

Newmarket Retailers Association



Minutes of the Retailers Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd February 2011 at 6:15pm at The Bedford Lodge Hotel, Bury Road, Newmarket

Attendance:

Andy Yallop, Hughes (Chairman)
Ben Pym – Corney & Barrow (Treasurer)
Bev Beak, The Dressing Room
Christine Lister-Gilder – Moons Toymaster
John Thacker – The Sandwich Mill
Ross McKittrick – The Guineas
Luke Driver – Lloyds TSB
Carolyn Frost & Sue Carty – Squiggles
Richard Goss – Venus Hair & Beauty
Amie Setter – Peacocks
Audrey Lewis – Audrey’s Beauty
Blanche Langley – Ashdown Phillips & Partners
Sam Borrowdale & Sam Price – Dorothy Perkins
David Hopper – Goldings
Denis Ferguson – My Fotoshop
Joanne Rogers, Town Centre Manager (FHDC)
Cllr. Joy Uney (NTC)
PC Derek Gallagher - SNT
Vicky Bright, Assistant to Town Clerk (NTC) – (Minutes)

Apologies:

Tolly Considine, Tolly’s Flowers (Vice Chair)
Marion Green – Country Casuals (Secretary)
Simon Batey – TIC
Cllr. Warwick Hirst – NTC
Noel Byrne – Bedford Lodge
Julie Eden – Coffee & Co.
Ian Clemson – Best of
Sgt Mark Shipton – SNT
Chris Garibaldi – NHRM
Sarah Wightman – Revel Outdoors
Alexa Jones – Anne Furbank
Patrick Cowell - Treasures

Minute	Actioned by
1. Introductions and apologies. The chairman welcomed everyone and gave thanks to Tesco for attending to give a presentation on the proposed expansion of Newmarket’s Tesco site. Attending from Tesco are: Philip Kratz, DMH Stallard (Developer), Martin Rogerson, Tesco’s	

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Consultant, Louise Gosling, Tesco Public Affairs, Daniel Hopes, Oaks Business Park, Edward Heppenstall, Tesco Stores Ltd and Mark Harrison, Harnby PR (Tesco Consultant).

The Chairman asked everyone around the table to introduce themselves and explain what they do within the town.

2. The Minutes of the Retailers Meeting held on 5th January were received and approved.

3. Matters Arising.

The Chairman confirmed that the Association's opposition to the new betting shop planning application had been submitted and that the proposal had already been turned down by NTC. It would now go before FHDC Planning.

4. Tesco Presentation

'A better Tesco for Newmarket'

Site = Oaks Business Park.

Proposal for a larger store (double the size), car park on existing site.

Hopes to create 200 jobs.

Aims to expand stock quantities and ranges.

It was agreed with Tesco that there was a need for a better relationship with the Newmarket Tesco Store Manager.

Following the presentation, the Association members took a vote on the proposal. A majority of 13/17 retailers present were against the proposal. It was discussed and agreed in principle that at this stage the Association would run a petition of the other retailers in Newmarket, which they would then send with their opposition in writing to FHDC, once the planning application had been submitted. The Association have also agreed to consider Section 106. Proposals to also put forward to FHDC Planning for consideration.

5. Reports from Sub Committee's.

Report from Christmas Sub Committee:

The Christmas Committee de-brief meeting has been re-scheduled for 9th February 2011 at 11am at the NHRM.

Report from Marketing Committee:

'Webpage'

It was confirmed that the Association's webpage is now up and running on the NTC website www.newmarket.gov.uk/newmarket%20retailers%20association.

The minutes and agenda's will now be accessible from this page. It was stressed by the Assistant to the Town Clerk that minutes would be available following approval at the next meeting and agenda's needed to be emailed to NTC 7 days before the meeting to ensure they would be updated onto the website in time for the meeting.

Any events or projects the Association is working on can also be added to this page.

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**Chairman/
Secretary/Vice
Chair/**

Secretary

***Report from Empty Shop Scheme:
'Strictly Come Newmarket'***

4 winners have been chosen. The overall winners are Vincent Woolley and Anne-Marie McKeown whose new business will be The Pantry, a fine food shop and eatery selling and serving local produce. The other three runners up will share a similar package of support. They are

- Trisha and Colin Bircham from Burwell who will open a wet fish shop
- Jan and Maria Kurty from Newmarket who will open a photographic studio
- Jenny Hughes from Westley Waterless who will open a children's clothes and crafts shop

The committee is hoping that the four new shops will be ready to open this spring. A 'grand opening' of all the businesses could be held over a weekend.

In addition the committee is hopeful that some of the other applicants will also decide to open their businesses in Newmarket, as although they do not benefit from a financial incentive, they all have access to the remainder of the prize package.

Ashdown Phillips & Partners confirmed they are already in talks with some of the winners regarding the empty shop lets in the Guineas and they are willing to talk to any other new businesses hoping to open up in Newmarket. The committee is still in discussions with landlords regarding the lease of premises for the winners.

The committee reported success with the reports by the press. Robert Andrews, who has been helping the Marketing Committee with the leaflet/map design, offered his services to advise the Association on PR issues.

'Inter-Shop Network'

Richard Goss reported that the trial held between Venus Hair & Beauty and Coffee & Co. Had been a success and both businesses had noticed an increase in trade. However, Ben Pym advised that a similar trial he had run with another business had not noted any trade increase.

The committee would like any retailers interested in participating or supporting the Network to contact Julie Eden, Coffee & Co.

6. Newmarket Town Council Report

'Memorial Hall Refurbishment'

Refurbishment is now well under way and NTC plan opening events for the Summer 2011.

'Carnival 2011'

Will be held Saturday 11th June starting at the Severals at 1pm. Main Fair events to be held at the Rowley Mile Racecourse in the afternoon. NTC are suggesting that it would be an excellent opportunity for the Retailers Association to have a stall at Rowley Mile to give out leaflets and info regarding the projects the Association is working on and to encourage better attendance to the meetings. If interested in having a stall, float, tug of war team etc contact Kay Dawson 01638 667227 kay.dawson@newmarket.gov.uk

**Marketing
Cttee**

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'NTC High Street Working Group

NTC have set up a working group bring together all the plans and changes that are happening in the High Street. NTC would like to invite the Retailers to send a representative to sit on this group. Date of the first meeting is to be confirmed and the Association will be notified.

Chairman

'Suffolk County Council'

NTC wanted to stress that they are very aware that many people and retailers may be concerned about the planned closure and privatisation of services by Suffolk County Council and wanted to assure everyone that NTC will endeavour to ensure that key facilities remain for all our residents.

'Newmarket Bombing – 70th Anniversary'

The Community Services Committee met to discuss this and after advisement and consideration it was agreed that no formal celebrations or ceremony would be held by the Town Council.

Many surviving relations of victims of the bombing will be holding their own private services for quite family mourning.

7. Any Other Business

SNT

'High Street Parking'

The SNT have made this a target priority and 100 tickets were issued this month alone.

'ShopWatch Scheme'

The Town Link radio has recently been updated from analogue to digital; this allows for an expanded radius and now reaches Mildenhall. Response Hubs (Blue Light) = 45 minutes.

'Police Station Closure'

The Police Station on Vicarage Road is due to close and the SNT will be moving to alternative premises.

The business of the meeting concluded at 8:15pm.

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

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

Signed : _____
Andy Yallop, Chairman

Date : _____

