



## Dereham Town Plan Working Group

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



### Notes of meeting held 28 September 2022

**Present:** Cllr Hugh King, Mayor; Mike Webb, Chairman of aboutDereham; Cllr Stuart Green; Cllr Phillip Duigan; Cllr Philip Morton; Peter Wade-Martins, Dereham heritage Trust; Carolyn Coleman, aboutDereham; Rev Paul Cubitt, St Nicholas' Church.

1	<b>Apologies / absence</b> No absences	
2	<b>Town Delivery Plan</b> Mike reported that the aboutDereham Partnership had received an update from Breckland Officer Caroline Bidewell at the last partnership meeting on 21 September. She informed us that the Future Breckland Plan should be adopted by Breckland Council at their meeting in November after which it can be published. There is likely to be significant PR around the launch. We are told the plan for Dereham has not changed in substance since the draft (published August 2021) and the Market Place is still the biggest priority project. Caroline told us there will definitely be a feasibility study. The Future Breckland Board is still being constituted.	
3	<b>Heritage Open Days, Paul Cubitt</b> Paul's proposal that more groups could work together in a co-ordinated approach to HODs was supported at the last meeting of DTPWG. It was also discussed at the aboutDereham Partnership meeting following a report from Ken Hawkins and was fully supported here also. The outcome is that potential participant organisations will be contacted for a meeting in early in 2023 to start the planning. Paul will write to the organisations - Carolyn to provide contact details as as required. Hugh also mentioned that the Dereham Lodge is one of the oldest in Norfolk and could possibly be offered as an HOD visit. <b>Peter reported that DHT had recently photographed the eighteenth-century minute books of the town's Vestry meetings. At this time it was the Vestry which appointed town constables and were responsible for running the town workhouse and the pesthouse (for smallpox). These books provide a fascinating account of how were public facilities were managed at the time.</b> It was also commented that the Assembly Rooms should be considered for HODs as it is at the centre of some of Dereham's history and contains some important artworks. Suggested sites can be seen <a href="#">here</a> .	Paul Carolyn to invite  to invite  to invite
4	<b>Reports to Dereham Town Council</b> This item has been dealt with previously. Normally the Mayor would report on DTPWG in his monthly report to the full council.	
5	<b>Breckland Street Art project</b> This project is funded through the Market Town Initiative. The	

	<p>aboutDereham Partnership had a representative on the steering group but it appeared to come to a halt as Breckland Officers were trying to finalise possible sites. Carolyn has asked for minutes of the steering group but received no reply.</p> <p>We know that three sites have been agreed; we believe the steering group will now reconvene in order to select artists and themes for the works. The next meeting is on Friday 7th October. It is hoped the three sites may encourage others to come forward.</p> <p>Paul referred to an art project in North Walsham where heavy duty boards were painted or worked on by different groups in the town.</p>	
6	<p><b>Town centre seating</b></p> <p>The seats are in storage and will be refurbished over the winter. Sites have not been finalised.</p>	
7	<p><b>Community Toilet Scheme</b></p> <p>DTC full council have agreed this scheme and we believe it is on the DTC priority list.</p>	DTC Cllrs
8	<p><b>Brown tourist signs</b></p> <p>At the first meeting of this group of stakeholders on 28 September, it was agreed to focus first on signs on the A47. The group had previously received a copy of the NCC policy on brown signs which clarifies which kind of attractions are eligible or ineligible.</p> <p>All three A47 exits were discussed and it was agreed that the Norwich Road exit offers the best potential for signs which would include the MNR and the Windmill. We also hope to have "Dereham, Historic Market Town" on the sign as well as the leisure centre. This is because the presence of the leisure centre shows people travelling past Dereham that there are good quality facilities in the town and it could influence people to visit for this purpose at a future date. Targetting the Norwich Road exit helps to reduce congestion at the Tavern Lane end.</p> <p>Mike will now redraft his report to reflect the consensus of this meeting.</p> <p>Paul asked if it is possible to have icons for the museum, the church and the leisure centre etc. Mike is tasked to start a dialogue with National highways and can ask about this.</p> <p>The smaller brown signs in the town are managed by NCC Highways Dept. Any organisation requiring one of these must be prepared to fund it. [Contact details for Linda McDermott are available on request.]</p>	<p>Mike</p> <p>Mike</p>
9	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 24 August were agreed. It was requested that Minutes of Last Meeting be placed at the head of the agenda.</p>	Mike
10	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>The town council will no doubt organise events to mark the coronation. Cllr Stuart Green is leading on this. He said he aims to involve community organisations - there may be a planning meeting in November.</p>	Stuart
11	<p><b>Next meeting -26 October 2022 (4th Weds)</b></p>	All