

APPENDIX ONE

Report of the Chairman of the Community Development Committee

We are pleased to report some successful town events eg Chinese New Year, St George's Day, the Downham Festival, the Water Festival and Halloween, and last year a celebration of 100 years of RAF Marham.

We have the monthly Cinema and this year has seen the development of Discover Downham, the Norfolk Waste Partnership and the West Norfolk Businesses Forum.

The Committee has focused on local access issues, heritage, traditions, landscape, leisure, wildlife, food and drink and considered ways to attract more people to the town. It is always willing to consider new ideas like the Love West Norfolk initiative.

There are many reasons to come to Downham Market - great social groups, the leisure centre in town, the heritage centre, the Festival Committee, the Downham Games, DADS amateur dramatics society, Downham Market Arts who facilitate theatrical presentations in town. We have listed buildings and are close to wildlife areas.

The annual Water festival is a popular event and we are considering encouraging more river-based events.

This year we have improved the publicity and co-ordination of events to great success.

APPENDIX TWO

Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

The committee met on 12th December 2017 and discussed how to cover Council's costs for coming year.

For the current tax year there was an increase of 2% on the town precept and we had to use reserves too to ensure our costs were covered.

For 2018-2019 an 5% increase was agreed, which equates to 4.44 for a Band D property. Budget agreed was 339897.93 plus the grant.

APPENDIX THREE

Report of the Property and Environment Committee

We are only a consultative group making recommendations to BCKL&WN about development in Downham Market.

This year we met on 20 occasions to discuss proposed plans and considered 62 applications – we made 46 recommendations, refused 11, and left 6 undetermined. Applications cover all developments from summer houses to new estates.

We also consider the environment element and we previously wanted to improve two tasks –

- To improve the grass cutting service and we are awaiting start of new season to see if that has improved.

- To improve derelict buildings – in particular the upper floors of the building opposite the Town Hall. There has been little progress, but we remain hopeful that a way forward can be found

Pathways around the town – Cllr White has used his special funding for highways projects to clear walkways and pathways, and thus improve accessibility.

Memorial gardens – this has been recently taken over by the Town Council from KLWNBC.

Local Plan Review - the committee is still awaiting the Borough Council's local plan review outlining the areas in Downham Market available for development.

APPENDIX FOUR

Report of the Property Committee

We are responsible for managing and overseeing car parks, The Town Square and council premises and assets.

It has been a fairly quiet year, just keeping the assets and areas in good repair.

Car parks always need monitoring to keep up to standard.

Town Square – the grouting between the slabs is to be renewed and levelled, re-tarmac Paradise car park, plus work in The Hollies.

Toilets – negotiations with the Borough Council are ongoing.

The Town Council wants to retain the market toilets but there are cost implications.

War memorial now has grade two listed status.

APPENDIX FIVE

Report of the Town Hall Committee and the Jubilee Centre Committee

Modernisation of the Town Hall is continuing, with new toilets, and a new boiler being installed.

Remaining work includes replacing the entrance and fire doors in the main hall.

Jubilee Centre was unsuccessful in its bid for Lottery funding, so modernisation will be considered but in phases as funds become available.

The use of the Jubilee Centre is increasing so this proves it is needed.