

Market Deeping Town Meeting

Annual Report

May 2018 – April 2019



Chaired by: Councillor David Shelton

Clerk to the Meeting: Sarah Lydford

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL MAYOR'S REPORT
MAY 2018 - APRIL 2019

Reflections on 2018/2019

I have an official role in this Annual Town Meeting as Chairman; however my short presentation here is as Chairman of the Town Council.

I am leaving the substance of the Council information to the Committee and Working Party Chairs who follow me and this reflects the proper working of the Council. It is important that roles and financial responsibilities of Committees are fully used leaving the Full Council to its supervisory position.

Overall, I recognise changes that are taking place relating to our Town and Council which I believe that we should welcome.

For various reasons, there appears to be examples of devolution from District and County Council. Also, with the progressive leadership from South Kesteven District Council we should be active contributors to strategic changes.

I am also aware of the ever increasing amount of work, liaison, committees, bodies, and operating instructions etc that we share with our conjoined neighbour Deeping St James, how vital it is to our community, and how it should be recognised.

On a personnel note, our Clerk Candace Brent had to leave us in October, however, our fairly recently appointed Deputy Sarah Lydford, stepped up to the mark and has looked after us splendidly.

Councillor David Shelton
Mayor of Market Deeping 2018-2019

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL AMENITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019

As many of you will be aware, it has been a frustrating time with unauthorised parking by the travelling community on Council owned land. After one incursion on Council owned land in 2016 we took immediate action to put up our own vehicle barriers which have proved very effective. It took considerably longer to put similar measures on South Kesteven District Council Parks, but after sustained and relentless pressure by us upon them SKDC Officers put in the bird mouth fencing and wildlife ditch and bund that I photographed in Norwich. Within two days of completion this barrier was put to the test by an attempted breach but proved to be more than up to the job.

The Town Council Park Keepers have continued to maintain Rectory Paddock, John Eve Field and Glebe Field Lands to the highest standards and I am sure you will all concur they are pleasing to the eye, especially at this early springtime.

It was a daunting way back in 1996 when Reg Howard persuaded me to put my signature to a £200K loan to save Rectory Paddock and Glebe Field Lands from development but it has been paid off, and those areas are now dedicated amenities promised to remain free and open forever, surely a feather in the Town Council's cap.

Worth a mention too are our two strips of riverbank, Riverside Gardens and Boundary Park, that are now completely brought up to date as of last week when, after removing dying and dangerous trees, new trees have been planted to enhance the Boundary Park.

All of these amenities are something the Town Council can be rightly proud to have created, not only by our Park Keepers but countless volunteers over the last 22 years.

Councillor Bob Broughton
Committee Chairman

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – 2019

Introduction

The Council's Planning & Highways Committee works to scrutinise planning applications, monitor development to ensure compliance with planning law, and to deal with issues relating to our roads and paths, such as seeking improvements and pushing for repairs.

Planning

In our area planning applications are, with very few exceptions, decided by the District Council. In making their decision they have to consider whether the proposal complies with local and national planning policy. The popularity or, more frequently, unpopularity of a proposal cannot be taken into account.

The Town Council is notified of all planning applications in the town and invited to submit comments.

When it comes to reviewing planning applications, I believe it is important the Committee does three things. Firstly, the Committee should be the voice of the community and express the town's view on developments even where these views may not be relevant in planning law.

Secondly, it is crucial that we do take the time to carefully review development against the local and national policies and raise our concerns where developments do not appear to comply.

Finally, it is important that the Committee, even where we object to developments, submits suggestions that might improve the development should it still be approved.

The Persimmon Estate

The Town Council has continued to monitor the work by Persimmon on their estate next to Tesco and push for the roads to be completed to a standard to allow them to be adopted by the County Council.

On the estate, Persimmon illegally diverted a public footpath and in the last year we have spent a lot of time preparing for a public inquiry that was held in August. This considered whether Persimmon's illegal diversion could become the new route. The Town Council objected to this and sought a better route that would be wider and easier to use.

During the Inquiry, the County Council, who supported Persimmon's new route, made concessions to agree that the route would be improved. This work was subsequently completed by Persimmon in December and the path is now 40% wider and with a shallower gradient where it meets the path on the Tesco store site. We await the final outcome from the public inquiry but expect this now improved route will be confirmed as the new legal route of the public footpath.

It has been disappointing how much work we have had to do to get improvements but it has been clear this wouldn't have happened without this effort of the Town Council.

The New Local Plan

As mentioned, planning applications are decided by the District Council looking at whether the proposals comply with local and national planning policy. One significant piece of local planning policy is the Local Plan. The District Council are currently working on a new Local Plan.

Whilst the new Local Plan will, amongst many other things, allocate sites for hundreds more homes in Market Deeping, it is only the Local Plan that allows this development to be managed. Without an up to date Local Plan developers can largely do what they want. The Local Plan helps to ensure that suitable infrastructure improvements can be properly planned and implemented.

The Draft Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. It is expected that a number of hearings will be carried out by an inspector to determine whether the Draft Local Plan complies with the law and can be adopted. Assuming there aren't too many issues identified by the inspector that could be later this year.

We have submitted comments to the District Council on their proposed new Local Plan and will continue to monitor its progress and review any modifications that may be proposed as part of its examination by the inspector.

The Neighbourhood Plan

Alongside the Local Plan, a Neighbourhood Plan is a fairly recent addition to those policies that can be considered when determining planning applications. A Neighbourhood Plan for the Deepings is being prepared by the Deepings First group for both Market Deeping and Deeping St James.

The Neighbourhood Plan must be consistent with the Local Plan, so it cannot overrule allocations of sites for housing, for example. It can, however, add further detail and help to make the Local Plan's policies more relevant to our specific area.

Should the Neighbourhood Plan be supported by local residents at a referendum, it will be adopted by the District Council and the committee will need to monitor that the aspirations of the plan are delivered and proposals for new development are consistent with the plan.

Highways

We continue to press the County Council to improve our roads. A corner on the industrial estate has continued to be a problem even after the County Council found that grip on the corner was lower than the rest of the road. We understand that there are plans to resurface some of the industrial estate's roads and hope this problem will be addressed as part of these works.

Parking continues to be a big issue in the town, including inappropriate parking, such as parking on pavements and overstaying in the Market Place car park. We have continued to seek greater enforcement of parking restrictions.

The Future

In the next year, in addition to our work relating to planning applications, we are going to look at how we can further promote sustainable travel, including use of public transport, cycling, and walking. One project we're going to look at is adding bus shelters to those stops that currently lack one. We'll be looking to consider which stops would benefit the most to help prioritise this work.

We can expect Lincolnshire County Council's proposed housing on Millfield to continue to generate work for the committee. We objected to this application on a number of grounds.

With the announcement of a new leisure centre of The Deepings, we will also need to carefully review the associated planning application to ensure we get a leisure centre that is fit for our community well into the future.

Councillor Adam Brookes
Committee Chairman

MARKET DEEPING TOWN COUNCIL TOWN HALL AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019

2018-19 has seen huge progress made on the acquisition of the Town Hall from SKDC, thanks to the involvement of our current Mayor, David Shelton. We look forward to being able to modernise our facilities for the use of the staff and the public. Thanks go to our excellent staff and the team of volunteers in the Paddock for their efforts throughout the year.

The Cemetery

Our grounds men are consolidating the good work done over the last few years. Wood waste is no longer stored behind the shed but is properly shredded for use as mulch in the Spinney or around trees in the Paddock or on the fields. The Cemetery has been enhanced by the planting of flowers in boxes along the drive and the area around the store tidied and improved.

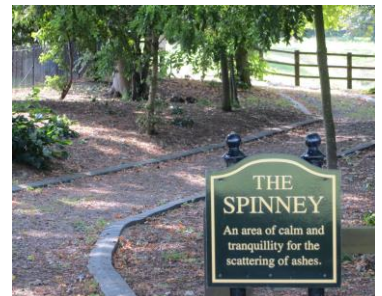
The new phase of ashes burials is now well under way. This is along the northern fence and will be four rows of plaques, 10ins by 10ins, set into the ground, allowing for easy maintenance of the area as well as reducing costs to families. The colour of stone used will be a matter of choice for the family concerned.

We have now removed the northern hedge, which in places had died and in others was over grown or riddled with bramble. Having cleared the barbed wire from the fence and cleared out years of accumulated rubbish, a new mixed hedge has been planted. This hedge will provide habitats for a range of birds and mammals once it is established.

Thanks to our grounds staff, Jamie and Peter, who both help in the Cemetery, but a special thank you must go to our Cemetery Keeper, Ron Bottomley.

The Spinney

This area is for the scattering of ashes and is now in regular use, with plaques placed on the paving edge if required. Another £200 worth of shrubs was planted during the year to top up previous plantings that are maturing well. We have kept it weed free and covered the whole area in wood chippings to help with that. Many of the new plants this year have been donated by families of the bereaved, from the list kept in the Town Hall. Residents often sit in The Spinney on the bench, appreciating the quiet ambience of the woodland setting whilst paying their respects.



Town Hall:

Thanks go to Candace Brent and Sarah Lydford who, over the past year, have worked hard supporting our ground staff to achieve the transformation in our park and cemetery areas. Unfortunately Candace has now left us to move to pastures new, so Claire Harris was appointed as our new Deputy Clerk. Sarah has moved up to take over the position of Clerk. We wish them both very best wishes in their new roles. The whole building and the Town Hall entrance area in particular, look very tired. We have already started to consider what improvements can be made for the benefit of the staff and public when the building becomes ours, in the near future. This is a huge job and should keep the new committee very busy over the coming year.

The Town Hall may be small but it provides a central place at the heart of town to meet and make decisions for the Town Council *and* for local groups. It is also the place where our invaluable clerks advise and guide members of the public whilst assisting councillors to fulfil their obligations successfully. The clerks are vital to our community, providing an essential service so I thank them for the excellent job they are doing.



The Rectory Paddock Our volunteers from Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust continue to advise us on the planting and maintenance of the Paddock but they have not been needed for any major works for the last three years. The new flail has allowed us to cut the meadow at the right height and also collects the grass. We still have to use a skip to dispose of the cuttings and a small team is needed to do this. It is very hard work and seems such a waste. If anyone can use the cuttings, please contact us. Norah Littler and the team of volunteers have continued to work on the wildflower areas and the pond. This year we have had a fine showing of Pyramid orchids and I

know Norah has planted many more orchid seeds that, although taking five years to germinate, will add to the fine display developing around the edge of the pond. Getting rid of the ivy and brambles is an ongoing task throughout the Cemetery and Paddock and takes up a disproportionate amount of time. Frogs and newts are the main residents of the pond but we have seen small fish and, of course, an eel was once spotted. In the Paddock itself we have had a deer and a fox. There are owls and sparrow hawks in the trees and the swift tower will be turned on as usual to emit calls to attract birds returning from Africa and offer them a safe home.

The Lincolnshire Environmental Award

This year we were rewarded for our hard work in the Paddock by winning The Lincolnshire Environmental Awards' Community Award Section. This is a huge pat on the back for Market Deeping Town Council's vision of a wildlife area and green corridor in the middle of the town. We were up against stiff opposition from bigger well-organised groups from Sleaford and the Lincolnshire coast but after a gruelling presentation, we were presented with the award at an evening event attended by many dignitaries from around the County. I have to say we were stunned yet delighted to win! Thanks must be given to Norah Littler, Mike Stott, Mike Donoghue and Keith McClelland for their sterling voluntary help over the last year.

Mapping project

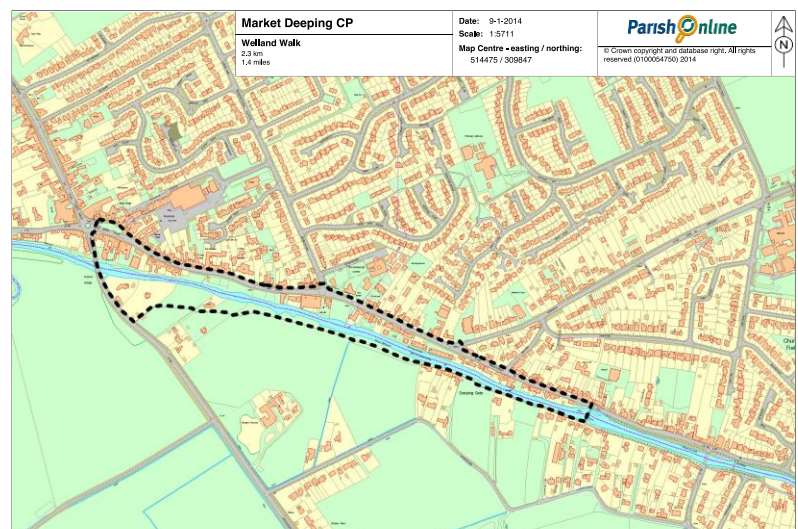
– Walks around The Deepings.

On our website there is a folder which has walks in the area of The Deepings to allow locals and visitors easy access to quality maps and information to enhance their enjoyment of our surroundings. The first five are already on line and more will be added. Detailed maps and descriptions will be enhanced by a folder of walks with detailed maps but less description for people to try. All the walks have been compiled with the aim of making them safe for families. Warning! There may be stiles involved in some as well as plenty of mud occasionally.

In the future, it may be a good idea to have a section submitted by members of the public so anyone with ideas for routes with maps and route descriptions already done, please submit them to the council. Let's get walking, exploring and enjoying our countryside.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee members for their dedication to the job and their invaluable help throughout the year,

Cllr. Roy Stephenson
Committee Chairman



MARKET DEEPING TOWN MEETING

Council Office, Town Hall, Market Place, Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, PE6 8EA

Draft Summary of Market Deeping Town Council Expenditure 2018-2019

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Precept Amount</u>	<u>Taken from Ear marked reserves</u>	<u>Updated Precept Amount</u>	<u>Total Spend</u> As audited at 31/12/18	<u>Remaining Budget</u> At 31/12/18
Administration	£74,283		£74,283	£57,663	£16,620
AOS	£101,810	£167	£101,977	£58,823	£43,154
Cemetery	£15,991		£15,991	£11,469	£4,522
Highways	£14,836	£68	£14,904	£9,463	£5,441
Town Hall	£10,721		£10,721	£4,298	£6,423
Public Toilets	£350		£350	£260	£90
Totals	£217,961	£235	£218,196	£141,976	£76,220

Grants Aid payments - Apr 18 to Mar 19

These monies constitute s137 expenditure

Charity/Organisation	Amount
Deepings Lions	£500.00
Priory Players	£500.00
Raft Race	£450.00
Royal British Legion: poppy wreath and centenary large poppies	£250.00
Total Grants paid to date:	£1,700

Budget for Grant Aid 2018/19 = £3000

Amount remaining in budget: £1,300

GUEST SPEAKERS

MARKET DEEPING TOWN MEETING
Council Office, Town Hall, Market Place, Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, PE6 8EA

Andrew Norman, Head of Visitor Economy, InvestSK

Andrew has been involved in the front line of the visitor economy for the last 20 years. He ran a visitor attraction in south Devon after which he moved to manage the opening and corporate operation at Belvoir Castle. In 2002 he moved to manage Rockingham Castle in Northamptonshire. He was appointed to the role of Operations Manager with the task of overseeing the castle opening operation, developing the corporate market and introducing events. Andrew joined InvestSK in December 2017

Dominic Fieldhouse, Sports Development Officer, InvestSK

Dominic has worked across various sectors and multiple roles in sport and education since graduating university in Sports Development in 2011. He began working at Carre's Grammar School as a Sports Coach and Fitness Instructor. For the next two years, Dominic worked as a Classroom Assistant within two Special Educational Needs Departments in Welbourn, Lincolnshire and Belfast, Northern Ireland. Before moving back into sport as a Physical Literacy Coach delivering high quality PE sessions across Sleaford's Primary School Sports Partnership and prior to beginning work with Invest SK in January 2019, he worked for an anti-social behaviour sports project, Positive Futures in Grantham as a Community Sports Worker for two and a half years.



Market Deeping Town Events Calendar 2018/19

15 – 22 April		Taylor's Fair, John Eve Field (open 19th-22 nd)
1 st May	7pm	Annual Town Meeting
15 th May	6.30pm	Parish Walk
10 th June	10am	Civic Service
12 th June	6.30pm	Parish Walk
1 st July	7.00pm	Deepings Carnival
14 th July	2pm	St Guthlac's Church Fete, St Guthlac's Church
5 th August		Deepings Raft Race
2 nd September		Duck Race
7-14 th October		Gray's Fair (open 10 th -13 th)
4 th November	3pm	Opening of Remembrance Garden, Riverside Park
11 th November	11am	Two minutes silence at The Paddock, Church St
18 th November	3pm	Closing of Remembrance Garden, Riverside Park
25 th November	11am - 5pm	Christmas Market, Market Place
20 th December	7pm	Carols Round the Christmas Tree, Market Place with late night Christmas shopping

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