

Dereham Town Council

Full Council

September 2020.

Agenda Notes

8. To consider Christmas Lights event 2020

Many Christmas Lights switch on events have already been cancelled for 2020. For Dereham, the lights and the tree will go up as normal but the extent and nature of any event will be determined by the guidance nearer the time.

Councillors need to decide whether any type of event should be left for this year or whether options should be looked at which can be adjusted nearer the time.

If the Council would like to see some options prepared then the number of Councilors able to volunteer would need to be known.

9. To consider proposals for the Parish Partnership Scheme.

The Parish Partnership Scheme is an initiative by Norfolk County Council which provides minor highway improvements as priorities by the local community. Norfolk County Council can provide 50% of the funding for each project up to a maximum grant of £25,000.

County Councillor William Richmond has proposed the following suggestions.

- Neatherd High School - Part-time 20mph signs with flashing warning lights - on Norwich Road. Request received from the governors of Neatherd High for these. Norfolk County Council generally supports these as they do show a moderate reduction in average speeds during peak times. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents says the risk of a fatality in a crash at 30mph is some five times that of a crash at 20mph. Approximate cost - £9,000. This would be an advisory 20mph rather than a mandatory 20mph.
- Crown Road Bus shelter(s) – These could cater for residents in the vicinity of Crown Road and attendees of Dereham Sixth Form College. The two bus stops on Crown Road are directly opposite each other outside DSFC. Given the proximity of the bus stops on Crown Road, the Town Council may be of view that one bus stop is enough. Any new bus shelter(s) would be owned and maintained by the Town Council. Approximate cost - £5000 per shelter.
- Elvin Road – ‘Unsuitable for HGVs’ sign. This was considered by DTC in July 2020 following concerns raised by a resident of Elvin Road. HGVs have difficulty turning into Stanton Close and Snowhill Drift – both half way along Elvin Road, leading to HGVs having to reverse out of Elvin Road. This has previously caused private property damage and could potentially cause congestion on Quebec Road and Sandy Lane. Approximate cost - £200 per sign.
- Matsell Way and Norwich Road Cross Roads – Advanced Stop Lines. The reason for improving this junction is so cyclists travelling along the Norwich Road shared use facility can navigate their way East to West through the centre of Dereham and

connect into the National Cycle Route 13. Adding ASL at either end would encourage a modal shift towards cycling and make vehicle users more aware of cyclists using the road. Approximate cost - £15,000.

- Shillings Lane/Restricted Byway 32, Neatherd Moor improvement works. This project has yet to commence but has accumulated £24,000 of funding from the Parish Partnership Scheme and the Local Member Highway Budget in 2019/20 and 2020/21. Taylor Wimpey will be conditioned to upgrade/improve a section of Shillings Lane, so DTC and NCC may not have to fund the entire project. Approximate cost £12,000 (based on last year's bid to NCC).

In addition to these options, the Town Council has commissioned a Walking and Cycling Strategy. This strategy is in the pre-consultation stage being finalised in preparation for wider consultation and prioritisation. There are many schemes within the Walking and Cycling Strategy it would not be possible to say which schemes are a priority, prior to wider stakeholder and public consultation, but the Council could commit funding to walking and cycling improvements from the strategy with the final schemes to be finalised as part of the public consultation process.

The stakeholder and public consultation is due to take place through the autumn and will be completed by the deadline for submission.

The option therefore is to propose a significant bid towards Walking and/or Cycling improvements as part of the Parish Partnership Scheme, the final scheme will be one which is prioritised through the consultation process.

The budget for the Town Council's contribution to the Parish Partnership scheme comes from the 'New Projects' budget. Available budget £1,500 remaining uncommitted in the 20/21 financial year and £20,000 uncommitted in the 21/22 financial year. If the Council wished to commit in excess of £21,500, then options for how this could be funded would be brought back to October Full Council.