

## HOLT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4th June in the Small Lounge, Holt Community Centre at 5.35 pm.

Ian Furniss	The Tannery	07818405564
Martin Sanders	Larkin Gowen	712017
Charles Butler	Butlers Pantry	711867
Duncan Baker	Bakers and Larners of Holt	712244
Len Casey	Guided Media	768156
Sandra Taylor-Meeds	Budgens	713734
David Makinson	The Holt Bookshop	715858

Steve Blatch of North Norfolk District Council had been invited to speak to the Chamber of Trade Members regarding car parking in Holt. Holt Town Councillors had been invited to attend.

Steve Blatch gave the brief background that between 2001 - 2021 there was recommendation for 700 new dwellings with 300 on newly allocate sites. Following a change of Government policy content this was changed to the HO1 site, HO9 site and Greshams development, a total of 600 new homes. This was agree to be a reasonable size of growth for Holt and perhaps lower than other areas. With many second homes and tourists this has an impact on Town car parking . In 2005 a group including John Perry Warnes, (Norfolk County Councillor) Michael Baker and Philip High (District Councillors) along with Holt Town Council set about finding suitable sites for car parking. Suggestions included:-

- the Field south of the Methodist Church, (problems with access from A148)
- Swann Grove, (problems with access through the estate and pedestrians.)
- A Park and ride from Kelling Hospital/ doctors surgery site.
- Greshams School, north of St Andrews Church - opposite Thurlow Nunn.

Non were considered deliverable. Graham Chapman then came up with an alternative site - which has been approved by NNDC. NNDC are there to determine planning applications and the application from Graham Chapman was subject to a number of planning conditions. Some onorous which have taken a long time to resolve.

Across the district there are a number of car parks and they have to have a charging policy. North Norfolk is a popular place to visit with high costs in providing what the tourists want i.e. blue flag beaches, toilets.

Car parking is a means of raising revenue. Broadland and Breckland have far fewer car parks and no car parking policy.

The car parks provide £2 million for North Norfolk District Council in income to spend on a considerably more tourist related structure than Breckland and Broadland.

In order to cater for the local people there is a permit system (this does not include Albert Street) and allows unlimited long term parking for a year for £120.00 or six months at £65.00. With a large retired population there is a short stay permit for £55.00 which allows up to 3 hours per short term car park.

The permits are usable in car parks in North Norfolk.

There is a limited amount of car parking in Holt and Albert street remains a short term car park, max 3

hours, to help with turnaround.

There are also 120 street spaces. NNDC is responsible for off-street car parking and NCC for on-street.

There have been consultations recently in Sheringham and Cromer regarding residents permits and/or meters looking to manage demand and earn income.

Current position:

- Thornage Road can now move forward subject to finance
- The Town Council initiative on Cley Road, 82 spaces to be permit and casual use, awaiting finance from section 106 from HO1 development. There is uncertainty over timing; workers will be encouraged to use this car park freeing up spaces on Station Road Car Park for visitors.
- Aldi, 82 spaces with a planning condition of 3 hours free for customers.
- Greshams, proposed access from Church Street, 50 spaces, currently awaiting proposals; will need to go through formal application.

NNDC is open to other proposals but land is expensive and difficult to access further consideration is being given to land by the Methodist Church but highways still have concerns over junctions.

Steve Blatch concluded by saying the District Council were very aware of the issue and would like to see the problem addressed.

Ian then opened the meeting for questions and comments.

MH wanted to emphasise agenda point (d) regarding the different needs of the traders, retailers and residents and was concerned decisions might be made without full and proper consultation. He asked, could there be a consultation group set up to take this forward. SB said the District Council would not have the resources to run this, but would be supportive. People to consider/include in this group NNDC leader Tom Fitzpatrick: portfolio holder and leader on parking policy is Cllr John Rest who had been unable to attend the meeting.

**Question:** Ian Cook - parking used to be free from October to Easter and he had noticed with paid parking a drop in footfall. Could there be free parking in Holt on Sundays to encourage visitors. At Christmas it was free parking on Saturday, we in Holt would prefer Sunday - why do NNDC have a one size fits all policy.

**Comment:** Lack of parking was creating negative response on social media.

**Comment:** It was reported wardens were ticketing at 8.30 on Sundays SB responded people must take responsibility for their own actions in not buying tickets. NNDC have business rates and capital costs to pay. If other companies were running car parks they would not be expected to give charity and not make money by issuing tickets.

**Question:** Where does income go to - to NNDC, and where is it redistributed. It is used across district to contribute toward tourism, Holt has Country Park and Tourist Information Centre. Not all income earned in Holt comes back to Holt.

**Question:** Can we have the proportion of investment to income from fines. i.e. What is the income and what is returned to each town in North Norfolk.

**Question:** The Thornage road car park with NNDC could be a joint venture to unlock and deliver with NNDC - a sound investment. The question was asked if NNDC would consider investing into 2 car parks?

**Comment:** Coach parking should be taken into consideration this should not be underestimated the only car park to accommodate this was Thornage Road. Last Christmas coaches were parked at Kelling Road Sports Field and short term Budgens was used.

**Question:** Thornage Road. if NNDC and Graham Chapman strike a deal is there then a time scale from

saying yes. SB there would need to be significant engineering works on the site. But there could be less than twelve months from agreement to parking. The partnership need not be NNDC this could be anyone.

**Question:** SB was asked what he would consider a suitable number of car parking spaces for Holt but he was not prepared to give an answer on this.

It was asked if STS had been approached, they had, but would need an appropriate and suitable site to relocate to and they were not considering relocation.

**Question:** It was asked if the Thaxters site was offered to NNDC to be used as a car park before a supermarket was considered but SB was unable to comment on this.

Ian made a concluding statement.

There is an opportunity for Holt to create employment and be a revenue source for NNDC. Growth and job creations were paramount but car parking needed to be sorted first.

Thanks were given to SB for attending. Details of a consultation group would be taken forward and Ian would contact SB on behalf of COT re this.

## Part B

1. The minutes of the meeting of 1st May were accepted.

2. **Norfolk Show:** Len Casey was unable to attend the meeting. No problems had been reported.

3. **Advertising:** This matter will be carried forward to the next meeting.

4. **Holt Festival:** A statement was read by Ian stating there was a full programme; ticket sales were going well. There would be a full arts programme, and for children a performance for invited children at the Auden Theatre along with story telling and events at the Holt Bookshop and Holt Youth Project. There would be no street programme due to reduced finances. The Festival information is in the Tourist Information Centre. It was asked if the Chamber had given a donation this year and the answer was no, for several reasons, we had not been asked, finances were lower than they had been in recent years and support was being given by members as individuals rather than as a group.

5. **Holt Lights:** Duncan confirmed that a meeting was planned for the following week to take things forward.

6. **1940's Weekend.** 19/20th September.

This is currently being worked on by Amanda Heading, Jane Gurney-Reed, and Lindsay Furniss who updated the group. This year it is proposed there will be a series of events on the Saturday from 10.30 - 5pm and on the Sunday from 10.30 - 2pm. They are asking all traders to 'go for it' open up on both days and decorate shop windows, use sand bags and dress up, perhaps display posters and photo's of 1940's Holt. Refreshment outlets could hold tea dances. Bakers and Larners would be open for the weekend. It was hoped to have a marching brass band and some form of Home Guard/Dad's Army marching around the Town. Colin Seal will be creating a walking trail around the town. A further suggestion would be a ration book which could be stamped by retailers, a figure of £30 was being suggested as a charge for the retailers to take part. Muckleborough was being approached for vehicles to be displayed in the Town. A 1940's copy of the Gazette would again be reproduced, details of costs would be circulated. Closing date for advertising would be 30th June. Ray Moore would consider a supporting edition of the Chronicle. It

was also thought we could recruit/support Help for Hero's  
The Chamber was asked if they could give a donation toward the cost not necessarily as an ongoing thing, but to help kick start the project, this was agreed in principle.

7. **Holt Cards:** Ian wanted to remind everyone that there were still lots of packs of the Holt cards still available for sale. New order forms had been produced and would be distributed to help push the cards.

8. **AOB:** Michael Hill asked how we would be responding to Steve Blatch, Ian advised he would put together a response and distribute this for approval.

The meeting closed at 7.10

Th next meeting would be 8th July (1st July RNS) at Adrian Hill Fineart Gallery.