



Dereham Town Plan Working Group

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



Notes of meeting held 22 February 2023

Present: Cllr Phillip Duigan; Cllr Philip Morton; Cllr Stuart Green; Peter Wade-Martins, Dereham Heritage Trust; Carolyn Coleman, aboutDereham; Helen Evans, aboutDereham

1	<p>Apologies / absence</p> <p>Cllr Hugh King, Mayor, Dereham Town Council; Mike Webb, Chairman of aboutDereham; Rev Paul Cubitt, St Nicholas' Church;</p> <p>As neither the chairman nor the deputy chairman were available, Peter Wade Martins was asked to chair the meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Housekeeping</p> <p>The minutes of the January 25 meeting were agreed.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising:</u> At the last meeting it had been said that a traffic study is an important priority for Dereham, as it is the key to making changes to the Market Place. Cllr Morton reported that this had not been picked up with Dereham Town Council in the intervening period because of reports that Breckland Council had not been granted levelling up funds for which they had applied. He also said that the town council is trying to progress work on footpaths and cycleways but have been told this will now have to wait until after purdah.</p> <p>Newspaper reports have stated that Breckland Council received £1.6m of funding. See: https://www.derehamtimes.co.uk/news/23331188.breckland-1-6m-levelling-funding-secured-area/ and the same reports state that: "<i>The Future Breckland programme will receive over £350,000 to bring forward key aspirations set out in the new programme, which received input from over 20,000 interactions with communities and businesses. This money will help bring forward some of the big ideas in the plans and enable a range of smaller-scale activities like events and public realm enhancements.</i>"</p> <p>It is not clear what this means or if it is correct. It was agreed that 2 issues will be for councillors to pick up, i.e. - what is the £350k to be used for? How to ensure that the traffic study is top of the priorities agreed by DTC, BDC and NCC.</p> <p>Brown signs</p> <p>Carolyn reported that Mike had met with Linda McDermott from NCC Highways who had stated they do not have the manpower to undertake the design and implementation of new brown signs. However, she has said that they can provide a "mock-up" that can then be brought before Dereham Town Council. Carolyn to ask if this can be prepared in time for the full council meeting on 14 March.</p> <p>King's Coronation</p> <p>Stuart reported that event planning is ongoing with new publicity about the performances in the Memorial Hall released already. Tickets are on sale. Carolyn asked about the event in the QMG - this will be a hog roast.</p> <p>Helen reported that the St Nicholas Church flower ladies, helped by the Dereham Flower Arranging Club, are applying for a grant for special flower displays in St Nicholas' Church for the coronation and the special church service.</p>	<p>NCC Cllrs BDC Cllrs DTC Cllrs</p> <p>Mike Carolyn</p> <p>Stuart</p> <p>Helen</p>

	<p>Street Art</p> <p>Helen reported on the debate on Facebook about this project which has caused the project to be paused until after the local elections. The majority of the comments on Facebook were against using the money (c£35k) for street art and wanted it to be used for things the public has asked for, such as toilets in the town centre.</p> <p>It was said that the debate and subsequent newspaper coverage had been politically motivated. The majority of the 340 Facebook comments were from members of the public. Phillip D suggested that efforts to brighten up the town centre should be welcomed. Carolyn said she felt that the consultants had not done enough to ensure the public were kept in the loop. There had been a small steering group but no minutes or news ever came out of the steering group to the wider public. She felt this was a mistake.</p> <p>Peter asked how we can convey our concern to the steering group. Carolyn will draft an email to the officers looking after this project.</p> <p>Town centre seating</p> <p>No update - benches are to be refurbished when there is time in between other jobs. At the last meeting it was said that the town council priorities will be discussed and minuted at the full council meeting. This is expected to be the 14 March meeting.</p> <p>HODs</p> <p>The proposed meeting has not taken place. Carolyn to ask Paul if he is too busy and if so offer alternative way to organise the meeting.</p>	<p>Carolyn</p> <p>Cllrs</p> <p>Carolyn</p>
3	<p>Dereham Town Delivery Plan and Future Breckland</p> <p>We are awaiting an update from Breckland Council officers as to how responses to the consultation on the Future Breckland Prospectus have been dealt with.</p>	
4	<p>Role of group</p> <p>Carolyn explained that aboutDereham is disappointed that the Breckland governance structure for the town delivery plans does not include a standing working group for those towns that wish to have one. It appears to offer project groups, as and when major projects are agreed by the over-arching board. This does not give the town council the opportunity to take the lead and contribute their ideas about which priorities should be taken forward in Dereham.</p> <p>The group agreed there is a need for a mechanism for the town council to feed in and influence what happens in Dereham. While the group agrees that a large group comprising all possible stakeholders would be unwieldy, we agreed that we would like to see a discussion about this and the possibility of a sub-committee of the town council created for this purpose.</p> <p>The group agreed that these minutes can be used to convey the group's thinking to Dereham Town Council.</p>	Cllrs
5	<p>AOB</p> <p>Peter asked about the Parish Council meeting planned for 21st March (TBC). He asked if the Mayor usually provides a review of the year to the members of the public. It was thought that this usually takes place at the Annual Town Meeting when the outgoing Mayor covers the year of office just completed. The arrangements for this will no doubt be discussed with the current Mayor.</p>	
	<p>Next meeting -22 March 2023 (4th Weds). This date was not discussed in the meeting.</p>	All