

Dereham WaW Committee Meeting: 21 October 2024

1	Minutes and matters arising from the meeting on 8 July 2024																				
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: 1.2 'Neatherd money': no progress on the information map for the new country park. We will do some research regarding possible costs/design etc.																				
2	Website and IT																				
2.1	We looked at some statistics showing that there continues to be plenty of activity on our website, as people view or download our documents. The Short Walks booklet continues to attract the most hits.																				
3	Finance update																				
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3.2	<u>Budget 2024</u> : Full year expenditure - £350 approx. Paid 2024: about Dereham (Jan £12), WaW sub (Jan £110), website (Mar £30), APM (Mar £28), insurance (May £99), HODs (£20), AGT (Oct £50).																				
3.3	All this year's expenditure is now done, and we have been building up our reserves from donations over the year with the addition of the Tuesday walks. There was some discussion as to whether to produce a new publication. The current ones do cover all the footpaths available, and people also have the option to combine different walks. If we were to reprint the original 14 walks, we would need more money than we have now and it would be preferable to have it in booklet form. Other suggestions were a Town Trails booklet of all the HODs walks, and a booklet of bus/train walks. It was noted that we do need to avoid having too many publications.																				
4	Publicity																				
4.1	<u>Contact list</u> : the list currently stands at 215 emails, plus 2 to phone and one person to send a text message to.																				
4.2	<u>Logos</u> : Ongoing																				
4.3	<u>Publications</u> : Leaflets, short walks booklets, Town Trail leaflets and Circular walk leaflets were being distributed as opportunity arose. There has been no progress on reviewing the Town walks booklets.																				
4.4	<u>Social Media</u> : With the assistance of one of our Committee members, we have continued to have a Facebook presence. Someone has agreed to post on our behalf, and is already proactively and promptly posting information, keeping topical information to the fore.																				

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4.5	<u>Publicity</u> : We continue to send information to local publications.		
5	Future work and plans		
5.1	<p>Destination signage – There had been a proposal that in selected locations and on those paths on obvious routes, we could put up some additional signage indicating where the path leads to, eg “To Northall Green”. This could be potentially helpful and encouraging to walkers, and we could also put the DWaW logo on.</p> <p>It was agreed that DWaW would do some initial exploration with NCC, and if they are in agreement, we can then look at the design, format, and costs.</p>		
5.2	<p>Walk leader – One of our walk leaders has left, and there is now only one walk leader. This leaves no contingency for holidays, sickness or other emergencies. It was agreed to advertise for new walk leaders in the next email to our contacts.</p>		
6	Events programme		
	Debrief		
6.1	<u>Short Walks</u>	2 Aug 6 Sep 4 Oct	10 walkers, £10.50 donations 8 walkers, £1 donations 16 walkers, £10.63 donations
	<u>Easy Tues walks</u>	9 Jul 13 Aug 10 Sep 8 Oct	7 walkers, £8.50 donations 22 walkers, £12 donations 13 walkers, £19 donations 12 walkers, £9.30 donations
	<u>Full walk</u>	17 Jul (MNR) 26 Aug (garden party) 7 Sep (HODs) 14 Sep (HODs) 16 Oct (bus)	15 walkers, no donations sought 22 walkers, £21.70 donations* 13 walkers, £4.75 donations ** 14 walkers, £3.25 donations ** 10 walkers, £9.25 donations
	*After paying £40 to the hosts. **Half the receipts, the other half going to DHT who provided support		
	For review - Planned Events		
6.2	2024 events to come		
	Short walks, first Fridays, 10:15: 1 Nov, 6 Dec		
	Easy Tuesday walks, second Tuesdays, 10:00: 12 Nov, 10 Dec		
	Other: mainly longer walks and events: none for 2024		
6.3	2025 plans		
	1 We will continue the Friday short walks, rotating the start places between the Neatherd, Windmill and Church House. No more generic town centre as starting point.		
	2 It has been confirmed that the Easy Tuesday walks will continue, with no change to the current arrangements. The George is friendly		

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<p>6.4</p>	<p>and welcoming and now much more set up for providing coffee and able to cater for a number of people. The Tuesday walking group are always able to sit in the conservatory and The George have it in their diary.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3 The one side of A5 diary of upcoming walks has been well received and we will continue to produce them. 4 We propose to do one HODs walk this year. The numbers will still have to be restricted due to the need to gather on pavements etc. 5 We may have a 'day out' walk in the summer. Possible venues, coastal path or Pingo Trail. It was decided to postpone further discussion or planning and consult with our email contacts as to what preferences there are. 6 It was agreed to do an evening walk on the Neatherd and country park, including the new cemetery, if possible having someone to give us an update on plans for the country park. Those who wish to could end up at The Coachmaker for a drink or meal. We need to find out what sort of arrangements with The Coachmaker would be possible. <p>Other walks: Wed 1 Jan (BH): New Year's Day walk, seasonal refreshments in Church House Sat 26 Apr: APM Weds May 21: Mattishall bus walk Jun?: evening walk Wed/Thur Jul MNR walk – tbc when timetable available Mon 25 Aug (BH): garden party Sep: HODs walk – only one walk, Sat 13 or 20.</p>
	<p>Footpath issues</p>
<p>7.1</p>	<p><u>Footpath work:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 FP2: NCC has taken some steps towards establishing the field edge path on the correct alignment. However, there is too much growth to walk where the footpath sign directs and the farmer plants right up to the path. NCC have had a site meeting there, but this has made no difference. DWaW have lodged a complaint again with NCC. 2 RB3: NCC has installed a culvert to cross the ditch. However, the signpost leads to an impenetrable hedge as it did three months ago and there are stalks left in the field which can be walked through as long as there is no crop growing. DWaW have lodged a complaint again with NCC. 3 FP13/14: the Diocese seems to clear litter but is taking no preventative measures. DWaW has sent them another letter plus photo. 4 FP14a: no change - boardwalk is in disrepair. This work seems to have fallen off the schedule after initial discussions with Natural England as to what work could be carried out. To be followed up 5 RB32: From Etling Green to the byway has now been nicely surfaced, but where it reaches the Neatherd it gets very wet and boggy and nothing has been done about this. DTC have advised there are difficulties due to the way the drainage is. It may need major work, possibly installation of a new drain. The question is who holds responsibility for it – DTC, Breckland, or is it common land. This problem undermines the benefits of surfacing Shillings Lane. 6 RB36 (Cherry Lane): DTC is proposing improvements for the section from Norwich Road to the Windmill. This will be instead of pursuing Parish Path Partnership projects, and will involve more long lasting and substantial work.

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<p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p>	<p>7 Hurn Road path: DWaW met with the Director of Planning and Building Control, BDC, to look at this, and to discuss our suggestion of connecting this with the car park at BDC. Nothing has come of this.</p> <p>8 Etling Green trod: DTC has postponed all Parish Path Partnership proposals in favour of 6 above.</p> <p>9 Steps at South Green Gardens: DTC has sought user declarations to support a DMMO application. DWaW has distributed some completed user forms and passed them to DTC. This may have been discussed at DTC some 20 years ago and the evidence may already be there. If the steps are declared a ROW, NCC would maintain them.</p> <p>10 We may make an official request for information on the cutting contract as to when paths will be cut. This will enable us to check that the work has been carried out and avoid doing path maintenance just before a path is due to have work done on it. The information will also help in the planning of group walks.</p> <p><u>Dereham Town Council</u></p> <p>1 A report was submitted to the Heritage and Open Spaces Committee on 24 September, no DWaW presence due to holidays.</p> <p>2 Businesses operating at the Neatherd: A walking perspective would welcome the provision of tea/coffee and other similar small scale refreshment as an added facility for walkers and other users of the Neatherd. For larger scale provision, such as the fish and chip van, there is no objection in principle, but anything that would encourage visits and car parking merely to access that provision, to the potential detriment of <i>bona fide</i> users of parking spaces to access the Neatherd would be undesirable. It was agreed that the best way forward is for DTC to withhold permission and then make exceptions.</p> <p>Car parking charges: Awaiting consultation. Response sent to aD. There seems to be little public enthusiasm for the charges.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8.1</p> <p>8.2</p> <p>8.3</p> <p>9</p>	<p>Walkers are Welcome national</p> <p><u>Newsletter</u>: August and September issues, and the external <i>Walk this Way</i> in June have been circulated.</p> <p><u>Annual Get Together 2024</u>: 11-13 October, Llanwrtyd Wells. Very much enjoyed by DWaW representatives, with the opportunity to meet and gather ideas from other WaW town representatives. Two Heritage Trail booklets produced by Llanwrtyd Wells were brought to the meeting. It was agreed that we could explore with DHT a joint publication of Dereham Heritage trails.</p> <p><u>Economic Benefits of WaW Membership</u>: The material produced by Ross on Wye was followed up by 5 WaW towns, but only Evesham has had a go at putting it into practice. Someone from Evesham WaW ran a workshop on economic benefits during the AGT, which generated further enthusiasm. Most of the work so far has been done around measuring economic impact on towns that run walking festivals which is relatively easy to measure.</p> <p>We have designed a slip to hand out to walkers on our group walks. It was agreed that it may be more productive for someone to ‘interview’ people as they walk. To be trialled at the next Friday short walk.</p> <p>Next meeting: Monday, 20 January, 2025 at the earlier time of 9.30am.</p>