



Dereham Town Plan Working Group
a joint working group of
Dereham Town Council and the aboutDereham Partnership



Notes of meeting held 1 April 2021

Present: Mike Webb, Vice Chairman, Cllr Phillip Duigan, Cllr Philip Morton, Peter Wade Martins, Carolyn Coleman

Apologies: Cllr Stuart Green, Cllr Harry Clarke, Rev Paul Cubitt,

1	Apologies Apologies as above. Mike Webb chaired the meeting.	
2	Minutes of meetings held on 24 February and 4 March 2021 The minutes for both meetings were approved and can be published on the aD website. Mike reminded us that Dereham Town Council (DTC) had agreed they wished to link to the papers for these meetings on their website. Carolyn to send information to DTC.	Carolyn
3	Review of lessons learned from other town plans Phillip D had looked at town plans for Ely and St Ives - and showed us the one page plan for St Ives. Several people had mentioned Bungay's town plan as some of their problems were similar to ours and they had followed the LGA Town Centre Handbook. Lessons we agreed on included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need for councils and voluntary organisations to work together • not to overlook some of the smaller things such as trees, plants, seats which can make a big difference to people's experience of the town • ideally to make the case for a town centre manager to take forward some of the ideas and suggestions • need to identify what is Dereham's USP • the need for a longer term group such as Dereham Vision or Dereham Futures (not necessarily this name) to continue to work on the vision for the town, the USP and the longer-term projects • need to improve the town in many aspects and especially traffic management before further expansion makes problems of congestion and pollution even worse We also discussed how to improve the approaches into Dereham - but this will need further study as could encompass anything from planters to road widening! The question of funding was raised. It is unlikely funds for large works could be raised locally, therefore it is likely the consultants will be tasked to produce an integrated approach for Breckland which could form the basis of an approach to central government for funding.	
4	What needs doing? We agreed that we will produce a list of project ideas from the suggestions	

	already discussed. We can agree which projects could be tackled in the short term, medium term or need a longer term approach, eg a traffic management study. Carolyn to circulate a first draft - but not to be specific about solutions. Phillip mentioned similarities with Ely's old market place.	Carolyn
5	<p>Issues raised at aD Partnership Meeting</p> <p>Mike explained that Stuart had attended the last partnership meeting on 17 March and together they had reported on the DTPWG progress to date. This had led to an animated discussion and 2-3 issues to be brought to this meeting. These are: toilets; buses; use of empty shops for indoor market.</p> <p>Regarding buses, we agreed that any changes to bus movements and / or bus stops needs to be part of an integrated approach to traffic management. While it is certainly very important, it is not something we can tackle alone and should be put forward to the consultants as high importance.</p> <p>Regarding re-purposing empty shops: at present there are not many empty shops and they tend to be reoccupied quickly. This could change of course, depending on Edinburgh Woollen Mill Group's plans and possible increased use of online shopping. This is more a topic for BDC who look at occupancy levels as they collect business rates. It was felt there used to be many independent shops in the town centre but quite a few closed once the Tesco's site opened. It was also asked what can be done to improve the dining offer in the town centre and reduce the number of take-aways.</p> <p>Mike had provided information about a toilets scheme in Kendal whereby local shops and cafes or bars receive a small subsidy from the council in return for allowing visitors to use their loos. The shops display a sticker in the window and visitors can obtain a map of where the loos (19 in total) are located.</p> <p>While Kendal is a tourist destination and Dereham is not, we agreed that there is a need for improved conveniences in the town. We agreed to present a case to Dereham Town Council for a scheme similar to Kendal. Mike will draft a proposal and circulate.</p>	Mike
6	<p>Consultants update</p> <p>We have received a letter informing us that the consultants have been appointed and are expected to complete their work in 12 months. The firms are Hatch, working in partnership with We Made That. As yet, we have no timetable for the start of work in Dereham but it is expected to be completed by July.</p>	
7	<p>D&TNM</p> <p>The next meeting will be 28th April - Please diary these dates now.</p> <p>We agreed we would like to hear from Andrew Tubbs, CE of Cirencester Council at this meeting.</p>	All

Next meetings:

Monthly meeting of DTPWG	Zoom	7.30pm	Weds 28th April
Monthly meeting of DTPWG	Zoom	7.30pm	Thur 27th May 2021
Monthly meeting of DTPWG	Zoom	7.30pm	Thur 24th June 2021

