

**6 Cottons Field
Dry Drayton
Cambridge**

3 October 2017

Dear Dry Drayton Resident,

Dry Drayton Townlands Charity – Consultation on the Future of the Trust

Background

The Dry Drayton Townlands Charity was established before 1616 when a small parcel of land was given “for the poor of Dry Drayton”. The land, some 6.6 acres, is at the extreme north-east corner of the village, fronting on to what was then the turnpike road from Cambridge to Huntingdon. The road, later widened to become a dual carriageway, is now the A14. From 1908 to 1972, the land was let as allotments. In 1972 the Parish Council acquired some land at the centre of the village for allotments, and thereafter the Charity’s land was rented to a contract farmer who farmed the adjoining farm land. He was able to gain access from a neighbouring field, as access from the A14 for farm machinery is impossible. The neighbouring farm was then sold to the Cambridge University Farms, and since then (2005) the Charity’s land has not been tilled, and no rent has been received, although, until 2014, the contract farmer did pay the Charity a small amount for using the land as “set-aside”. As of today there is no prospect of receiving any further income from the land until after 2020 when current A14 road widening and new access road are expected to be completed. The land is firmly in the Cambridge Green Belt.

The Trust’s income from the allotments was to be used in:

“the supply of clothes, linen, bedding, fuel, tools, medical or other aid in sickness, food or other articles in kind for the benefit either of the poor of the Ancient Parish of Dry Drayton generally or of such deserving and necessitous persons resident therein as the trustees select for this purpose, and in such a way as they consider most advantageous to the recipients and most conducive to the formation of provident habits”.

From 1908 to 1950, income from the allotments was distributed to the poor in the form of coal. No distribution was made in 1951, and from 1952, the distribution took the form of grocery vouchers. More recently boxes of chocolates and tins of biscuits were distributed to the elderly of the Parish; the last distribution having been made in 2006.

The total assets of the charity comprise the land beside the A14 and £1870 cash at the bank.

The trustees are faced with the fact that, in the 21st Century the Charity’s land can no longer be used as originally intended. Demand for allotments in the village is being adequately met by the provision by the Parish Council and in any case the Trust’s land is inaccessible (as well as too far from village houses to be conveniently accessed), of poor quality and too close to

the A14 and its heavy fume generating traffic to serve this purpose. On top of this about one fifth of the land is to be lost to compulsory purchase for the current A14 improvements. Nevertheless the land remains a considerable asset, just one that cannot be used for its original charitable purpose. Overall, the Trustees believe that since these purposes can no longer be carried out in line with the rules in the governing document, they must be updated.

Proposal

The Trustees are therefore intending to apply to the Charity Commissioners

- a) To sell the remaining land and to use the capital and/or the income from the sale in the future for charitable purposes.
- b) To broaden the charity's objectives to:

“The provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of and visitors to Dry Drayton”

The Trustees welcome the views of Dry Drayton residents on

- a) The proposed sale of the land
- b) Proposed changes in the objectives of the trust
- c) Future local projects which the Trust might support in line with the proposed new objectives.

If you wish to comment, please contact the Chairman of the Trustees, Howard Russell, clerk@drydraytonpc.org.uk or at 6 Cottons Field, Dry Drayton, by no later than 14 October 2017.

Yours sincerely



HB Russell
Chair, Dry Drayton Townlands Charity