

Dereham Town Council

Full Council

Agenda Notes

11. To consider putting a representative on Breckland Council's Steering Group for the renovation of the Queen Mother's Garden.

The Queen Mother's Garden (QMG) is not a Dereham Town Council asset nor does the Town Council have any responsibility for the Garden, it is Breckland Council's responsibility.

No logical reason has been provided as to why Dereham Town Councillors are needed on this group. There was no steering group to work up the design on the Garden, it is now designed the rest is construction.

Reason Given for having a representative on the Steering Group	Logical solution
To feedback information on progress to the Town Council	Send a regular email update, a District Councillor can provide feedback.
To make sure the TC grant is being spent correctly.	The grant will not be paid until the project has been completed. If the project is not completed as agreed, the grant could be withheld.
To make decisions as the project progresses.	This is quite a simple project, any major changes should be brought back to the Council.

Experience has shown that when there is not a clear logical reason for something to happen, but it is still being pushed, then there usually is a reason, but this reason is being withheld.

The concern is that participation will lead to 'mission creep', with the Town Council being drawn in to the QMG, for which it has no responsibility, rather than focusing on assets which the Town Council is responsible for.

The work Breckland Council are doing on the QMG is excellent and long overdue, but if the Town Council is drawn deeper into this project, the Town Council risks losing its focus on its core activities and the other priorities which Councillors have identified.

If however, there is confirmation that there will be no Town Council involvement in anything other than overseeing the construction phase of the refurbishment, then the risk is minimised.