



## Dereham Town Plan Working Group

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



### Notes of meeting held 26 May 2021

**Present:** Cllr Stuart Green, Chairman; Mike Webb, Vice Chairman; Cllr Philip Morton, Dr Peter Wade Martins, Rev Paul Cubitt, Carolyn Coleman

**Apologies:** Cllr Harry Clarke

1	<b>Apologies</b> Cllr Harry Clarke informed us that he has resigned from this group. Cllr Stuart Green will nominate a replacement.	Stuart
2	<b>Minutes of meetings held on 28 April 2021</b> The minutes were approved and can be published on the aD website.	Carolyn
3	<b>Review of consultant activity so far</b> Dereham Heritage Trust has asked for a 1:1 meeting but have not received a response; Mike, as Chair of aD had a 1:1 meeting with them; Stuart, in his capacity as Mayor had a 1:1 meeting; Paul attended the Walking Workshop and participants were able to flag up sites and issues in the town centre. Many of us attended one of the SWOT workshops. Most thought the consultants had been very engaged and in listening mode and found the experience very positive. We thought that very few residents had been consulted through the workshops, although some may have completed the online survey. Carolyn asked about the town council's meeting with the consultants on 11th May, but apparently it was an opportunity for councillors and council officers to meet the consultancy team, not a discussion. Peter asked if the town council has a written list of key issues or priorities. The answer to this was No, but the town council has provided a set of documents that have been prepared previously, for example the traffic survey, cycling and walking plans, green infrastructure plans etc. The consultants must also have a copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan since they mentioned it in the workshops. Carolyn suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) would be out of date and should follow after the Town Plan, assuming that the Town Plan is equivalent to a forward strategy for the town. Peter asked if we can see the NP, but it is in draft form and not a public document. Philip said the NP may well change and be less effective as a result of proposed planning reforms. Breckland is about to start on the new Local Plan. He also suggested that the consultants' final report may be more of a funding document for Breckland, rather than a Town Plan. We agreed that if there is to be a NP, then it should support and link to any forward plan for the town. Carolyn suggested there could be potential for market towns to receive funding going forward. Paul referred to the Future High Streets Fund and also the Community Renewal Fund and will send through links to these.	Paul

4	<b>Toilets!</b> Stuart will put the report about the community toilets scheme to Dereham Town Council full council meeting on 8th June for debate. He will present the case for the scheme. We agreed that while it is not what many people would want, namely decent publicly funded amenities in the town, it could be a good interim solution and at least has the merit that it spreads the availability across more venues. Also, if the facilities are located within businesses, there is someone on hand to keep an eye on them and keep them clean in return for a small subsidy.	Stuart
5	<b>Longer term objectives</b> Mike asked if we should wait for the consultants' report before moving on to consider longer term arrangements. Stuart agreed that we should wait for their report. Paul pointed out there will be several opportunities to learn, not just from the first draft report but also at a later stage when plans for Breckland are produced, towards the end of the year. Stuart had discussed this with the consultants in terms of - what happens when they disappear? Who takes this forward? Carolyn suggested that there are people in the town who are willing to help with this and have experience that can be useful. Mike also agreed that any funding applications are more likely to be successful if they involve a range of stakeholders working in partnership and in agreement on priorities.	
6	<b>Homework</b> Stuart suggested our homework should be to attend the Intervention Workshop on 17th June.	All
7	<b>Future meetings</b> Peter suggested we might ask a representative from Kendal to attend the next meeting to tell us about any obstacles to implementing their community toilets scheme and how that had worked in practise. This was agreed - Mike will ask his contact in Kendal. The next meeting date will be after both the town council full meeting and after the Intervention Workshop - so will be a good opportunity to review both of those.	Mike  All
8	<b>AOB</b> None	
9	<b>D&amp;TNM</b> The next meeting will be Weds 23rd June. Please diary these dates below now.	All

### Next meetings:

Monthly meeting of DTPWG	Zoom	7.30pm	Weds 23rd June
Monthly meeting of DTPWG	Zoom	7.30pm	Weds 28th July
Monthly meeting of DTPWG	Zoom	7.30pm	Weds 25th August