

Development and Planning Committee Report

May 2021

The Development and Planning Committee can comment on all planning and licencing applications in Newmarket. The committee has also held all its meetings online over the last year due to coronavirus pandemic restrictions. Working from home has been quite effective, allowing councillors to access the West Suffolk Council planning portal on their own computers during the meeting. Working remotely has its distractions and problems, but we managed to run an effective committee throughout the year. The committee set up several task and finish working groups to work through consultations to both West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire Local Plan reviews, the National Planning Policy Framework, and Sunnica solar farm applications, to name a few.

We have also introduced more reference to our Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan and have included a guide to material planning considerations to our agenda packs, so all councillors can be informed when making objections to applications. As ever, we are only considered a neighbour response with West Suffolk Council and sought to engage with them to learn how we can be more effective moving forward.

Chris O'Neill

Cllr. Chris O'Neill,
Chair of NTC Development and Planning Committee

Community & Leisure Services Committee Report

May 2021

Well, it's been a strange year for us all. No face to face meetings since March 2020 but we have all become very proficient with Zoom despite the ongoing cry of 'you're on mute'. We have however, despite all the problems thrown up by the pandemic, managed to achieve a significant amount.

The Clocktower project finally got underway and will look lovely once it is fully completed and the planting is established. Certainly the project will go a long way towards brightening up that area of the town and we would like to thank Cllr Philippa Winter for her hard work in firstly getting the project off the ground and secondly, for overseeing the actual work.

Philippa also needs heartfelt thanks for her work in organising and coordinating the planting of the 200 gifted cherry blossom trees from Japan. They already look amazing and they are the forerunner to our plans to implement a tree planting programme in Newmarket. This will be in conjunction with a general planting programme aimed at making our town a pretty and welcoming space for residents and visitors alike.

Discussions are ongoing with Flagship housing in relation to the garages around St Marys Square with the hope that this area can be improved.

The Committee is also in discussion with West Suffolk to ensure our Market thrives and grows.

Obviously we did not have any hanging baskets in 2020 but these are back on track for 2021 and should be in situ around the town very shortly.

Cemetery Matters continue to be carried out by West Suffolk. The Committee reviewed the regulations and fees and are content that these are now more robust and in line with the rest of West Suffolk.

The Memorial Garden and play equipment has reopened and is well used and appreciated by the residents. Ongoing inspections ensure that everything is safe and fit for purpose.

Whilst there were no events held this year, there are many plans in the pipeline to make 2021 and 2022 a busy time. These include a Platinum Jubilee street party, a Newmarket Bombing Event memorial and Christmas celebrations including new Christmas lights in town. A Maison-Lafitte virtual twinning event is planned for May 2021 and discussions are also ongoing for a virtual event with Newmarket in Canada.

Julie De'Ath

Cllr. Julie De'Ath,
Chair of NTC Community & Leisure Services Committee

Neighbourhood Plan Committee Report

May 2021

The Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2031 was formally 'made' (adopted) on 25 February 2020.

It is a statutory development plan document for West Suffolk Council and Newmarket Town Council's Development & Planning Committee.

The plan is a material consideration within the parish of Newmarket for planning application purposes.

It was formulated by a Steering Group commissioned by Newmarket Town Council and contains 32 Policies and 57 Community Actions.

NTC has set up a NP Committee to progress the Community Actions in accordance with the Policies.

The NP Committee meets on the second Monday of each month and members of the public are welcome – indeed encouraged – to attend and participate, whether on behalf of any organisation or in a private capacity.

The intention of this Committee and the Council is to action the NNP and protect and promote the best interests of the whole of the Town.

There may be different views on how this is best achieved BUT we can hopefully arrive at a consensus in the best interests of ALL.

The basic intention of this and other committees AND the Council is to make Newmarket a good place to live, to work and to visit.

The Committee has addressed a number of Community Actions and currently has Working Groups of councillors and residents as follows ..

- a) Cycling & Public Transport (E4/E9)
- b) Public Realm & Associated Initiatives (F3/C3)
- c) Parking Strategy (E10)
- d) SEND provision (B3i)
- e) Yellow Brick Road (C7)
- f) Museum Working Group (A7) / Local History Trail
- g) Volunteer Working Group
- h) Newmarket Market (A9)
- i) Conservation Area Working Group (A1)



Newmarket

TOWN COUNCIL

These Working Groups report to the Committee which makes recommendations to the Council.

The reports of the Working Groups and the Committee can be found in the Committee minutes at

<https://www.newmarket.gov.uk/your-council/council-meetings-town-councillors/council-meetings/newmarket-neighbourhood-plan/>

Details of the Neighbourhood Plan, its Policies and Community Actions can be found at

<https://www.newmarket.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

<https://newmarket.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Newmarket-Neighbourhood-Plan-1.pdf>

<https://newmarket.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NNP-Policies.pdf>

<https://newmarket.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Neighbourhood-Plan-Community-Actions.pdf>

Much of the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and its Working Groups are 'works in progress' requiring continual monitoring and review.

The Public Realm Working Group seeks to keep the town tidy, clean and attractive; the Yellow Brick Road Working Group is galvanizing associated parties to improve that area. It is hoped that Volunteers will come forward to assist with these works.

The Parking Working Group has been working with the district and county councils to address parking problems and, together with the Transport Working Group, is seeking finalisation of a 'Newmarket Transport Master Plan' which the county council has been developing for a number of years.

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee has been working with a number of parties to realise its objectives, including (but not exclusively), Suffolk County Council, Highways, West Suffolk Council, the Jockey Club and Discover Newmarket.

Covid has hampered the work of the Committee and the Working Groups but (hopefully) in time we will achieve the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan Community Actions and Policies.

Andrew Appleby

Cllr. Andrew Appleby,

Chair of NTC Neighbourhood Plan Committee



Human Resources Committee Report

May 2021

The Human Resources committee is responsible for overseeing staffing matters for Newmarket Town Council. It has been a busy year for the committee. We have moved from a temporary Town Council Manager to a Town Clerk and have overhauled employee benefits and re-introduced a professional sick-pay scheme and more suitable pension entitlements for a town council of our size. The committee this year has sought to make Newmarket Town Council an exemplar employer.

The existing appraisal scheme was modified and strengthened to become the performance review process. Reviews were carried out and recommendations taken to Full Council meetings. Working through the whole year on Zoom video link has been both challenging and practical at the same time, and we look forward to in person meetings in the council chamber soon.

Chris O'Neill

Cllr. Chris O'Neill,
Chair of NTC Human Resources Committee

Finance & Policy Committee Report (2020-2021)

May 2021

It is the task of the F & P committee to scrutinise the financial position of the town council; to review the policy documents; and to formulate medium and long term plans.

It has been a difficult year full of uncertainties. The town council's income from the use of the Severals Pavilion and the rooms in the Memorial Hall was significantly diminished because of the pandemic. However the number of events, organised by the town council, were also reduced and so some savings were made.

When we set the budget for the following financial year we were determined not to increase the precept and the tax burden on our residents. This, with careful management, we were able to achieve.

During the year we have rewritten the standing orders (the rules of the council) and so embed the new committee structure and ways of working into our written rules. The aim being to involve as many councillors and members of the public in the decision making process.

Thanks to the careful management of our resources we look forward to investing in the infrastructure of the town centre, so that it can once again be the vibrant and attractive heart of Newmarket.

Mick Jefferys

Cllr. Mick Jefferys,
Chair of NTC Finance & Policy Committee