planning meeting on Monday 24th January 2010 at 6pm, at the Town Council Offices; public are welcome to attend. Comments are due to FHDC by 17.02.2011.

**Andy Yallop,
Chairman /
Marion Green,
Secretary**

Joanne Rogers confirmed that FHDC have a policy of no more than 35% of units being for non-retail use. It was suggested that the Association write to FHDC to

**Andy Yallop,
Chairman /**

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endorse their support and agreement of this policy and figure.

**Marion Green,
Secretary**

'Tesco Development Proposal'

The issue of the proposed Tesco development was discussed and it was agreed that the Association would ask Tesco to present the proposal to the Association at its February meeting, or if necessary a special meeting could be convened if they wish to present it earlier. It was agreed that following this presentation, the Association would then discuss and agree on possible Section 106. requirements to be forwarded and recommended to FHDC in writing, to be considered as part of the Planning approval.

**Joanne Rogers,
TCM (FHDC)**

'70th Anniversary of the Bombing of Newmarket'

The Local History Society has brought to the Association's attention the 70th Anniversary of the Bombing of Newmarket, which falls on 18th February 2011. It was agreed that the Retailers Association could not organise anything at such short notice, but they were keen to hear what the Town Council and the History Society have planned to commemorate the date. NTC confirmed that this issue is to be raised at the Leisure Services meeting, to be held on 17.01.11 at 7:15pm, at the Town Council Offices; public are welcome to attend. It was agreed that NTC would report back the outcome of the meeting and any celebrations at the February Retailers meeting.

NTC

The Local History Society also wanted to make the Association aware that calendars are available from them for 2011 at £5 each.

'Palace House – Home of Horse Racing Trust Project'

Chris Garibaldi confirmed that FHDC had agreed a deadline of September 2011 for the Home of Horse Racing Trust to take over the lease.

He confirmed that so far £6, million had been raised towards the project and that several trustees have come forward to offer their support to the project.

'Market'

Joanne Rogers confirmed that tenders to take over management of the Market were due to FHDC 04.02.2011.

The business of the meeting concluded at 8pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 2nd February 2011 at 6:15pm at the Bedford Lodge Hotel, Bury Road, Newmarket.

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

- FHDC Shop Mobility Scheme
- Tesco Presentation
- Strictly Come Newmarket Update
- NTC to report on 70th Ann. 'Bombing of Newmarket' celebrations and a date for the Community Services Committee to discuss the 'Horseshoe Trail'.

Signed : _____
Andy Yallop, Chairman

Date : _____

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