



Dereham Town Plan Working Group

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



Notes of meeting held 26 October 2022

Present: Cllr Hugh King, Mayor; Mike Webb, Chairman of aboutDereham; Cllr Phillip Duigan; Cllr Philip Morton; Rev Paul Cubitt, St Nicholas' Church; Carolyn Coleman, aboutDereham;

1	Apologies / absence Cllr Stuart Green; Peter Wade-Martins, Dereham heritage Trust:	
2	Housekeeping The minutes of the September 28 meeting were agreed. <u>Matters Arising:</u> Carolyn asked about the DTC plans for the coronation in 2023. We are advised that Cllr Stuart Green is to lead on this.	Stuart
3	Dereham's Town Delivery Plan - latest news from Breckland It is understood the Future Breckland plan will go to Breckland's cabinet on 21 November when it is expected it will be adopted. The evidence document is already in the public domain. This information is the most recent update from Caroline Bidewell who has agreed to present the adopted plan to our Partnership meeting on 7th December. All present were invited to join that meeting.	Carolyn/ Mike
4	Dereham Town Plan Delivery Board Carolyn reiterated the view expressed at the last Partner meeting that we do not want a 'one size fits all' approach, nor a top-down approach imposed without discussion. That is aboutDereham's view and appears to accord with the view of the town council. We believe that Caroline Bidewell will be responsible for putting in place the governance arrangements for each town, under the overall oversight of the Future Breckland Board of which MP George Freeman is a member. Mike suggested the arrangements in each town will very likely reflect the composition of the main board, i.e. the three councils, the private sector and the voluntary/community sector.	
5	Brown Tourist signs on the A47 Mike had previously circulated his report and proposal. This had been updated to reflect the views of the Brown Signs working group which met on 28th September. At this meeting, Linda McDermott, representing Highways Dept at NCC had circulated their brown signs policy document which seemed to rule out certain venues from being included on the brown signs. Mike asked the group to approve the document to go forward to National Highways and to start to formally seek funding for the project. Mike also stated that DTFC are interested in being part of the project. He received this information from George Freeman who had also promised to	

	<p>put Mike in touch with his contact in National Highways.</p> <p>Paul queried the fact that several venues had been excluded due to lack of parking, eg both BBCM and the Memorial Hall. He pointed out that in York there is no parking for York Minster! In fact in Dereham both venues have some parking nearby. Equally, he pointed out that DTFC and MNR are not open all of the time, so this cannot be used as a reason to exclude BBCM and the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>Paul made a plea for the inclusion of more symbols on the signs to represent more of the town's assets. He said the more the town can display the more visitors will be attracted into the town. The Mayor and others agreed with this point of view. Mike agreed to add these destinations for his discussion with National Highways.</p> <p>The Mayor pointed out that Dereham will soon have a 'country park' thanks to DTC's purchase of land between the Neatherd and Etling Green. This too should feature on any tourist sign.</p> <p>It was asked if there is a place for Scarning Fen? Also the Wendling Beck project and new Dereham to Gressenhall footpath.</p> <p>The group agreed that the Norwich Road exit from the A47 is the best place for two signs, one eastbound and one westbound.</p> <p>Mike added that he is keen to have a Tourist Info symbol on the signs and is starting a dialogue with the library manager as the library already has stocks of many visitor guides and leaflets.</p> <p>Mike will revise his proposal to incorporate more icons and circulate the updated document to the group members. The intention will then be to agree the revised proposals at the next meeting of this group when we will also agree who (and how) will approach each potential funder for contributions to the project</p>	<p>Mike</p> <p>Mike</p> <p>Mike</p>
6	<p>Breckland Street Art project</p> <p>There has been no further update. We have been told the Art steering group may oversee the commissioning of an artist or sculptor for a centrepiece in the QMG.. None of the DTPWG is on the Street Art steering group. We do not receive updates.</p>	
7	<p>Queen Mother's Garden</p> <p>We are told there will be a piece of art or sculpture as a centrepiece. Mike has seen the procurement specification and will circulate it to this group.</p> <p>Some of us are invited to an opening preview on 3 November. The garden will open to the public on 7 November and there will be an official launch ceremony in 2023.</p>	Mike
8	<p>Town centre seating</p> <p>The benches are in storage and will be renovated as and when possible.</p>	Cllrs
9	<p>AOB</p> <p>23rd November is coincidentally the date that Norfolk County Council will be discussing the rural economy and market towns and is two days after the Breckland Council cabinet meeting on 21 November.</p>	Phillip D
10	<p>Next meeting -23 November 2022 (4th Weds)</p>	All