

## **The proposed closure of the pedestrian rail crossing in Newmarket**

The continued use of the Weatherby Crossing for pedestrians is highlighted in the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Newmarket.

The Weatherby Crossing provides a vital walking route into the town centre for many residents. The closure of the Weatherby Crossing would have an adverse effect on the ability of the residents to walk into town and would most likely lead to a decrease in walking and an increase in car use.

The Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan draft policies have been written following extensive consultation with the residents and businesses of Newmarket and the importance of maintaining the Weatherby crossing as a vital open footpath was identified during these consultations. The Neighbourhood Plan is a plan by the people of Newmarket for the people of Newmarket and their needs to keep this crossing open are paramount and must be recognised .

In 2013 The Prince's Foundation undertook an "Enquiry By Design Workshop" for Newmarket. The research and subsequent report made recommendations for a vision of Newmarket in twenty year's time.

An important feature of the report emphasized the need for interconnectivity within the town and in particular maintaining and improving walking routes.

Below are quotes from the Prince's Foundation Report (2013)

*The Prince's Foundation understands that a truly successful community is one that exhibits the following attributes:*

*Connected (p. 17)*

*A place which ensures linkages within communities by creating diverse physical, social and movement networks, and encouraging financial and social exchange.*

*Interconnected (p.17)*

*Neighbourhoods with linked walkable streets allowing access to public spaces and transportation, e.g. develop logical routes where all daily needs are within a five-minute walk.*

*Vision Statement (p. 21)*

*“In twenty year’s time, Newmarket will have an excellent internal network of safe connections for walking, cycling and horses, making non-car movements much more attractive for residents and visitors.”*

*Action Plan (p.28)*

*Establish a series of walkable loops to connect different neighbourhood centres and enhance community cohesion.*

*There is an absence of undisrupted walkable loops throughout Newmarket’s movement network. Existing neighbourhood centres, such as rows of shops and clusters of community amenities, are not linked to a walkable network. This encourages a very car dependent lifestyle or limits walking to areas which are nearby and familiar.*

*Walking (See walking map on p.32)*

*Newmarket should seek to transform itself into a genuine ‘walkable town’ – an aspiration which can be fulfilled with comparatively little investment.*

*And see movement analysis map on p. 51*

Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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