

## Dereham WaW Committee Meeting : 20 November 2023

<b>1</b>	<b>Minutes and matters arising from the meeting on 20 July 2023</b>
1.1	<u>Minutes</u> have been circulated and an edited version for the website has been uploaded.
1.2	<u>Matters arising</u> not elsewhere on the agenda:  7.2.2 <u>Community Toilet Scheme</u> – DWaW have emailed the Town Clerk advising that people coming on our walks would welcome the availability of more toilet facilities. The Town Clerk has replied suggesting that we start and finish our walks at a café. We have responded to say that this is not always possible. There has been no further communication.
<b>2</b>	<b>Website and IT</b>
	The statistics on our website traffic for September (574 unique visits) and October (517 unique visits) were presented. All agreed this is very good. 13 people landed on the QR page. Our walks continue to be downloaded, with the short walks booklet and Yaxham/Clint Green walk being the most popular.
2.1	The server has been moved– this was a tricky operation but all has been successfully completed.
2.2	The website has been kept up to date. There can be a problem if there are delays in sending on information on upcoming walks in time for them to be uploaded to the website.
2.3	There was a proposal to list our plan of walks on an A5 leaflet, which could then be distributed to friends and neighbours, our walkers and outlets such as the library. All agreed this is a good idea. As plans can change at short notice, there will have to be a proviso that people should check the website or phone to confirm details of any particular walk. Walk leaders to liaise on dates and starting points.
2.4	We may set up an e-mail that could send to up to 1000 recipients which would solve the current problem of needing to email our contact list in small batches which is time consuming. It was agreed that we will give it a trial run, asking people (via the old address) to notify us if they have not received the information sent from the new address.
<b>3</b>	<b>Finance update</b>
3.1	<u>Update and regular outgoings</u>
	Since the last meeting we have spent £898.67 printing 5000 short walks booklets, £12 towards about Dereham's HODs leaflets and £139.26 (offset by £92 from DHT and aD) for 1000 Wayfinding leaflets. Income from walks is noted below. The Tesco bookstall produced £585.55 (allocated to publicity).
	Cash at bank last statement 16 Oct 2023 <span style="float: right;">£2312.28</span>
	Transactions not yet on statement:
	Two November walks <span style="float: right;">£ 23.30</span>
	less Dereham Society gift <span style="float: right;">£856.78</span>
	less publicity balance <span style="float: right;">£526.29</span>
	less reserve <span style="float: right;"><u>£400.00</u></span>
	<b>Available to use <span style="float: right;">£552.51</span></b>

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3.2	We are receiving donations from our walkers of approximately £1 per person. This is keeping us financially afloat, and may even lead to an accumulation of funds in the future, which we will need to consider.
3.3	<p><u>Budget 2024</u>: Full year expenditure - £331 approx. Due 2024: about Dereham (Jan £12), Independent Examiner gift (Jan £10), WaW sub (Jan £110), website (Mar £30), APM (Mar £40), Insurance (May £99), AGT cost (Aug £30).</p> <p>All agreed that these charges, give or take 10%, can be paid without further consultation.</p>
3.4	There was a discussion on how we should spend the Dereham Society gift. It was agreed that the new Country Park may well offer opportunities to use the money on designing and printing a leaflet mapping the Neatherd footpaths, although this may not be possible for a couple of years yet.
3.5	Barclays sent a letter in September asking for 'business details', this was duly supplied before the initial deadline (later extended to 9 October). Nothing further has been heard: the letter says "[We] will be in touch if we need anything else."
3.6	We have just received a letter from Barclays advising the proposed closure of the Dereham branch in Feb 2024. We can carry out transactions at a local post office but there may be charges. We will investigate what services may be offered by Nationwide who are not closing branches and who deal well with charities, although DWaW are a voluntary organisation not a charity. It was noted that we may need to put the wording 'not for profit' in the Constitution.
3.7	There was a discussion as to whether we should ask someone to check and sign for our donations at the end of a walk. It was agreed not to do this as we collect such small amounts, unless we are challenged by anybody.
<b>4</b>	<b>Publicity</b>
4.1	<u>Contact list</u> : the list currently stands at 195 emails, plus 3 to phone.
4.2	<u>Logos</u> : Topping up and checking that logos are still in place to recommence in the New Year.
4.3	<p><u>Leaflet</u>: Large stock still to hand (9000+). It was agreed that we would do the following to make use of the leaflets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Offer them to the shops that have agreed to put up our logo</li> <li>- Continue to take them to Yaxham Waters</li> <li>- Put them as an insert into the Ovington Community Magazine</li> <li>- Supply Watton Library</li> <li>- Supply Dereham Library</li> </ul>
4.4	<u>Short walks booklets</u> : Revised version now available (5000).
4.5	<u>Town Trail</u> : revised version now available (1000).
4.6	<u>Circular walk</u> : 3000 copies have been ordered from Harlequin at a cost of £247.51 – not yet available.
4.7	<u>Social media</u> : Facebook continues to be updated and some people do

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4.8	<p>come to our walks as a result.</p> <p><u>Media/Publicity</u>: To note that Wellbeing Norfolk and Waveney is arranging short walks every third Monday in Dereham. Our mailing list has been notified.</p>																																							
<b>5</b>	<b>Future work and plans</b>																																							
5.1	<u>Town walks booklets</u> : no change, update needed. There are still plans to put them into a common format.																																							
5.2	<u>Original pack of 14 walks</u> : Updated and uploaded.																																							
5.3	<u>A Dereham Plan for Dereham Residents</u> : Friday 24 November, 6pm to 7.30pm: a gathering to help stakeholders ensure all the residents, service users and community groups in Dereham have a strong voice on the Dereham Town Delivery Plan. The meeting is organised by aboutDereham and Rev Paul Cubitt, fronted by George Freeman.																																							
<b>6</b>	<b>Events programme</b>																																							
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6.3	<p><u>2024 programme to consider</u></p> <p>Short walks, first Fridays, 10:15, 5 Jan, 2 Feb, 1 Mar, 5 Apr, 3 May, 7 Jun, 5 Jul, 2 Aug, 6 Sep, 11 Oct, 1 Nov, 6 Dec Starting points and broad plan for the year to be determined to ensure we don't walk the same route on consecutive months.</p> <p>Easy Tuesday walks, second Tuesdays, 10:00 9 Jan, 13 Feb, 12 Mar, 9 Apr, 14 May, 11 Jun, 9 Jul, 13 Aug, 10 Sep, 8 Oct, 12 Nov, 10 Dec</p>																																							

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	<p>Other (longer) walks suggested:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Mon 1 Jan (K)</td> <td>New Year's Day walk - possibly end at Smile or The George</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tba April</td> <td>shorter walk followed by Annual Public Meeting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wed 17 Apr (C)</td> <td>Beetley by bus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wed 15 May (C)</td> <td>Neatherd, Scarning Water Meadows, Dumpling Green</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May/June (C)</td> <td>Badley Moor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mon 26 Aug (K)</td> <td>garden party (venue to be found)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6-15 Sep (K)</td> <td>HODs town walk(s)? 2024 theme is the history of routes, networks and connections</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wed 18 Sep (C)</td> <td>Rushmeadow or Etling Green, and Northall Green</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct (K)</td> <td>Pathmakers walk?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tba</td> <td>out of Norfolk - Clare?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tba</td> <td>MNR subject to agreement and timetable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tba</td> <td>bus - Swanton Morley</td> </tr> </table> <p>Some of the proposed Wednesday walks could take place on a Saturday. A draft plan to be drawn up and circulated.</p>	Mon 1 Jan (K)	New Year's Day walk - possibly end at Smile or The George	tba April	shorter walk followed by Annual Public Meeting	Wed 17 Apr (C)	Beetley by bus	Wed 15 May (C)	Neatherd, Scarning Water Meadows, Dumpling Green	May/June (C)	Badley Moor	Mon 26 Aug (K)	garden party (venue to be found)	6-15 Sep (K)	HODs town walk(s)? 2024 theme is the history of routes, networks and connections	Wed 18 Sep (C)	Rushmeadow or Etling Green, and Northall Green	Oct (K)	Pathmakers walk?	tba	out of Norfolk - Clare?	tba	MNR subject to agreement and timetable	tba	bus - Swanton Morley
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6.4	<p><u>Specific proposals:</u> We have received information from the Sennowe Estate as follows: <i>"we can offer forest, wetland and farming areas and a walk of just about any length. Parking, no problem. Public transport, doubtful. No costs. No refreshments and no toilets, but 600 acres of forest. Picnickers welcome."</i> After some discussion it was agreed not to pursue this, as there would be a distance to travel and no amenities on arrival. A walk in this location would also go against our current policy of staying close to Dereham to support the local economy and footpaths.</p>																								
6.5	<p><u>Badley Moor Tour:</u> We have been in contact with the landowner of Badley Moor who has offered to take our walkers on a tour of his farm. He is interested in environmental issues and has rare orchids on his land. It was agreed that this would make a nice option. We will get in contact with him again in January. We would need to decide whether we would walk to the farm from the Neatherd or travel straight to the farm for the tour, this would depend on how long the tour is likely to be.</p>																								
6.6	<p><u>Pathmakers Walking Festival:</u> It was agreed not to join the Pathmakers walking festival again next October, as their online booking system had not been easy to negotiate and some of our walkers were not able to do it. We will time our October walk to coincide with their event instead.</p>																								
7	<p><b>Footpath issues</b></p> <p>7.1 <u>Footpath work</u> map circulated prior to this meeting. See also issues raised with DTC and this update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 FP1 the only stile left on Dereham's footpaths, would be nice to remove it.</li> <li>2 FP2, RB3: DTC sent a solicitor's letter to NCC; separately, we have had a reply from our own contact at NCC. There are discussions going on between DTC, The Ramblers, NCC and DWaW.</li> <li>3 FP12/12a: National Highways supposedly looking at flooding under bypass</li> <li>4 Litter at FP13/14: still chasing the Diocese</li> </ol>																								

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	<p>5 FP14: clearance started; tree removed from school field by left blocking path!</p> <p>6 FP14a: no change - boardwalk is in disrepair</p> <p>7 FP26: remains difficult after wet weather</p> <p>8 RB28,30,31: require clearance a few times during the year</p> <p>9 RB32: potential encroachment at the eastern end requires monitoring after wet weather</p> <p>10 RB37: awaiting action by National Highways to prevent litter coming from bypass</p> <p>11 FP34: awaiting NCC ability to deal with wet/muddy conditions and possibly add the woodland section to the cutting contract</p> <p>12 Hurn Road path: ongoing: BDC says its timescale for enforcement is within a year. A recent visit indicated someone unknown (not DTC) had cut back the overgrowth.</p> <p>13 Etling Green trod: proposed for Parish Path Partnership funding</p>
7.2	<p><u>Dereham Town Council</u></p> <p>1 <u>Report</u>: The report submitted to the Town Council's Heritage and Open Spaces Committee meeting for 28 November 2023 was circulated prior to the meeting. Future meeting dates are planned for 27 Feb, 23 Apr and 25 Jun 24.</p> <p>2 <u>Maggie Oechsle</u>, Yaxham Parish Council Chairman, has been in contact seeking to get improvements to enable walking and cycling between Yaxham and Dereham via Yaxham FP1 and Dereham FPs 4 and 26. DWaW has advised that footpath improvements would be welcome, but there would be major problems in making routes legally available to cyclists.</p>
7.3	<u>BDC</u> : Nothing further to report
7.4	<u>NCC</u> : Nothing further to report
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Walkers are Welcome regional</b></p> <p><u>Eastern England</u>: No meeting currently planned.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Walkers are Welcome national</b></p> <p>1 <u>Newsletter</u>: August to November issues, and the external <i>Walk this Way</i> in September (2 parts), have been circulated. The November issue (including Kate's blog) gave an account of the Annual Get Together, supplemented briefly by a report from DWaW.</p> <p>2 <u>Annual Return</u> to be prepared for submission in January 2024. Draft to be circulated.</p>
<b>10</b>	<b>Data Protection</b> : This policy needs regular review, which will take place by email.
<b>11</b>	<b>Constitution</b> : This policy needs regular review, which will take place by email.
<b>12</b>	<b>Next meeting</b> It is proposed to fix the next meeting for February 2024.