

DOWNHAM MARKET TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Meeting dates for Downham Market Town Council

1st May – 31st July 2006

ALL meeting start at 7.30pm (unless otherwise stated) and are held in the Town Council Offices, 15 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.

Full Council

Tuesday, May 9 (Mayor Making)

Tuesday, May 16 (Business meeting)

Tuesday, June 13

Tuesday, July 11

Car Parks and Highways Committee

Tuesday, May 23

Tuesday, July 18

Development Committee

Tuesday, May 30

Tuesday, July 25

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Tuesday, June 27

Planning and Environmental Committee

Wednesday, May 17 (mini meeting)

Wednesday, May 31 (mini meeting)

Tuesday, June 20 (full meeting)

Wednesday, July 5 (mini planning)

Wednesday, July 19 (mini planning)

■ 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:

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, September 9 (10am to 12 noon)

Friday, October 6 (10am to 12 noon)

Town Square Events

French Market
Thursday, May 25

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

Mobile Skatepark (Hollies Car Park)
Sunday, June 4, 11am-5pm

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

Stay safe on our roads and footpaths

THE council's Road Safety Committee has published a lot of material over the past few years about Road Safety and you have sent in literally hundreds of comments, suggestions and, yes, criticisms of what happens on our roads and footpaths.

Constructive comments are always welcome but I sometimes wonder what each one of us can do to improve safety for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

We jump into our car or on to our bike and rush off to work or to the shops without a second thought.

How often do you check tyre pressures or, at this time of year, how full your windscreen washer is? I was horrified recently to discover one cold day that my tyre pressures were some 8psi (I don't know what that is in bar) lower than they should have been!

How often do we park on a yellow line or a double yellow line or even on the footpath because we are "only

By TONY STACEY
Road Safety Committee

going to be here for a minute".

Cyclists are well aware how vulnerable they are but do you resist the temptation to ride on the footpath where, apart from being illegal, pedestrians can't hear you coming?

And, pedestrians – do look before you cross the road even if there is a crossing point. You may not have priority. It isn't a perfect world but we can all do a little to make it a safer one.

DRIVING COMPETITION

Here's one thing you can do. We are coming up to Festival Week and as part of the event, the Road Safety Committee runs a "Skilful Drivers Competition".

This year it will be on the Tesco Car Park at 6.30pm on Bank Holiday Monday, May 29, and all who are old enough to drive are welcome.

Come and see how well you know your car and how well you can drive it – or if you don't have a vehicle there will be one for you to use.

It is a competition, but there will be help and advice on tap and it is a lot of fun. Be there in good time, though, because we finish at dusk.

More improvements and floral displays planned

LAST year the Town Council began installing planters in the town, two on the town square and one outside Boots and I think you would agree that they were a complete success.

The Planning Committee saw this as a rolling process and this year we have purchased two more.

A new square planter matching the one existing on the Town Hall car park will be sited outside the Bakers Oven between the two car parks and a round planter will be sited on Cannon Square.

The town is to be entered into the Anglia in Bloom initiative so if you have any suggestions that you feel would make the town a better place to live in please send them in we would love to hear them.

All this fits into our aim to create a rolling programme of improvements year on year that in themselves, because of

financial constraints, might be small but over time will build into something the Town can be proud of.

A town design statement is at present being formulated which when completed may well impact on the future character of the Town. Much consultation has taken place with the townspeople already and more meetings are planned so if this is an area that you are interested in come along to any of the next meetings and put your views forward.

The area around the trees in Bridge Street is still looking tatty but it is possible that the car park may be remodelled so we have put our plans on hold for the moment.

By JOHN DOYLE
Chairman of Planning and Environmental Committee

Working group's idea for town centre youth café

YOUNG people, their contributions to the town and the shortfall in amenities for them, are at the centre of a number of the current priorities for our Development Committee.

In January, students from the High School provided a presentation of the website they have designed for the Town Council. Councillors are looking forward to providing more information about the area, the town and council activities through the Internet.

The website is being handed over during April and the information will then be consolidated and procedures for regular updating put in place.

The students have been congratulated on their project work and thanked for their contribution.

The Town Council will continue to work alongside students when appropriate opportunities arise.

Following concerns about the shortage of places for young people to go and poor attendance at the youth café, Café DM, which runs fortnightly at the Howdale Community Centre, a working group was

established to explore the possibility of a town centre youth café.

At our March meeting councillors heard that one of the options being investigated would involve use of a temporary building.

Mobile skateboard ramps proved popular last September and the Committee pledged support for a similar event on the Hollies Car Park on Sunday, June 4, during Festival week.

Work with children in our primary schools on a Charter of Citizenship has reached an advanced stage. Councillors are keen to use the Charter to foster and acknowledge responsible citizenship.

Other topics discussed at our March meeting included the Willows nature reserve, previously published pamphlets that provide information for residents and visitors, and ways of initiating a Youth Council.

The next meeting of the Development Committee is on Tuesday, June 6.

By RACHEL BODLE
Development Committee

■ Although some information has been received on the old Priory Road Fire Station building, the Town Council is still waiting for the county authority to visit the site. The council has set up a working party and, when appropriate, they will visit the site with a demolition expert, architect, and health and safety official. It was agreed that initially, outline planning permission will be applied for.

■ In previous editions of this Newsletter we have reported on a new Town Charter – and it is now very close to completion. At the last full meeting of the Town Council three versions of the Charter were offered for consideration. There were some concerns over the final wording and the proposals for later use of the Charter and these were passed on to a working party . . . for a final decision by the full council.

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

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

Website: downhammarkettowncouncil.org.uk