

Dereham Town Plan Working Group



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

Notes of meeting held 27 April 2022

Present: Cllr Stuart Green, Chair; Mike Webb, Chairman of aboutDereham, Carolyn Coleman, Cllr Phillip Duigan, Cllr Phillip Morton, Rev Paul Cubitt, Cllr Hugh King

1	Apologies / absence	
	None - but one vacancy which Mike is dealing with	
2	Dereham's Town Delivery Plan (DTDP) - update	
	Mike had met with Rob Walker at Breckland Council. Rob had advised that they expect the revised plan, covering the five market towns, to be ready by end of May. It can then be signed off over the summer, ready for work to start early autumn.	
	The lack of updates from the team has been due to staffing issues but they have now appointed a new person to take this forward. Rob acknowledged that the governance arrangements in each town could be different depending on local circumstances. Mike will have 2-monthly meetings with Rob Walker from now on.	Mike
3	Market Town Initiative	
	aboutDereham had expressed to Rob Walker our disappointment that we had not been consulted about the proposal to commission public art in Dereham before the decision was taken. However, aboutDereham has a representative (Doreen Aitken - who is a gifted artist in her own right) who will sit on the steering group for this project on behalf of the aboutDereham Partnership. Doreen will report back via Mike.	Mike
	Various sites are under discussion for murals; members had stressed to consultants they must involve the community.	
	Carolyn raised the idea of additional seating in the town centre. This is something that had been requested several times by members of the public and had also come through in the We Made That consultations.	
	It was pointed out that there are four benches in front of the Akash. Is this a good location? How much are they used? The benches on Wright's Walk are used a lot. Paul Cubitt said there is room for an additional bench in front of the bell tower and this location is well used.	
	Mike reported that he had received a proposal for new seating from Walkers are Welcome. He will circulate this and we can comment and hopefully arrive at a considered list of possible locations to put forward.	Mike
4	NCC Rural Economy Strategy	
	The NCC Rural Economy Strategy - (see https://bit.ly/32yIHQE) - no change. But Cl;lr Duigan has requested that 'market towns' should be a subject for discussion at the scrutiny committee. Meanwhile, the topic of	CIIr Duigan

	nutrient neutrality could affect local planning decisions.	
5	Brown Tourist Signs Mike referred back to the report he had produced which showed a lack of coherence in the use of brown signs, both within the town and on the A47. He had received advice from a traffic management consultant who had said it is best to split the proposal into two separate parts and to focus first on the issue of signage on the A47. These are dealt with by 'National Highways' and likely to cost in the region of £10k each.	
	Mike has already consulted MNR on this proposal and they are very keen to have brown signs on both the A47 and the A11. Mike will follow up with meetings with other destinations such as Gressenhall Museum and the Windmill in the hope that these major attractions can contribute to the eventual costs. In addition, Cllr Duigan has offered to contribute toward the cost.	
	Mike will circulate an updated report following these consultations.	Mike
	Carolyn reported on the proposal for Wayfinding Phase 2: this is a programme of works designed to de-clutter, tidy up and improve signage within the town including: new noticeboards at the P.O. and on Wright's Walk; new interpretation panels at Washbridge and next to Crisp Maltings; a new finger-post at the recreation ground; repairs to and improvements to various traffic signs in the town, including some new brown signs to replace some old ones. The proposal was endorsed. Carolyn will circulate the written proposal.	Carolyn
	The proposal to use the remaining wayfinding budget in this way will need to be approved by the three councils, each of which contributed £15,000 to the wayfinding project. Carolyn to progress this.	Carolyn
6	Queen's Jubilee	
	Carolyn displayed the updated list of Jubilee events that we know of, in and near Dereham. This list will be circulated to the DTPWG and also to the Jubilee Events Planning Group.	Carolyn
	Cllr King reported on two Jubilee events on behalf of Dereham Council. He is leading on the beacon lighting event in the Fleece Meadow on 2nd June, supported by aboutDereham. He has organised some catering and a singer has been booked. He hopes that one of the DLLs will open the event - light the beacon at 9.45.	Cllr King
	Cllr Clarke is leading on the second event which will be a garden party to take place in the Queen Mother's Garden on Saturday 4 June. This will be invitation only. Cllr King to continue to update us on these Jubilee events.	Cllr King
	Cllr King also told us that Royal British Legion are to put on a cream teas train in July. This will be a ticketed event, open to the public, but with a carriage reserved for RBL members and their families.	Cllr King
7	Project updates	
	 Community Toilet Scheme - has been approved. There will be a town council re-prioritisation meeting at the end of May. 	Cllr Green
	Event Manager - Mike told us that Rob Walker had said that MTI can not be used for an events manager salary, but that Breckland will probably commission some external agencies to organise a series of events across the District.	
	Carolyn asked if Tracey might be able to co-ordinate events from within town council offices. Cllr King recommended that we speak to	

	the town clerk about this.	
	 Queen Mother's Garden - DTC and Breckland are working together to start works to refurbish the QMG. Plans have been released in the press this week and the story can be seen here: https://aboutdereham.org/queen-mothers-garden/ 	
	The councils' project team are now waiting for bids from suitably qualified contractors.	
	Town centre seating - covered above. Mike to circulate draft proposals.	Mike
	Noticeboards - covered above, after 'brown signs'. Carolyn to progress.	Carolyn
8	Minutes	
	The minutes of the meeting of 23 February were agreed.	
9	AOB	
	St Nicholas Church will be the host to a woolly mammoth from 25 June to mid September. This is good news for the town and will bring in additional visitors.	Paul
67	Next meeting	
	The date for the next meeting will be 25 May 2022 (4th Weds).	All
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