



Dereham Town Plan Working Group

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



Notes of meeting held 28 July 2021

Present: , Mike Webb, Chair; Dr Peter Wade Martins, Rev Paul Cubitt, Carolyn Coleman, Cllr Phillip Duigan.

1	Apologies Cllr Stuart Green. Cllr Philip Morton.	
02/ 03/ 21	<p>Responses to intervention workshop - how best to respond to draft?</p> <p>Both aboutDereham and Dereham heritage Trust had submitted written responses to the consultants about the 23 project ideas that were listed in the intervention workshop. aboutDereham had taken a view on each of the 23 project ideas (as we had been asked to do in the intervention workshop) and stated if we support the idea, challenge the idea - or don't understand the idea. We also made a strong case for a more strategic approach. This document had previously been circulated to the joint working group members.</p> <p>Dereham heritage Trust had taken a similar line, suggesting that the 23 project ideas should be grouped into 5 or 6 broad themes.</p> <p>At the time we had hoped for some response from the consultants, but this did not happen. We had also been told that a detailed response had been submitted from the DTC Town Clerk, but that this had not been debated with the DTC councillors.</p> <p>We agreed that it would help us all to progress in the same direction if we can view the response from DTC. It was suggested to write to the Town Clerk and ask for a copy, but in the end it was agreed that Cllr Duigan will obtain a copy for this group.</p> <p>Mike reported on our catch-up with Breckland Officer, Emma Crampton. Emma currently looks after the MTI for Breckland and she is also the co-ordinator and liaison with the Town Plan consultants.</p> <p>Emma had told us that the first draft of the Dereham Town Plan (DTP) should be available in the first half of August. She said it is very good - 80 pages and is just being tweaked. She said it had around 5 big projects and a number of quick wins. Among these is the idea for a community toilets scheme which it seems Breckland may support in some way, as yet undecided (although she also said this will be a political decision).</p> <p>There will be a 6-week window to respond to the draft DTP and we can respond in writing or ask for a meeting.</p> <p>Carolyn suggested that we should do both. The next DTPWG meeting is scheduled for 25 August - so there should be time to read the draft and begin to formulate views for discussion at our next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Duigan said that he would be looking for a strategic group to oversee the Town Plan going forward. He will try to ensure that DTC councillors have the opportunity to debate the draft and arrive at a consensus which could</p>	<p>Cllr Duigan</p> <p>DTPWG</p>

	<p>then be summarised in a report for the full council meeting on 14 September - if necessary asking the consultants for an extension to allow this to happen.</p> <p>Emma also updated us about the Market Town Initiative. Cllr Paul Claussen is now leading on this. Some of the funds have been used for the yarnbombing. A sum may be used to provide solar lighting in the EFG. She suggested that some of the future expenditure could be on quick wins derived from the DTP - but she also said that we should not refrain from also submitting our ideas. Aside from that, the MTI scheme appears to be on hold due to an internal service review. The next MTI meeting will be in September.</p>	Cllr Duigan
3	<p>Community Toilets scheme</p> <p>Mike attended the town council meeting on 13 July to brief councillors about this scheme. It was approved in principle with no budget being set. Carolyn has started to talk to businesses about participating - with mixed results. It is likely that in year 1 there will be a small number of independent businesses plus the larger chains in the scheme.</p> <p>Carolyn will aim to present a draft budget to the next DTC full council meeting, with a suggested £5k being the likely first year maximum budget.</p> <p>Mike reported that he is starting a dialogue with Dencora to see if there is any possibility they can provide toilets on their precinct.</p>	<p>Carolyn</p> <p>Carolyn</p> <p>Mike</p>
4	<p>Ellenor Fenn Garden</p> <p>Work has started on the EFG and the aim is to complete by the bank holiday weekend at the end of August - but the contractor is unwilling to commit to this date. But the work appears to be progressing well, with paths already in place.</p> <p>Peter asked who owns the site and the answer is that Breckland have signed a ten year lease agreement with Dencora. The budget is enough to undertake most of the design features, including a number of themed features proposed by Sue Walker, including bug hotels, bee houses, bird boxes, stepping stones and a blackboard for children. Some of these items will be made by the Men's Shed. Cllr Duigan has offered seasoned logs.</p> <p>Carolyn expressed concern that for the maximum community benefit for this site, an ongoing programme of events will be needed and it is doubtful that aboutDereham can continue to provide this function. This is an issue that needs thinking about.</p>	All
5	<p>Minutes of meetings held on 23 June 2021</p> <p>The minutes were approved and can be published on the aD website.</p>	Carolyn
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>Peter reported that work has started on the repairs to the pargeting on the BBCM under the supervision of Anna Kettle, an expert. In future the pargeting will be white, not coloured, as it would have been before the restoration of 1905. The museum will not re-open this year.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the allotments behind St Nicholas' Church and Peter's view is that the best outcome is for it to be laid to grass.</p>	Paul
9	<p>D&TNM</p> <p>The next meeting will be Weds 25th August.</p>	All