

Dereham Town Council

Heritage and Open Spaces Committee

November 26th 2024

Agenda Notes

5. To consider licencing traders on the Neatherd

The more this is looked into the more complicated it becomes and the more it seems to be a matter primarily for Breckland District Council as the Managers rather than Dereham Town Council as owners.

It is not clear whether the Town Council can give a licence to park and trade as this would be in breach of the byelaws. If it could then, there would need to be some mechanism for making Breckland Council aware so they do not enforce against any licensees.

If somebody traded without a licence could the Town Council prevent it? The act of trading from a vehicle does not seem to be in breach of the byelaws. Parking is in breach of the byelaws, but then lots of people park!

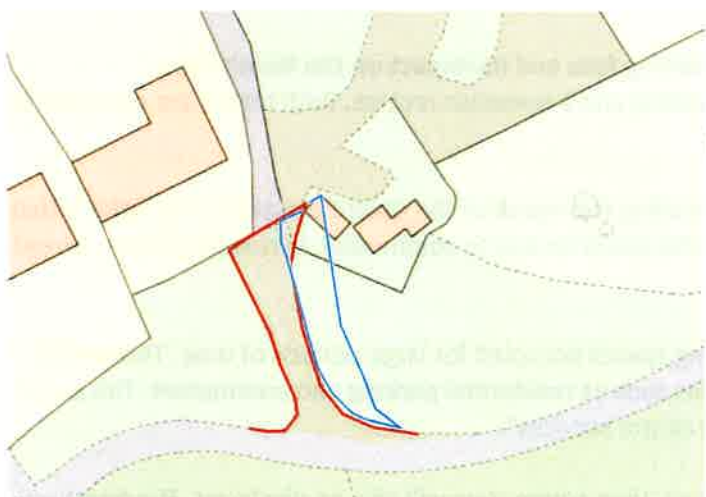
Breckland Council own the Scheme of Regulation for the Neatherd (copy enclosed). Most of the issues relating to trading e.g. causing an obstruction or having a negative impact on people's enjoyment of the Common relate to issues which sit within the Scheme of Management.

Whether somebody is or isn't permitted to trade is probably something to pass on to the Managers.

6. Consider granting an easement for Meadow Way.


A request has been received for the Council to grant an new easement to the paddock adjacent to Meadow View Etling Green to facilitate a planning application to construct a residential property. An existing unsurfaced easement exists from Meadow View, but this is not suitable for a residential property. The valuation of such an easement has been obtained from the District Valuer and the market value assessed as £65,000 for a single residential property.

The plan below show the approximate location of the existing easement (red) and the proposed new easement (blue)



Issues the Council needs to consider.

This is not an application for planning permission this is an application to ask whether the Council would grant an easement if planning permission were obtained. Whether the paddock is suitable for development is a question for another day, when development proposals are known. The applicants do not want to expend the cost of preparing a planning application if access can not be secured.

	Matters for consideration.	Comment.
1.	Would the easement impact on peoples enjoyment of the common for 'air and exercise'?	The new easement would be in front of the access point to the public right of way, but would not affect peoples rights to access the common and the public right of way. As with all easements over Etling Green, the public retain the right to walk across and along them. The easement will be for vehicles to pass and repass, not to park.
2.	Visual appearance attractiveness and setting. Will the access have a significant impact on the visual amenity of the common?	Possibly, depending on the surfacing used. The impact would be lessened if grasscrete was used as an alternative to solid surfacing. 
3	Environmental considerations	There would be some environmental impact but this is likely to be minimal particularly if grasscrete is used.

If the Council is minded to grant permission for an easement, then this would be set up as some sort of option arrangement to be exercised once planning permission has been granted.

7. Concerns regarding the introduction of Breckland Car Parking fees and its impact on the Neatherd.

A letter was sent to Breckland Council following the last meeting and a response receive. Both letters are enclosed for consideration.

The point being made by the Town Council was that from reading the report of the Chief Executive it highlighted that there is currently a large amount of long term parking and this could be due to commuting. In relation to the current parking situation, the report states [emphasis added].

"Secondly, there was a high longer-term use with car parking spaces occupied for large periods of time. This would **indicate the car parks are being used for long stay purposes such as residential parking and commuters.** This stops those spaces being used for those wishing to use the town centre services".

It does seem logical that if shoppers are going to be displaced, then commuters will also be displaced. The Neatherd parking being close to a bus stop to Norwich, seems a natural choice. As the cost savings to commuters, compared to shoppers, will be much greater it also seems logical to assume that there will be a greater level of displacement amongst this group. Dereham Town Council does not however have access to the same level of expertise that Breckland Council does.

The obvious question following on from the Breckland Council response would be, how is the parking going to be monitored?

Community Access Warden report for the Heritage and Open Spaces Committee meeting on 26 November 2024



Many of the activities described in this report have drawn extensively on the support of colleagues within Dereham Walkers are Welcome. The following abbreviations are used:

FP - Footpath; BR - Bridleway; RB - Restricted Byway; NCC - Norfolk County Council; NH - National Highways; BDC - Breckland District Council; DTC - Dereham Town Council; PPP - Parish Paths Partnership; PRoW - Public Rights of Way; WaW - Walkers are Welcome

		<i>Requested action</i>
1	<u>General report</u> - led walks have continued and will do so for the rest of the year and through 2025.	<i>to note</i>
2	<u>Path issues</u>	
1	FP2 - An initial report was made to Frances Salway when it was found that signage had been put in place, but the path itself was overgrown and hard to use. I have reported this for a second time as well as contacting Frances directly, without receiving a reply.	<i>to note</i>
2	RB3 - A more recent visit took place when the maize crop had been harvested, though leaving behind foot high stalks. It was therefore possible to walk across the field, though the path had not been made. Signage has been installed at RB38 (the north end), but points into an impenetrable hedge, with no gap within a few yards of the sign. The gap at the south end, where the byway joins FP26 remains, though growth is starting to close it; there is no signage at that point.	<i>to note</i>
3	FP14 - I continue to pursue litter clearance with the Diocese, though with no response to my emails. The path is overgrown and still awaits my attention.	<i>to note</i>
4	FP14a - I await progress on this by NCC to repair/replace the damaged boardwalk.	<i>await NCC</i>
5	FP26 (Dumpling Green) - As things stand, there appears to be no means of improving this public footpath, so it will remain difficult to walk some parts, especially after wet weather (and the water tends to remain for a long time after rain).	<i>to note</i>
6	FP29 - House building has started next to this path, making access to the west end off Swanton Road a little more difficult, but it is open and unobstructed throughout.	<i>to note</i>
7	RB32 (Shillings Lane) - Further work has improved the surface of the remainder of this byway. The main problem now is the westward continuation of the byway into The Neatherd, which becomes very waterlogged after wet weather.	<i>DTC to consider possible remedial action</i>
8	FP34 - There have been no changes to this path, which means that the section of this path running alongside the stream will again become extremely muddy after wet weather; NCC is aware of this but has	<i>to note</i>

no resources as yet to take any steps to deal with it (and would require a number of permissions to do so). The section of the path running through the woods has two sections that have become and remain quite boggy, leading people to create new routes to avoid them; these routes are somewhat bendy and involve additional climbing/descending.

9 **RB36 (Cherry Lane)** - No change. I believe that steps are being taken by DTC to level the surface, which would make a great improvement. *DTC to confirm plans*

10 **RB37** - There continues to be less rubbish in evidence since the installation of the bin on the layby, though continued monitoring is required. *to note*

11 **Proposed trod along Etling Green** - I am aware that all PPP bids have been deferred for this year to release funding for RB36. I nevertheless wonder if DTC could clear the vegetation for a metre or so on the north side of the road, which could reduce costs of a future PPP application. *DTC to consider this proposal*

12 **Path from Hurn Road to meet RB39** - I met Simon Wood, Director of Planning and Building Control at BDC, in August to argue for firmer commitments to improving the surface of parts of this path and keep vegetation at bay, and asking him to consider enabling a walking and cycling route to be made from Kingston Road, round the edge of the BDC car park and, via gate or gap in the fence, on to the path. Not having heard further after our meeting, I have followed this up recently; I have an acknowledgement but nothing more at the moment. *DTC to consider what steps it might take to support getting this path into more user friendly condition*

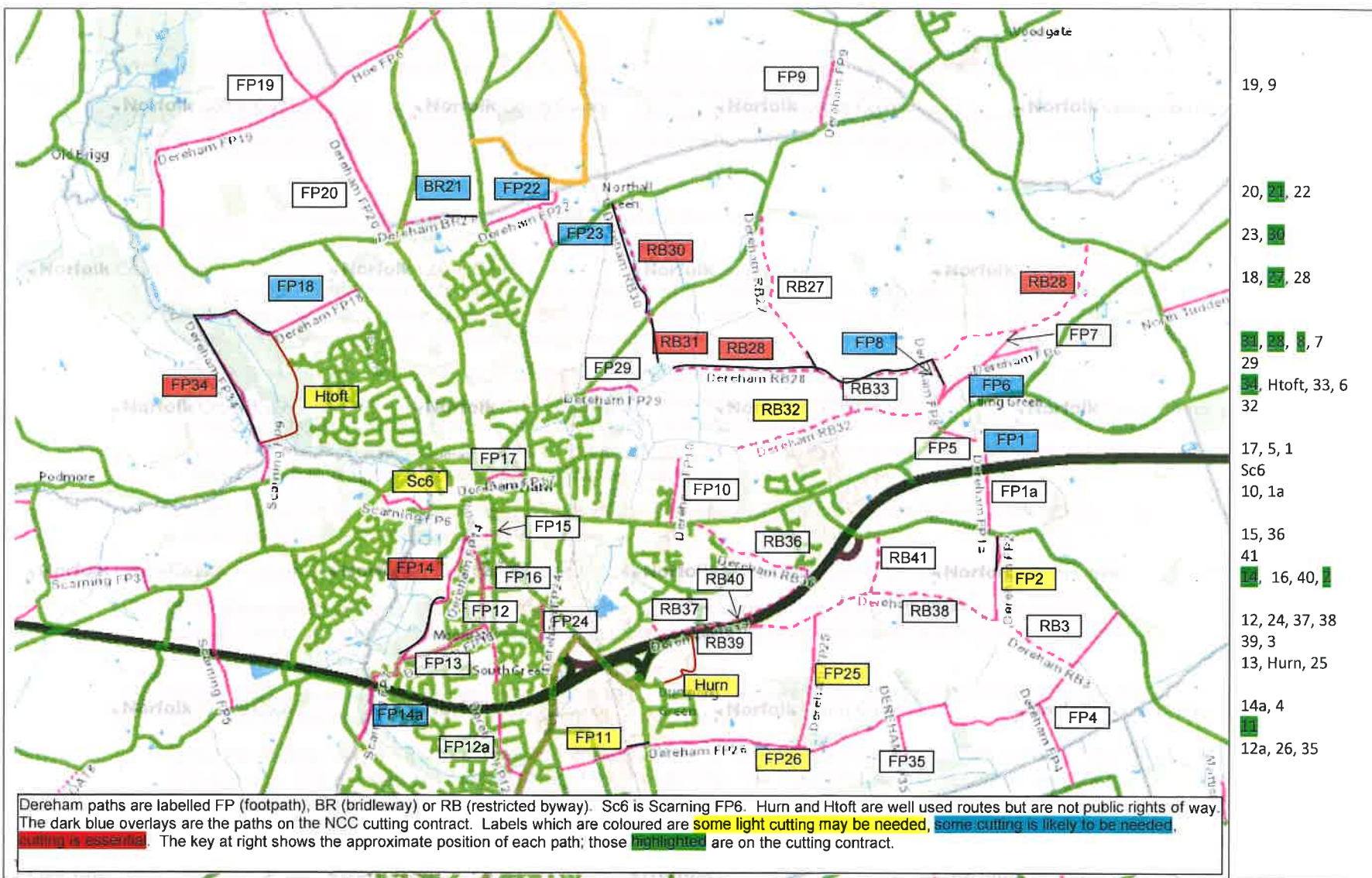
3 Car parking charges

Although car parking charges as proposed by BDC are unlikely to have a direct impact on the town's rights of way and other public access areas, Dereham Walkers are Welcome has a concern that there will be impact on people's use of them. Walkers are Welcome as an organisation encourages use of public transport but recognises that some who join our walks do use their cars to come to Dereham, and those who drive need a stay of some hours, so would have to pay for car parking. Some may find this a deterrent and would reduce or cease their attendance; not only would that mean that car parking charges are not paid, but any incidental spend in the town would also be lost.

Ken Hawkins, Community Access Warden, Dereham Town Council

18 November 2024

The map which follows has been updated to provide more information, which I hope will prove useful.



The Dereham Heritage Trust**First Draft****Annual report to Dereham Town Council's Heritage and Open Spaces Committee,
26th November 2024****Bishop Bonner's Cottages museum**

During the presentation of the Trust's 2023 annual report to the Heritage and Open Spaces Committee the chairman of H&OSC challenged the Trust to increase its visitor figures to 1,000 for the 2024 season. That was a tall order, but we did it, particularly as a result of better Facebook publicity and excellent posters. There were actually 942 during normal opening sessions, plus a further 81 with special visits.

Below are the figures for 2018 to 2024, which are very pleasing.

Visitor numbers for museum 2018-2024 (closed for covid in 2020-21)

2018

	Adult	Child	Member	Other	Total
Sat	98	19	1	23	141
Tue	49	3	0	0	52
Wed	68	15	0	0	83
	215	37	1	23	276

2019

	Adult	Child	Member	Other	Total
Sat	132	27	4	18	181
Wed	85	7	1	0	93
Fri	130	8	1	3	142
	347	42	6	21	416

2022

	Adult	Child	Member	Other	Total
Fri	133	14	1	1	149
Sat	262	35	0	8	305
	395	49	1	9	454

2023

	Adult	Child	Member	Other	Total
Fri	193	10	3	9	215
Sat am	167	42	0	6	215
Sat pm	142	34	1	12	189
	502	86	4	27	619

2024

	Adult	Child	Member	Other	Total
Fri	222	29	15	20	286
Sat am	293	38	9	8	348
Sat pm	282	23	3	0	308
	797	90	27	28	942

A full analysis of visitor figures and their comments is on the attached sheet.

Of those who filled in feedback forms, all bar one said they enjoyed the visit 'a lot'.

New this year Two of the ground floor rooms had new displays. The middle room had a very moving exhibition entitled 'Picturing Peace' assembled by Katie Goodman and inspired by the artwork of John Craske.

The south room had a display assembled by Jane Heyburn featuring information on shops and businesses in the town during the nineteenth-century. Upstairs, the north room was re-arranged with household items as it may have looked when occupied by the last resident, Anne Coe.

In the reception room there was a box of ten mystery items for people to handle and identify. This created much interest, particularly among children. We will be repeating that next year

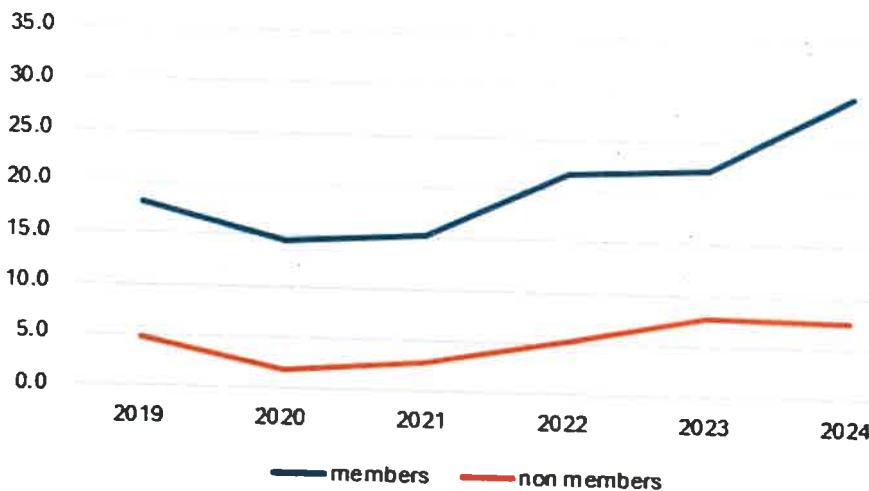
Assembly Rooms In addition, we were able to open the ballroom in the Assembly Rooms for the first time during HODs on two Saturdays which attracted a further 286 people, and we also published a history of the Assembly Rooms. Much of the information for this booklet came from researching old newspapers. People said that they appreciated being able to see the ballroom for the first time; some remembered being summoned there in their youth to appear in front of magistrates when it was a courtroom!

We hope the Town Council will permit us to open the Assembly Rooms again next year.

Monthly lectures

Our monthly talks have also become steadily more popular from 31 attending in January 2019 to 46 in September 2024. Again, Facebook has made a difference.

Average monthly attendance



Dating Bishop Bonner's Cottages

For as long as anyone can remember people have speculated how old the cottages might be. During re-thatching it became clear from viewing the roof beams more clearly than before, that the three cottages were of different dates. More recently, a study of the timber frames in the walls suggested that the south cottage with a front jetty is the oldest, erected in the early 1600s. Then came the north cottage. Finally, the gap was then filled with the third, smaller, cottage.

Tree-ring dating, combined with a study of oxygen isotopes in the tree rings in a mass spectrometer has taken us closer to definite dates. The rings from the mantle beam over the fireplace in the **south cottage** has given us a felling date of between **1575 and 1600** - earlier than expected. A roof truss in the **north cottage** has given us a felling date of between **1680 and 1705**. So, the three cottages were built at different times separated by about 100 years.

This demonstrates the exceptional interest of these cottages and underlines their importance. We need to cherish them for future generations.

The Archive Centre

We have highlighted in the past that the Dereham Archive room is completely full, with insufficient space for visitors to view documents easily, especially the bound volumes of the *Dereham and Fakenham Times*. We have in the past, by appointment, been able to take volumes downstairs to the committee room for visitors to study where there was more space, but all recent requests have been declined. We do ask that this issue be reviewed, because the occasional use of the large table in there has been such a great help in the past.

We are now renting an attic room in Church House as an additional space, with the kind permission of Rev Paul Cubitt. This has been a very great help, but for heavier and bulky

items there is still nowhere to put them. We have said that we are willing to buy a container, which when fully insulated, heated and ventilated with filters, would meet museum standards. But finding a location in Dereham we could afford has not so far proved successful. We have also approached a removal company for help, but we could not afford to meet their quote.

A Heritage Centre for Dereham?

We have raised this issue many times. We organised a meeting in the Golf Club in February inviting representatives from all relevant organisations, and we had speakers from both Swaffham and Watton museums showing what could be achieved with the active support of their Town Councils. There has been a petition in support of the idea, and the mayor has been presented with a report showing how Swaffham, Watton, Wymondham museum/heritage centres were all set up in close cooperation with their town councils. We have also been to see the Heritage Centre in Downham Market with a building again provided by their Town Council.

We can only re-iterate that BBC is damp and does not conform to museum standards for the Conservation of collections. It is too small and not suitable to be a place to celebrate Dereham's great past in particular. It has no teaching space and no toilets, so it is of limited value as a teaching resource.

The Trust acknowledges that establishing a Heritage Centre for Dereham is likely to be a complex process. The funding will need to be carefully and thoroughly considered. But every project has to start somewhere, and we believe that if the Town Council could support the proposal in principle, that would make a good start.

Peter Wade-Martins, DHT chairman

Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum visitors 2024

Another Museum opening season is over, once more thanks to all our volunteers (and to Catherine Hawkins who organised the rota and dealt with the many changes to it). Our target was to open for 66 three hour sessions - Friday mornings 10 till 1 and Saturdays 10 till 4, from 3 May to 28 September. In the end, we opened for all but one of those sessions, when last minute issues meant that we could not provide the 2 volunteers necessary to steward the Museum safely. Over the season, we admitted 814 adults and 154 children, generating £1056 admission fees, £129.95 of sales and £226.52 in donations - a total of £1412.47 of valuable income.

But these figures disguise some considerable variations. They include three categories of admission other than our 'standard' entry (£3 for adults, children under 16 free but must be accompanied by an adult).

- Special visits were arranged for Scarning School (2 visits), 1st Dereham Guides, Mrs Craske and a guided tour.
- We also opened on two weekends offering free admission to adults with children: 13 adults and 15 children availed themselves of this offer (as well as 43 paying adults in the same sessions).
- Finally, we opened for two weekends bookending the national Heritage Open Days week*, when we had a staggering 457 adults (free admission in accordance with HODs rules) and 32 children visiting.

When these are taken out of the count, we had 297 adults and 43 children on 'normal' days.

Saturday was understandably the day when most of the children visited, with overall visitor numbers greater on Saturday mornings than on Saturday afternoons (though not by much).

In order to understand as much as we can about our visitors, we invite all to complete a short Feedback Form. Some 9% of our visitors filled in this form and the results are instructive, even though they have to be interpreted cautiously given the comparatively low return rate. The following notes are based solely on that small sample of 73 returns.

We were pleased to see that all but one said they enjoyed their visit 'a lot' (with one 'a little' and none 'not much'). As in previous years, it was aspects of the building itself which were cited most often as what interested people (and some 43 of our guides were sold), but other aspects also featured strongly.

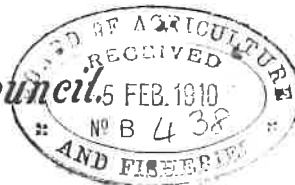
Visitors from Dereham were only a small proportion of the total, while we attracted 43 from other parts of Norfolk, 7 from the rest of England, and one each from Wales, France and New Zealand.

Emphasising our belief that we are still something of a well kept secret, only 4 people reported having visited in the last year, 17 had visited before though more than a year ago, while 99 were on their first visit. Visitors were 38 male and 80 female; the vast majority were in the age ranges 41-60 (28) or 61-80 (64) with only 3 over 80 - but we had 5 aged 17-21 and 10 aged 22-40. The 14 children's ages were stated as 6 months, 5, 7, 8[2], 9, 10, 12[4], 14, 15, 16.

We also looked at the 65 entries in the Visitors' book, which of course provided limited and unstructured information. The main useful information was about their home locations and here the pattern was very similar to the results from the Feedback Form; the main difference was that there were more overseas locations reported - Canada [2], France [2], Netherlands, New Zealand, USA.

*An added feature this year was having the Assembly Rooms open for the two HODs Saturdays. This attracted 264 adults and 22 children in all, with a modest amount of sales made. This brief note completely fails to do justice to the 'buzz' around the two days.

East Dereham Urban District Council



SCHEME FOR THE REGULATION OF NEATHERD MOOR.

1. The piece of land with the ponds, paths, and roads thereon, commonly known as Neatherd Moor, situate in the parish of East Dereham, in the county of Norfolk, and hereinafter referred to as "the common," as the same is delineated in a plan deposited at the office of the Urban District Council of East Dereham, hereinafter called "the Council," and thereon coloured green, being a "Common" within the meaning of the Commons Act, 1899, shall henceforth be regulated by this scheme, and the management thereof shall be vested in the Council.

Description of
common and
management
by District
Council.

2. The powers of the Council generally as to appointing or employing officers and servants, and paying them under the general Acts applicable to the Council, shall apply to all such persons as in the judgment of the Council may be necessary and proper for the preservation of order on, and the enforcement of bye-laws with respect to, the common, and otherwise for the purposes of this scheme, and the Council may make rules for regulating the duties and conduct of the several officers and servants so appointed and employed, and may alter such rules as occasion may require.

Appointment
of officers.

3. The Council may execute any works of drainage, raising, levelling, or fencing, or other works for the protection and improvement of the common, and shall preserve the turf, shrubs, trees, plants, and grass thereon, and for this purpose may for short periods enclose by fences such portions as may require rest to revive the same, and may plant trees and shrubs for shelter or ornament, and may place seats upon and light the common, and otherwise improve the common as a place of exercise or recreation, but the Council shall do nothing that may otherwise vary or alter the natural features or aspect of the common, or interfere with free access to every part thereof, and shall not erect upon the common any shelter, pavilion, or other building without the previous consent of the person entitled to the soil of the common.

Protection and
improvement
of common.

4. The Council shall maintain the common free from all encroachments, and shall not permit any trespass on or partial or other enclosure of any part thereof.

Against en-
croachments.

5. The inhabitants of the district and neighbourhood shall have a right of free access to every part of the common, and a privilege of playing games and of enjoying other species of recreation thereon, subject to any bye-laws made by the Council under this scheme.

Public right
of access and
recreation.

6. The Council shall have power to repair and maintain the existing paths and roads on the common, and to set out, make and maintain such new paths and roads on the common as appear to the Council to be necessary or expedient, and to take any proceedings necessary for the stopping or diversion of any highway over the common.

Maintenance
and construc-
tion of paths
and roads.

7. The Council may, for the prevention of accidents, fence any quarry, pit, pond or other like place on the common.

Fencing of
quarries, &c.

8. The Council may set apart for games any portion or portions of the common as they may consider expedient, and may form cricket grounds, and may allow the same to be temporarily enclosed with any open fence, so as to prevent cattle and horses straying thereon, but such grounds shall not be laid out so near to any dwelling-house as to create a nuisance or be an annoyance to the inhabitants thereof.

Games, &c.

9. The Council may, for the prevention of nuisances and the preservation of order on the common, and subject to the provisions of section 10 of the Commons Act, 1899, make, revoke, and alter bye-laws for any of the following purposes, viz:—

Byelaws.

- a. For prohibiting the deposit on the common, or in any pond thereon, of road-sand, materials for repair of roads, dung, rubbish, wood, or other matter;

- b. For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from digging, cutting, or taking turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay, or other substance on or from the common, and from cutting, felling, or injuring any gorse, heather, timber, or other tree, shrub, brushwood, or other plant growing on the common;
- c. For regulating the place and mode of digging and taking turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay, or other substance, and cutting, felling, and taking trees or underwood on or from the common, in exercise of any right of common or other right over the common;
- d. For prohibiting the injury, defacement, or removal of seats, fences, notice-boards, or other things put up or maintained by the Council on the common;
- e. For prohibiting or regulating the posting or painting of bills, placards, advertisements, or notices on trees or fences or notice-boards on the common;
- f. For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from bird-catching, setting traps or nets or lining trees or laying snares for birds or other animals, taking birds' eggs or nests, and shooting or chasing game or other animals on the common;
- g. For prohibiting or regulating the drawing without lawful authority upon the common of any carriage, cart, caravan, truck, or other vehicle, and the erecting or permitting to remain on the common without the consent of the Council or other lawful authority, any building, shed, tent, fence, post, railing, or other structure, whether used in connection with the playing of games or not, and for authorising an officer of the Council to remove from the common any vehicle drawn upon the common and any structure erected thereon in contravention of any such bye-law;
- h. For prohibiting (except in the case of a fair lawfully held) or regulating the placing on the common of any photographic cart, or of any show, exhibition, swing, roundabout, or other like thing, and for authorising an officer of the Council to remove from the common any thing placed upon the common in contravention of any such bye-law;
- i. For prohibiting or regulating the lighting of any fire on the common;
- k. For prohibiting or regulating the firing or discharge of firearms or the throwing or discharge of missiles on the common;
- l. For regulating games to be played and other means of recreation to be exercised on the common, and assemblages of persons thereon;
- m. For regulating the use of any portion of the common temporarily enclosed or set apart under this scheme for any purpose;
- n. For prohibiting or regulating horses being exercised or broken in without lawful authority by grooms or others on the common;
- o. For prohibiting any person without lawful authority from turning out or permitting to remain on the common any cattle, sheep, or other animals; and for authorising an officer of the Council to remove from the common any cattle, sheep, or other animal being upon the common in contravention of any such bye-law;
- p. Generally, for prohibiting or regulating any act or thing tending to injury or disfigurement of the common or to interference with the use thereof by the public for the purposes of exercise and recreation;
- q. For authorising an officer of the Council, after due warning, to remove or exclude from the common any person who within his view commits, or whom he reasonably suspects of committing, an offence against any bye-law made under this scheme or against the Vagrancy Act, 1824;
- r. For prohibiting the hindrance or obstruction of an officer of the Council in the exercise of his powers or duties under this scheme or under any bye-laws made thereunder.

10. All bye-laws made under this scheme shall be published on notice-boards placed on such parts of the common (not less than two) as to the Council may appear desirable.

11. Nothing in this scheme, or any bye-law made thereunder, shall prejudice or affect any right of the lords of the manor, or of any person claiming under them to or in respect of the soil of the common, which is lawfully exerciseable in, over, under, or on the soil or surface of the common in connection with game or with mines, minerals, or other substrata or otherwise, or prejudice or affect the lawful use of any highway or thoroughfare on the common, or affect any power or obligation to repair any such highway or thoroughfare.

12. Printed copies of this scheme shall at all times be sold at the office of the Council to all persons desiring to buy the same at a price not exceeding sixpence each.

*The Common Seal of the East
Surrey Urban District
Council was herewith affixed
hereto on the 2nd day of
February 1910 by
Chairman in the presence of
W. H. Voss clerk*

Approved by Order
of the Board of Agriculture
and Fisheries the nineteenth
day of February, 1910.

J. H. Elliott
Secretary

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Assembly Rooms, Quebec Street, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 2DJ

Telephone: 01362 693821

E-mail: generalenquiries@derehamtowncouncil.org

Website: www.derehamtowncouncil.info

Maxine O'Mahoney
Chief Executive
Breckland District Council
Elizabeth house
Walpole Loke
Dereham
NR19 1EE

22 October 2024

Re: Introduction of Breckland Car Parking Charges

Dear Maxine,

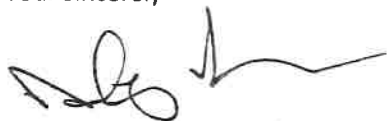
Breckland District Council has agreed to introduce some form of car park charging across its car parks. There seems to be some recognition within the various public document that there are people who park in the car parks and then take some other form of transport to another location and that there will be some displacement activity with the introduction of car parking charges i.e. drivers will seek-out some other parking place which suits their needs but will not incur a charge. Dereham Town Council is very much concerned that the introduction of parking charges will lead to parking being displaced to the Neatherd, due to availability of free parking and its proximity to a fast bus service to Norwich.

By virtue of the Commons Act 1899, Breckland Council are the Managers of the Neatherd Common. As Managers Breckland Council have a duty prevent encroachment or trespass and allow free access to all parts of the Common. Bye-laws were put in place in 1911 to help fulfil these duties. Bye-law 8 only permits the driving of vehicles along the tracks upon the common, there is nothing within the bye-laws which permits vehicles to park. While Breckland Council has tolerated vehicles parking on parts of the Common, this has been predominantly for people making use of the common.

Dereham Town Council feel that this may be the time to update the 1911 bye-laws to regulate the parking and to ensure that displacement parking from other areas does not prevent legitimate users of the common from enjoying their right.

Please could you let me know how Breckland Council will be monitoring the parking situation on the Neatherd and how it intends to regularise the parking situation so that people parking to use the Neatherd are not in breach of bye-law.

Your sincerely



Antony Needham
Town Clerk

15th November 2024

c/o Anthony Needham
Dereham Town Council
Assembly Rooms
Quebec Street,
Dereham
Norfolk, NR19 2DJ

Dear Mr Needham,

Re Introduction of Breckland Car parking charges

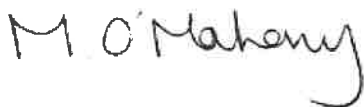
Thank you for raising these important issues with us. Through a productive dialogue with town and parish councils, and with the public more broadly, we hope any potential move towards a new parking system does not cause unforeseen issues.

I appreciate your concerns regarding the displacement of parked vehicles that may occur as a result of the proposed car parking policy change and thank you for bringing it to our attention. Breckland sought expert advice in the car parking field, prior to embarking on the forthcoming consultation process. The expert report that was produced, which can be found in July's Cabinet papers, addresses the issue of displacement in Appendix 3 on page 156. Currently Neatherd Moor common falls outside of the radius of the anticipated displacement, due to its distance from the town centre, so at this time it is not anticipated that displacement would be a significant factor for that particular site.

Our collective aim is to encourage use of the Moor for leisure and recreation for which the car parking at that location is important, so for now we will monitor the situation. Should parking charges in the town centre be introduced and subsequently have a negative impact at Neatherd Moor we will take action accordingly.

I hope that we can continue to work collaboratively to iron out potential issues as they arise, and I am happy to discuss this issue further at our regular monthly catch up meeting should you wish to do so.

Yours sincerely,



Maxine O'Mahony, Chief Executive
Breckland District Council