**n8n Workflow: Podcast → Newsletter Automation**

# 1) Executive Summary

This n8n workflow automates your podcast-to-newsletter pipeline:

* Checks Riverside for the newest recording on a schedule.
* Fetches the transcript and archives it in Google Sheets.
* Generates content (summary, insights, quotes, and a 400‑word newsletter in Kathryn Finney’s voice).
* Creates an on‑brand graphic from the newsletter themes using Gemini and stores it in Google Drive.
* Emails your team a review/approval message via Gmail.
* Handles change requests for either text or image, iterating until approved.
* Sends a final email ready for publication, with HTML title/body and a URL‑safe slug.

The result: faster, repeatable, traceable production from raw recording → publish‑ready newsletter + hero graphic.

# 2) High‑Level Flow

* Trigger (every 12 hours) → hit Riverside /recordings API.
* Pick newest recording by created\_date.
* If not already processed → fetch TXT transcript → save to Google Sheets.
* AI content pipeline → summary → insights/quotes → 400‑word newsletter.
* Image prompt built from newsletter → Gemini generates hero graphic.
* Upload to Drive and share (anyone with link can view).
* Team approval email (Approve/Disapprove).
* If approved → format as HTML JSON (title/body/slug) → Final email.
* If disapproved → team replies with edits.
* Classifier routes edits to text editor or image editor → loop until approved.

# 3) Systems & Credentials

* Riverside API: Endpoint GET https://platform.riverside.fm/api/v2/recordings (Bearer token as n8n credential).
* Google Sheets: Doc ID 1sl0fq01ON8ksNc2xHgBc8\_AnZviZSmPZYKnRJTslVYo (Sheet1) (OAuth).
* Google Drive: Folder ID 1oHLnyIxBW1rkJWEFzHTqbLs0c7xIVeTw (OAuth).
* Gmail: Sender Team@buildthedamnthing.com (Gmail OAuth2). Uses Send & Wait for approvals.
* OpenAI: Model gpt-4.1-mini (3 nodes).
* Google Gemini: models/gemini-2.5-flash-image-preview for image generation/updates.

# 4) Detailed Step‑by‑Step

* 4.1 Trigger & Fetch → Scheduled every 12 hours → fetch latest Riverside recording.
* 4.2 Select newest recording → JavaScript sorts by created\_date.
* 4.3 Deduplicate → Compare with Google Sheets IDs. Skip if already processed.
* 4.4 Download & Store Transcript → Fetch TXT → store in Google Sheets.
* 4.5 AI Content Generation → Clean summary, insights/quotes, 400‑word newsletter.
* 4.6 Hero Graphic Generation → Create prompt → Gemini generates → Upload to Drive.
* 4.7 Team Approval → Gmail Approve/Disapprove email with newsletter & image.
* 4.8 If Approved → Format to JSON (title, body, slug) → Final email.
* 4.9 If Not Approved → Collect edits via Gmail → Route to text or image editor → Iterate until approved.

# 5) Data Stores & Schemas

* Google Sheets → stores recording\_id + transcript text.
* Google Drive → stores hero images (PNG/JPG).
* Gmail → manages approval/disapproval loops.

# 6) Roles & Responsibilities

* Riverside: source of recordings & transcripts.
* n8n: orchestration & logic.
* OpenAI: summary, newsletter, editing, JSON formatting.
* Gemini: hero image generation & updates.
* Google: Drive, Sheets, Gmail for storage, tracking & comms.

# 7) Configuration Guide (Handover)

* Credentials: Create for Riverside, Sheets, Drive, Gmail, OpenAI, Gemini.
* Environment variables: RIVERSIDE\_API\_TOKEN, GDRIVE\_FOLDER\_ID, GSHEETS\_DOC\_ID, GMAIL\_SENDER, OPENAI\_API\_KEY, GEMINI\_API\_KEY.
* Node setup: Replace hardcoded headers with credentials.
* Email recipients: Update Gmail nodes.
* Schedule: Adjust cadence (default: 12h).
* Permissions: Ensure Gmail can Send & Wait; reviewers can access Drive links

# Workflow Test Guide: Recording → Newsletter → Approval

* This guide explains how to validate the automation.
* Trigger Check → Runs every 12h. If no new recordings, Gmail says “No new recordings exist.”
* Duplicate Prevention → Existing IDs skipped, only new recordings process.
* Transcript processing → Transcript saved to Google Sheets with new ID.
* AI Content Pipeline → Generates summary, insights, and 400‑word newsletter.
* Hero Graphic → Gemini generates on‑brand image → saved to Drive.
* Upload & Share → Newsletter + image uploaded → client receives Drive link.
* Team Approval → Gmail approval email → Approve = finalize / Disapprove = edits.
* Edit Loop → Text edits go to editor; image edits go to Gemini → loop until approved.