

# WTC Meeting - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020 #1

**Disclaimer:** These observations are not the 'official' minutes of the meeting, these are supplied by Whittlesey Town Council, normally (1) month following this meeting and can be viewed on their website. Decisions and Voting at this meeting may be ratified and confirmed at the following months meeting.

I am the only Councillor in Whittlesey who makes regular reports on meetings, I have done so for more than 9 years both as a member of the public and as a Town Councillor.

This Meeting was held by Video Conferencing Platform 'Zoom'

I will only report the more salient aspects of the meeting.

Members of the public present :- 3  
Members of the Council present :- 11  
(Apologies Cllr Davies)



This Council meeting went for 3+ hours and many of us thought this was far too long, there are plans to introduce a different pre-format of paperwork to reduce length of these meetings, so I will only report on the major points discussed.

**Mayor Cllr David Mason** – Announced the **Cllr Victoria Lang-Whiston** (Town Councillor for the Stonald Ward) has resigned. There are now (2) vacancies on Whittlesey Town Council aligned with (1) for Fenland District Council. Under Government legislation there will be no elections until at least May 2021. When/if the Government allows elections to proceed – vacancies will be announced and advertised. including on this Web-blog.

**Public Forum** - Mr Bernard Gray-Esson was looking to confirm the no organised Litter Picking events are taking place by the Street Pride Group because of COVID rules.

(RG – This has been confirmed by the Street Pride Secretary - See future post re Countryside Alliance Litter Pick Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept)

Mr Kevin MacKevett spoke briefly about the organising of Remembrance Parade in November.

**Remembrance Sunday** – It was announced that there would be limited participation, with no formal parade, no reception and limited road closure – this situation may change depending on prevailing Govt COVID restrictions/rules.

**Police Matters** - Members of the Council received the monthly update from The Neighbourhood Policing Team – Sgt Lugg.

**County Councillors Update - Cllr Boden** – Updates on the Kings Dyke Crossing/Bridge are up to date on Facebook™ and on Cambs CC Website. He stated that excellent progress was being made by the contractor and was well ahead of schedule – however this could be offset by weather conditions come winter.

There will be limited road closure (not the complete road) during construction of the roundabouts.

**Cllr Connor** – Has been working with the Clerk for submission of (LHI's) Local Highway Improvement applications in regards to Double Yellow Line and 20mph speed limit requests.

The recent completion of Pondersbridge LHI – traffic calming has been welcomed by a majority of feedback received – Pondersbridge residents have campaigned for many years for this initiative.

**Cllr Laws** – Growing Fenland, applications have been submitted. Cllr Laws also stated that after 11 years of championing/lobbying for Inter-Active Signage (Road closures/information) has now at last moved forward (RG – I have also been lobbying Cllr Laws throughout this time).

**Property Working Group** – Heating issues to be addressed re Council Offices/Building.

**Heritage Centre** – The much hoped for Heritage Centre at Kings Dyke is moving slowly – a formal application to secure the land is to progress.

**2021 Cycle Race/Tour of the Fens** – There is liaison with the organisers – again uncertainty regarding whether the event is practical through/around Whittlesey with the KD X in progress.

**Cllr Wicks** – Stated the recent road closures (A605) was badly planned and executed with signage being poor and inconsistent, this caused much confusion and many complaints.

Cllr Boden agreed that thing could have been done better. Cambs Highways were again blamed for this poorly organised signages.

**Finances of WTC: Cllr Boden** – WTC finances are in a good position and there is a surplus on the current year's budget – this is under constant review.

**The Whittlesey Bypass !!!** – For some reason I did not quite understand but it is to called the **Whittlesey Relief Road** -!!! – funding is being sourced to conduct a business case for a more in-depth plan. There are significant obstacles – the 'Southern Relief Road' would have to cross a river and the railway line (and we know how long the present one has taken)

**Cllr Gerstner** – Presented options to the members in respect of plans to cover Council business for when the Town Clerk is absent/holidays etc – 4 options were tabled and for the imminent absence a temporary plan will be put in place – A further post will follow to explain the 'plan'

**The next scheduled full Town Council meeting will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

All future meetings for-seeable future will be held on the above 'Zoom' Platform.

Members of the Public as able to 'attend these meeting' – You need to register with the Town Clerk beforehand. You are also able to table questions in advance again through the Town Clerk.

**I am Roy Gerstner.**

The Independent Councillor for **St Mary's Ward South - Whittlesey Town Council.**

Primarily I report on Council meetings & business to keep the electorate informed on both what I am actively involved with and in part other interests that I believe the electorate within Whittlesey & District may also wish to be informed.

My Web-Blog is community based and I report and comment on many subjects.

**I occasionally make a mistake and am more than happy to correct this if it pointed out to me.**

If you have any issues or concerns outside of the St Mary's Ward South, please contact your own local Councillor. If you contact me – I am more than happy to forward onto them.

If you have a generic issue or wish to make a comment I am more than happy to publish or promote any community events – (subject to meeting publishing criteria)

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Cambridgeshire and  
Peterborough  
Clinical Commissioning Group

**GP**

Call your GP practice or visit their website to arrange an appointment. This may take place over the phone or via video. If needed, you will be seen face to face.

**PHARMACY**

Prescriptions, over the counter medications and first aid help, everything you need is still available at your local pharmacy.

**111**

NHS 111 can help if you're not sure what to do. Call 111 or visit [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) 24/7. If you're in a mental health crisis call 111 and select option 2.

**URGENT TREATMENT  
CENTRES or  
MINOR INJURY UNIT**

Located in Ely, Wisbech and Peterborough you can get help with minor injuries and illnesses, as well as xrays

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