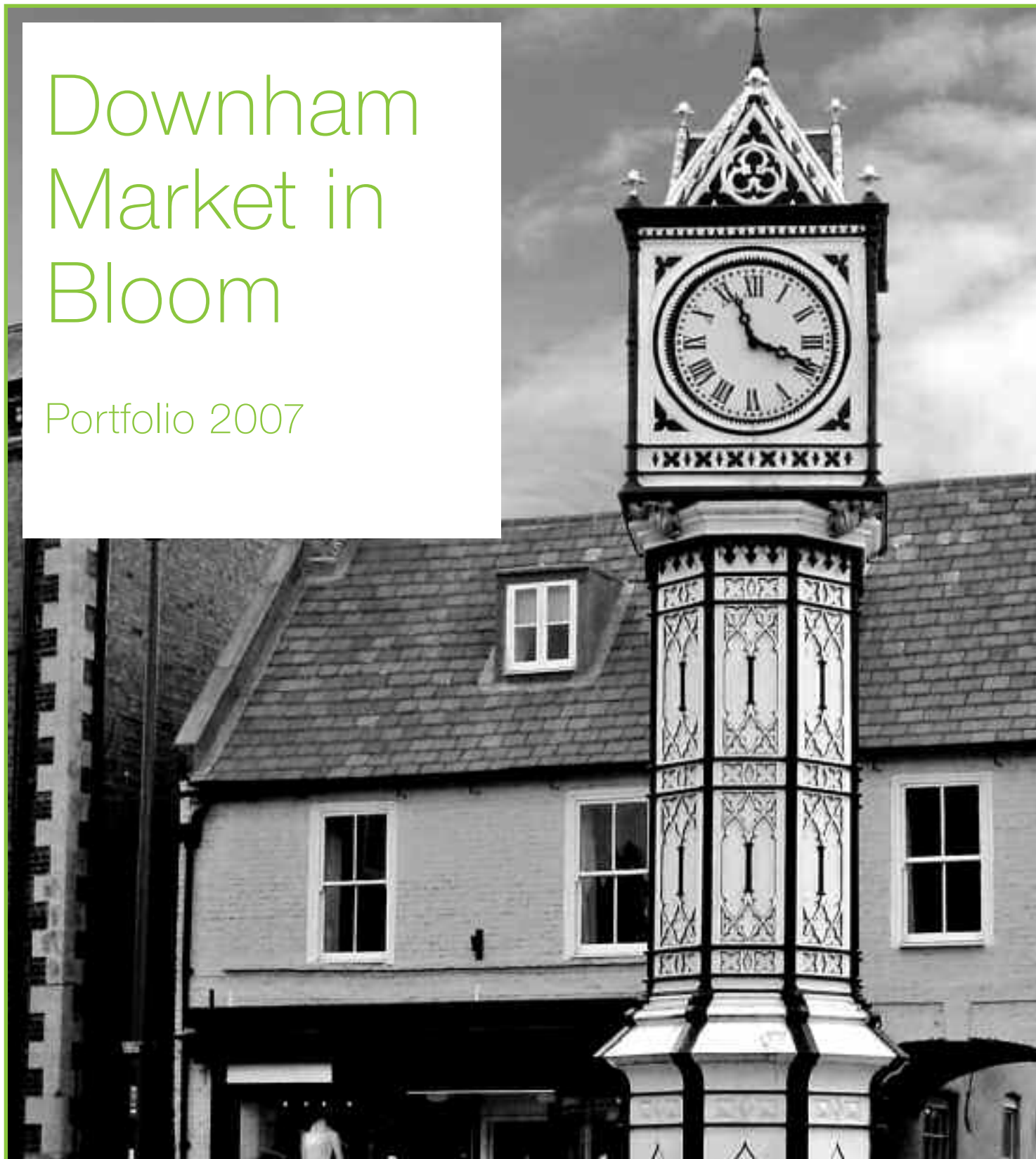


Downham Market in Bloom

Portfolio 2007



Downham Market in Bloom

Downham Market is a rapidly growing market town on the edge of the fens in the far west of Norfolk. Its strong farming history is reflected today in its popular market and local wheat mill. However, it is increasingly seen as a service town for the local outlying villages and has a selection of small shops, banks and a range of other small businesses as well as two supermarkets. With good roads North/South and East/West and an award winning railway station, it has become the ideal location for commuters to nearby Kings Lynn as well as London and Cambridge.

The unique, red, open textured carr stone used in many Downham Market buildings gives the town a distinctive character and earned it the nickname 'Gingerbread Town'. The most impressive example is the central Town Hall, dating back to 1887, extended in 1974. Fronting the Town Hall is the newest feature in the town the Town Square, completed in 2003. The most memorable sight in Downham Market is undoubtedly the Town Clock, an unusual and distinctive cast iron structure in a Gothic style given to the town in 1878, by James Scott.





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Committee Members

- 1 **Tinker Taylor**
Downham Market Former Mayor
- 2 **Nathan Johnson**
Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk
- 3 **Roger Parnell**
Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk
- 4 **Emma van Deventer**
Downham Market Community Development Officer
- 5 **The Mayor - Councillor John Doyle**
Downham Market Mayor
- 6 **Councillor Mick Ford**
Downham Market Councillor
- 7 **Tony Porter**
Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk
- 8 **Andrew Davy**
Horticultural Society Downham Market
- 9 **Councillor Colin Sampson**
Downham Market Councillor

Anglia in Bloom 2007

- 10 **Julie Davy**
Horticultural Society Downham Market

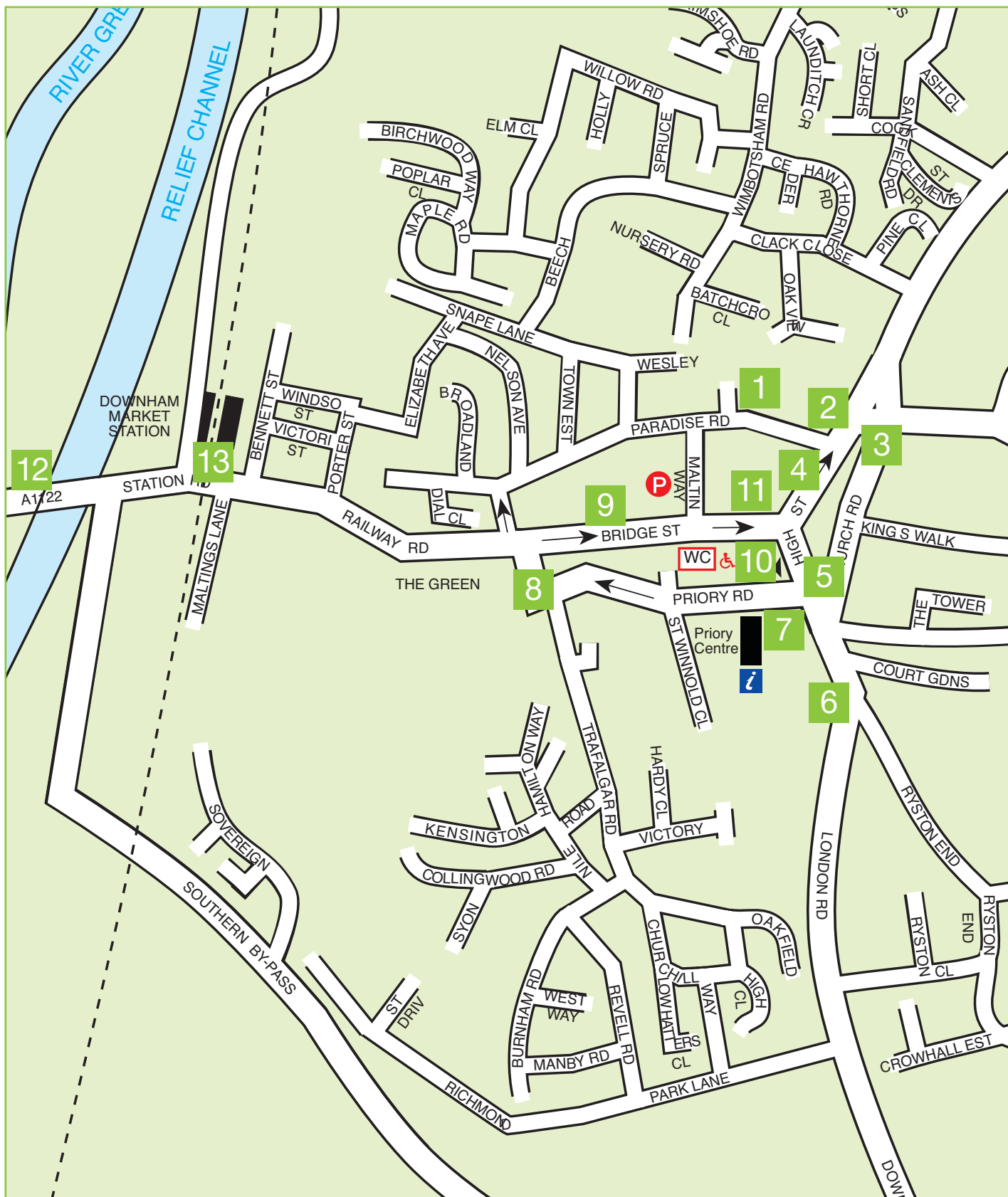
not pictured

Councillor Pat Roberts
Downham Market Councillor

Councillor John Leach
Downham Market Councillor

Sara Porter
Downham Market Deputy Town Clerk





Downham Market

Judges itinerary & road map

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 The Town Council Offices | 6 Town Sign | 11 Crown Pub |
| 2 Castle Hotel | 7 Corner of Priory Road | 12 Hythe Bridge |
| 3 Cannon Square Cross Roads | 8 Bible Garden | 13 Downham Market Railway Station |
| 4 High Street North | 9 Bridge Street | |
| 5 High Street South | 10 Town Square | |



The Town Council Offices

Completed in 1998, the current offices have always maintained a well kept garden to the front entrance.



Castle Hotel

Thought to have been a coaching and posting house, this striking building is mostly c18th, although some parts are thought to be even earlier.



Cannon Square Cross Roads

Scouts roundel to celebrate 60 years of the Scouting movement.

High Street North

The approach down this road to the Town Square allows the visitor to enjoy an excellent view of the Town Square and Town Clock.



Corner of Priory Road

Rotary Club roundel to celebrate 50 years of the local club. Look out for the Green plaque denoting the old Priory site.



Town Sign

The sign depicts the Crown and Arrows of St Edmund, the horses that surmount it indicate the importance of the horse fairs held in Downham Market in the late c19th. A plaque on the plinth giving more information.



Crown Pub

This c17th coach house featured in the 1816 Bread and Blood Riots, when a crowd protesting against the Corn Laws rioted in the town. Now it is more famous for its riot of colours from its hanging baskets.

Bridge Street

Bible Garden

Opened by the Salvation Army in Summer 2006, this peaceful area of town was designed for rest and reflection.



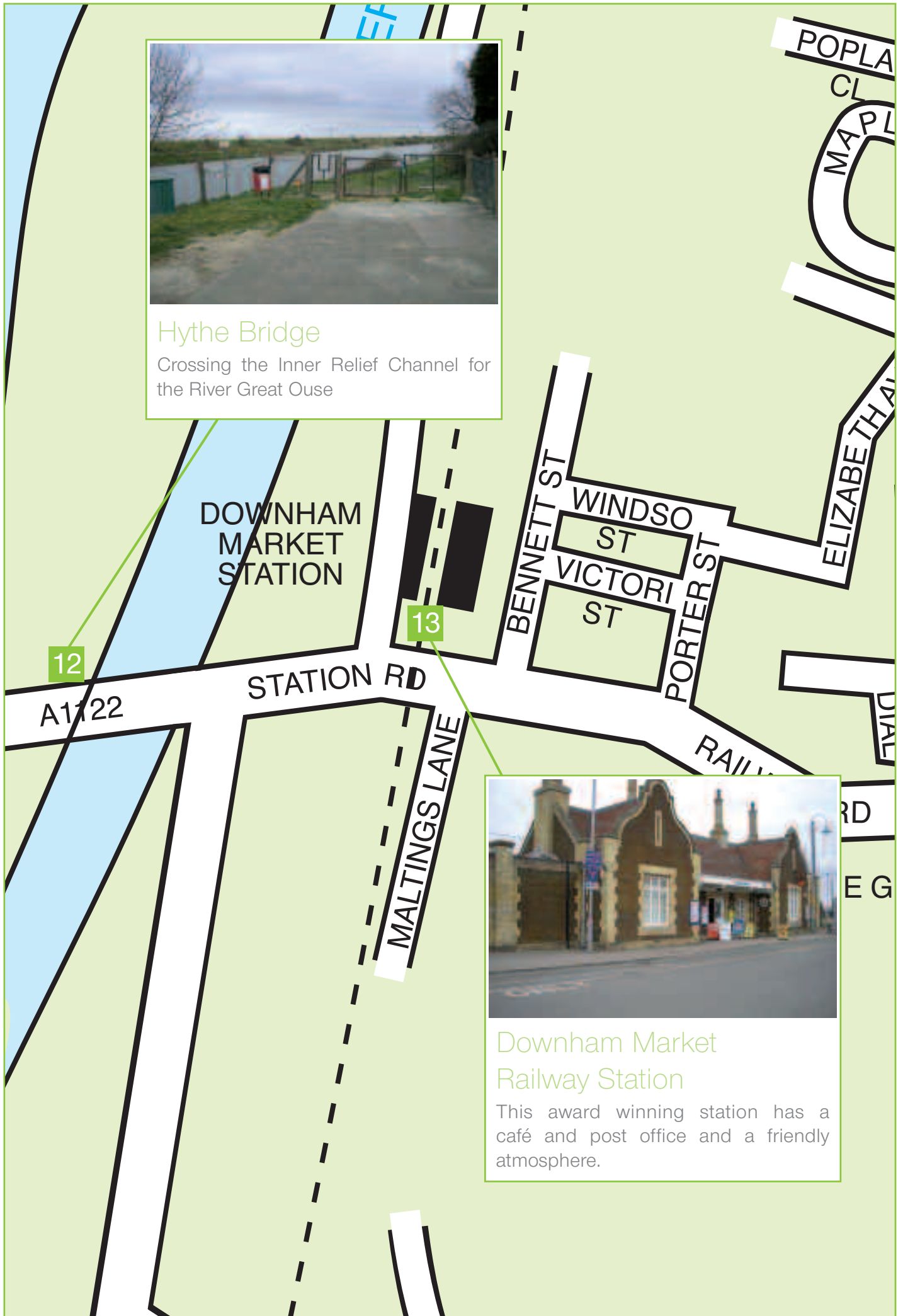
Town Square

Completed as part of a town regeneration project in 2004, the Town Square is a meeting place for the town and plays host to various Town Council organised entertainment and events throughout the year.



Hythe Bridge

Crossing the Inner Relief Channel for the River Great Ouse



Downham Market Railway Station

This award winning station has a café and post office and a friendly atmosphere.



Ongoing projects:

The Willows

Downham Market's three parks are owned and managed by the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk. The most secluded and least known about of these is the Willows, a former brickworks site. Now it is a nature reserve, known mainly by the local fishermen and dog walkers. Sadly neglected when local groups ceased to manage it several years ago, it was put back on the Borough's agenda through the dogged determination from the Town Council. Work through Winter 2006 to Spring 2007 included cutting back overgrown brambles, branches and hedges, opening up the views of the reed bed and edging the paths.



Clockwise: The Willows currently & before the restoration



Ongoing projects:

Willows & the local Community

Local knowledge about the plant life has caused the Borough to review their grasscutting times to accommodate the wild flowers seeding. Other local input came from Downham Market hedge layers, Dave Edwards and Nigel Brunn who have laid new hedges with a mix of traditional shrubs. The Town Council has worked with local children at Wimbotsham Primary School to highlight the beauty of the site and encourage good citizenship. Their interest and involvement in improving the Willows culminated in a display of posters at the local library and can be seen at today's reception.

Main picture: Dave Edwards
Right: Wimbotsham Primary School Children

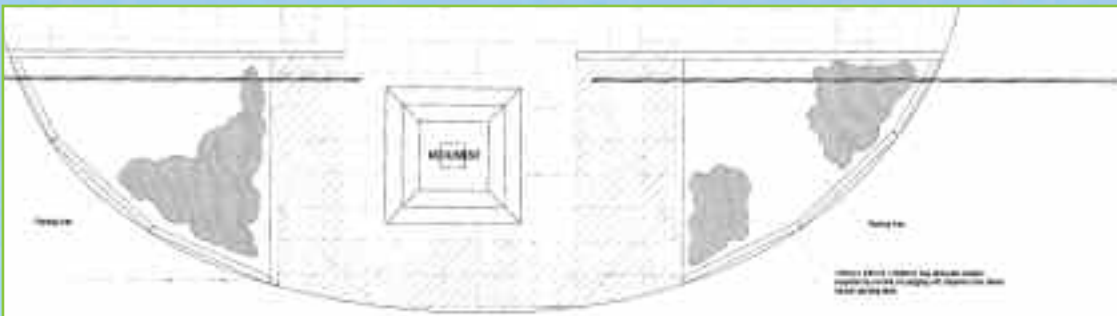


Ongoing projects:

The War Memorial

Although the War Memorial itself is in good condition and a regular feature of the town's annual Remembrance Service, its current site is in poor condition and does little to enhance the Memorial itself. In 2007, work began in earnest to redevelop the area in a way which would be in better keeping to both the War Memorial and its location on a popular gateway into town.





The War Memorial & the local Community

The Town Council has been working with the local Royal British Legion and other interested Town organisations to facilitate a facelift for the War Memorial site.





Ongoing projects:

Recycling

The Borough has worked with the Town Council to encourage recycling Christmas trees. The first year of this partnership proved successful with Downham Market's participation being double than at any of the other Borough's recycling days held elsewhere across their region.

Future plans:

Church Road

Alongside the on going work with the Willows and the War Memorial, it is hoped that the green area currently used as an unofficial car park, Church Road will be enhanced by the Borough and Town Council.



Top: Recycling Christmas trees
Insert: Church Road



Downham in Bloom local involvement

A massive contribution to the event was made by the local Horticultural Society, whose members Julie and Andrew Davy have attended all the in Bloom meetings and organised the popular Best Garden Competition. Downham in Bloom would like to thank the three fearless judges, Tony Stacey, Tinker Taylor and Roy Coughtrey as well as local photographer, Ken Beck.

The Print Centre has generously donated time and materials to produce photographs of the gardens in this year's competition and the prize of a canvas print to the overall winner.

The local Lioness charity also gave their support, by sponsoring the Town Hall's hanging baskets.

The current projects at the Willows and the War Memorial have been greatly enhanced by local involvement from Wimbotsham and Stow Primary School, Class 2 and the Royal British Legion respectively.

Downham Market in Bloom has sought to support local products and materials as much as possible. The plant brackets around town were made locally by Fen-Fab Engineering Ltd. Stuart Glover from West Dereham.



Thank you

Downham in Bloom would like to thank the following people and organisations for their active role in making the first year of Downham in Bloom so successful:

All participating Downham Market Businesses

1st Downham Market Scouts

Andrew Archibald &
Fenland Express Café & Post Office

Best Kept Garden Competition Judges:
Cllr Tony Stacey, Roy Coughtrey and Tinker Taylor

Class 2, Wimbotsham and Stow Primary School

Downham Market Chamber of Trade

Downham Market Railway Station
& First Capital Connect

Downham Market Rotary Club

Environment Agency

Helen Daw and The Print Centre, Downham Market

Heygates Mill, Railway Road, Downham Market

Ken Beck at Bex Photography, Downham Market

Pat Purcell and Friends

Stuart Glover
Fen-Fab Engineering Ltd, West Dereham

The Castle Hotel, Downham Market

The Crown Hotel, Downham Market

The Horticultural Society, Downham Market

The Lionesses, Downham Market Four baskets on
Town Hall

The Salvation Army, Downham Market

The Swan Inn, Downham Market

Tim Glover and County Grounds Maintenance for
donating Best Garden £100 prize and caring for
the Hythe Bridge baskets

Winning Ways, Downham Market

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY

First Capital Connect

