

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Meeting dates for Downham Market Town Council

1st April – 30th June, 2006

All meetings start at 7.30pm (unless otherwise stated) and are held in the Town Council Offices in Paradise Road. If Members of the public attend the Chairman will suspend the meeting to allow public participation, once the meeting is resumed the public is not allowed to take part in any debate. If there is a specific question to be asked it is recommended that this is forwarded to the Clerk prior to the meeting so all relevant information can be available.

Town Meeting

Tuesday, May 2, 7pm at the Town Hall

Full Council

Tuesday, April 11

Tuesday, May 9 (Mayor making)

Tuesday, May 16 (Business meeting)

Tuesday, June 13

Car Parks and Highways Committee

Tuesday, May 23

Finance and General Purpose Committee

Tuesday, April 25

Tuesday, June 27

Development Committee

Tuesday, May 30

Planning and Environmental Committee

Wednesday, April 5 (mini meeting)

Tuesday, April 18 (full meeting)

Wednesday, May 3 (mini meeting)

Wednesday, May 17 (mini meeting)

Wednesday, May 31 (mini meeting)

Tuesday, June 20 (full meeting)

It is advisable to check that the mini-meetings are taking place as if no plans have been received by the Council a meeting will not be held.

Councillors' Surgeries

Councillors' Surgeries are held on the Town Hall car park on market days. Up to four Councillors will be available at each surgery. Dates arranged:

Friday, April 21 (10am to 12 noon)

Saturday, May 20 (10am to 12 noon)

Friday, June 16 (10am to 12 noon)

Saturday, July 15 (10am to 12 noon)

Friday, August 11 (10am to 12 noon)

Saturday, Sept 9 (10am to 12 noon)

Friday, October 6 (10am to 12 noon)

Town Square Events

Fiddlesticks Morris Dancers
Sunday, April 23, 12pm-2pm

Craft Fair
Saturday, April 29, 10am-3pm

French Market
Thursday, May 25

Organ Festival (also on Hollies Car Park)
Friday, June 2, 10am-3pm

Craft Fair
Saturday, June 24, 10am-3pm

Sponsored Skate Jump and Bike Clinic
Saturday, August 5

Craft Fair
Saturday, August 12, 10am-3pm

Billy Banana
Saturday, August 19, 10.30am start
(three-hour show with breaks)

Hoof Beat
Saturday, September 2

Craft Fair
Saturday, September 30, 10am-3pm

Anglia in Bloom

LAST year the Town Council began installing planters in the town and following the success of these is now working up to full participation in the Anglia in Bloom initiative.

One of the aims of Anglia in Bloom is to involve all sections of the public and take their views and suggestions on board. Therefore we are keen to get as much public participation and input into the project as possible.

If there is an area of the town you think could do with a makeover or you have a particular project in mind you think would enhance the town or perhaps you would like to design a particular flowerbed, we would like to hear about it.

Although this initiative comes with a certain amount of funds, obviously it may not be possible to comply with all your suggestions at once but we see this as a rolling programme that, over the years, will make the town a better place to live in.

So if you do have any ideas send them into the Town Council Offices addressed to the chair of planning and environment committee. Don't forget after all it is your town.

Car parks and highways

AT the last meeting for Car Parks and Highways a few of the subjects the councillors discussed included:

the new road crossing which is being put in place just outside the old Fire Station which will make this a much safer place to cross. We are also hoping to put some barriers in place between the Iceland store and Town Hall car park to stop vehicles crossing the line between the two parks.

A redesigning of the Hollies Car Park was also brought up, making it look more attractive to the town centre. Thoughts about advertising for Downham events and Downham businesses only on local roundabouts – if anyone is interested please contact the Borough Council.

OUR next Downham Market Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2, at the Town Hall from 7pm to 9pm.

All residents of Downham Market are invited to this annual event when you can meet with your Councillors, ask questions or raise issues you feel the Council should be considering.

We don't guarantee to have all the answers, but we will find them later if needs be.

This year we are attempting to make the event less daunting for those of you who want to talk with Councillors but are reluctant to

so do when seated in rows in public gatherings. We will be trying a new, less formal style.

There will be small groups of Councillors around the main hall with their various Sub-Committee responsibilities. Therefore if you want to talk to a small group about planning, development, finance, car parks, parking, The Citizens' Charter and even the Town Hall itself you can.

This, we feel, will result in a more relaxed informal debate about issues that affect us all. This does not mean you cannot raise any

other topic you feel needs discussing. We welcome your interest.

There will be approximately half-an-hour at the end of the evening for a more formal summing up and to see how you feel about this new format.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served free of charge.

Please take this opportunity to join us and share your views. The Town Meeting is YOUR MEETING. Lets work together to make it a success.

Cllr Mick Ford, Mayor-Elect

Let's make a splash!

JOHN ADAMS, Waterway Development Manager with the Environment Agency's Anglian Region, sees opportunities for Downham Market in the changes taking place on the River Great Ouse and its Relief Channel.

Works that have already begun are improving the connections between The Relief Channel and a wide network of navigable waterways across the Fens and beyond, but few boats pass by Downham Market because there is nowhere for them to go at the northern end. Developments included in the Nar-Ouse regeneration project (NORA), along with the proposed marina, will combine to make King's Lynn an attractive and accessible destination for boats.

Members of the Great Ouse Boating Association have taken part in a survey to assess what difference the changes will make and John had just received the results when he addressed participants at the March meeting of Downham Market by Design.

John estimated that 3,000 extra boats could visit King's Lynn each year, and he suggested that a significant proportion of these visitors would be looking for other places to stopover either before or after their visit. So would they

Relief Channel waterfront ideas could benefit the town

want to visit Downham Market? Will the Environment Agency work with the town to improve the attractiveness of our river frontage?

Things look promising. The Agency has a programme of work to improve waterway facilities and John invited those present to contact his estates manager with any specific issues or suggestions affecting the area around the town. The Agency is also able to consider contributing towards larger projects where other bodies are available to work in partnership.

With these assurances, it does seem realistic to see the Relief Channel as an asset to the town. John listed the practical opportunities as he saw them:

Link the town to the waterway – associate the town with the waterways along our western boundary, make it easier for townspeople to access the riverside;

Promote access to the waterway – convenient parking and facilities for water-

based activities; good signage, picnic areas, paths and access points for walkers, bird watchers, cyclists;

Promote the town as a waterway destination – additional moorings, amenities for visitors arriving by boat.

These ideas gave those involved in producing the Town Design Statement plenty to think about.

The project will lead to local people defining the character of future development that takes place and a sub-group has been set up to give special consideration to the riverside.

However, groups working in each part of the town went away from the meeting considering how their own neighbourhood might be affected if the town embraced the waterways which it has ignored in recent years.

If you wish to be added to the mailing list for invitations to future meetings, please call the council's administration officer, Kate Martin, at the town council offices, on 01366 387770.

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR, CLLR COLIN SAMPSON . . .

FOR all those of you who have not been to the Town Council Office recently and seen the new opening times I am pleased to tell you that we are now more accessible. The Town Council office is now open every week day i.e. Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.

While you may not always be able to speak to all of the staff, there will always be someone "on duty" to listen to your problem.

You will be able to inspect planning applications on any day, although, as many of you now know, all planning applications are now available on the Borough Council website.

Talking of the Borough Council reminds me that many of you are confused about which Council deals with all matters concerning Housing, Council Tax and Rating issues. In all

three cases the Borough Council is the authority involved, not the Town Council. The Borough Council Offices are in the Priory Centre, opposite the Library entrance.

There are three important dates looming for your diaries. First is a charity concert that the Mayoress and I are arranging on Sunday, April 23, in the Town Hall for St George's Day with proceeds going to some of the local youth organisations. Details and tickets will be available soon. There will also be Morris Dancing on the Town Square at lunchtime that day.

Second is the Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 2 in the Town Hall – your opportunity to come and meet your Town Council.

Third is the Civic Service at St Edmund's

Church on Sunday May 7. We send invitations to Civic Dignitaries and Leaders in the Community but everyone is welcome to come to the service. The more of you there in the Church the better it is and you can drown out my dreadful singing which will be a great relief to everyone there!

The popular Town Council Surgeries on the Town Hall steps will begin again soon. These are ideal opportunities for you to tell Town Councillors about issues that concern you, or perhaps tell us when things are going well.

Now that the warmer weather seems to be on the way can I make a plea that everyone does their "bit" to keep the Town clean and tidy and to have pride in the place that all of us have chosen to live in?

Town Councillors . . . and Office Information

East Ward

Royden Baker 01366 382049
Chester Bond 01366 388106
Charlie Pyatt 01366 388023
Colin Sampson* 01366 388003
Caroline Russell 01366 387026

North Ward

Pauline Dean 01366 385868
Mick Ford** 01366 385622
John Fox 01366 382963
Stephen Nunn 01366 388129
Stephen Teverson 01366 385117

South Ward

Ken Beck 01366 383430
Rachel Bodle 01366 383723
John Doyle 01366 382386
Sheila Nunn 01366 383243
Pat Roberts 01366 382947

Old Town Ward

Jenny Groom 01366 383963
Jeffrey Reed 01366 382580
Tony Stacey 01366 383120
Val Starling 01366 387170
Ros Turner 01366 383104

* Mayor ** Deputy Mayor

Office Hours: 10.00am to 4.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Telephone: 01366 387770 Fax: 01366 382926 Email: info@downhammarketcc.co.uk

Town Clerk: Mrs Jean Markwell Deputy Town Clerk: Mrs Sara Porter Administration Officer: Mrs Kate Martin
Project Officer: Denise Charlesworth-Smith General Duties Officer: Mr Barry Roberts

Website: downhammarkettowncouncil.org.uk