



Whittlesey Town Council Update

April 2020

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Street Pride and Community Groups

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 pandemic events and gatherings are being cancelled across the country. This includes Keep Britain Tidy's campaign The Great British Spring Clean.

Anglia in Bloom have also taken the decision to cancel the competition this year.

Following the governments advice to stay at home and social distancing, the street pride groups have cancelled all activities for the time being.

Groups have been provided with updated information about the pandemic including personal guidance. Cleanings services continue to operate carrying our usual routes and streetscene officers are monitoring for environmental issues every day.

Environmental Health

Since the middle of March officers have been supporting the implementation of changes introduced by government such as; monitoring for health issues at ports (Sutton Bridge and Wisbech), implementing Business Closure regulations and very importantly giving businesses, which are exempt from closure, the right advice to keep trading safely. The types of businesses affected by the new regulations include; restaurants, cafes, public houses, tattooists, beauty salons, and all other non-essential retail shops.

Businesses in Fenland have responded and compliance rates are high. Where a slight change to the business model can be achieved (for example offering take away services) officers are providing advice to implement these changes safely. Lots of information and advice has been sent to local businesses and some of the officers are now in the newly formed Community Hub giving essential advice

and assistance to the wider community.

Businesses have thanked our officers for the advice we are giving out on a daily basis.

Food Standard Agency advice has been to stop all face to face inspections until at least mid-April. Request for service continue to come in and officers are supporting the resolution of community issues such as noise, public health concerns and accumulations of waste at properties. Updated figures will be provided in the next newsletter.

Streetscene

Performance	
Total time out and about on patrol in the local community:	75hrs
Number of cleansing inspections carried out:	15
Percentage of cleansing inspections found to be of a suitable standard:	100%

Tidy Fenland Dog Campaign

In these difficult times Street Scene has been ensuring we continue where we can to do patrols and keep an eye on our open spaces. Patrols continue to be undertaken at The Manor, The Bower, The Walk, Coates Lakes and other Parks and Open Spaces. We have noticed an improvement whilst out and will continue having a visible presence to ensure this change in behaviour continues.

Patrols continue and although the officers are now working alone they can carry on supporting community priorities.

New Dog Fouling signage has been put up in the footpaths and alleyways.

1 Fixed Penalty Notice was issued to a man who failed to clean up after his dog which was witnessed by a member of the public on her CCTV. The fine has now been paid.

Tidy Fenland – Enforcement

Fly Tipping

During March, there have been 115 instances of fly tipping. The most commonly tipped items were household related waste and vehicle waste with 81 instances. Broken down into locations:

Chatteris	3
March	9
Whittlesey	5
Wisbech	44
Villages	54

The majority of the fly tipping was household related with 63 instances, 18 were vehicle related, 9 of electrical and 8 commercial waste. There were just 5 of green waste.

With the recent closure of the household recycling center's we are monitoring to see if this affects Fly Tipping. So far we have not noticed that this has had an impact, but it is still early days and the team remain proactive in fly tipping prevention and investigations.

Street Scene Actions

- 23 Abandoned vehicles were reported across Fenland with 3 been investigated in Whittlesey during March. All 3 Vehicles in the town were removed by persons unknown following a Notice. We have also investigated 4 nuisance vehicles. These related to parking issues and vehicles being on the public highway without current tax. This resulted in these vehicles being reported to the D.V.L.A
- A business in the town centre has been spoken to and will continue to be monitored in relation to burning trade waste.
- Removed 13 fly posters from various locations in and around Whittlesey.
- Memorial safety inspections are continuing in our Cemeteries.

During these times Street Scene Officers have been assisting Street Cleansing, Open Spaces, Refuse and Environmental Health with various issues following COVID-19 . We aim to continue to help the Council deliver its front line service to the public.

Planning Enforcement

Performance	
Service Requests received in March 2020	1
Total number of Service Requests in 2019-20	49
Cases Closed this month	1 (55 in year to date)
Notices Served	0

With regard to the case closed, it related to some play equipment in a garden and it was considered that there was insufficient harm to warrant enforcement action.

Open Spaces

Mowing season started on Monday 2nd March with exceptionally heavy ground conditions following February's deluge. As a result, whilst most areas have had their first cut of the year, some areas will need to be patient and wait for the ground to dry further. Work over the past month included:

- Tree removed Chestnut Close
- Tress removed North and South green Coates
- Notice board replaced Cemetery
- Mulch provided for Manor runners
- Claygate wildflower planted
- Groundsman store, Manor Field, demolished
- Drains Manor Field cleared

At the time of writing the impact of Covid-19 has not affected Tivoli's grass cutting operation although all play areas and skate parks have been closed. This picture could change overnight and social media has been used to keep the public informed and safe.