



## Whittlesey Town Council Update

October 2020

### This month:

**Page 1: Street Pride and community groups**

**Pages 1-2: Environmental Health**

**Pages 2-4: Streetscene**

**Page 4: Planning Enforcement**

**Pages 5: Open Spaces**

**Page 6: Useful Contacts**

**Appendix – CCTV Report**

### Street Pride and Community Groups

September saw Whittlesey Street Pride & Whittlesey In Bloom continue to maintain existing projects and individuals hold their own litter picks.

Three organisations were recently successful in being commissioned to run some environmental projects in the Parish of Whittlesey. Although the projects have not started yet the organisations will start to make contact with partners to locate possible sites, book events in and advertise the projects to the community. Two of the projects on offer are 'caring for nature' (upskilling young adults and the unemployed in land management skills) from Peterborough Environment City Trust and 'Green pathways' outdoor therapy being run by Froglife. More information will be available in the coming months.

### Environmental Health

Business support continues to be a priority for the service. Emphasis is to assist businesses to remain open and to be Covid compliant, helping them with the required written risk assessment and ensuring they have adequate controls in place to ensure safety not only for their staff but their customers too. Latest changes include licensed premises closing at 10pm, masks to be worn indoors by both customers and staff and mandatory collection of customer details for track and trace purposes. Over the last 6 months Environmental Health Officers have assisted over 500 local businesses with advice on re-opening safely. Our webpages are regularly updated to ensure that local businesses are getting the most up to date advice.

**Whittlesey and surrounding villages  
Performance Report : September 2020**

<b>Food Safety Inspection Plan:</b>	
Number of food safety interventions completed	<b>2</b>
Number of Food Safety Warning Letters/ Notices sent	<b>0</b>
Number of Food Safety Advice letters sent	<b>2</b>
<b>Food Hygiene Rating Scheme</b>	
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score went UP	<b>0</b>
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score went DOWN	<b>0</b>
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score STAYED THE SAME	<b>2</b>
<b>Requests for Service</b>	
Total number of Requests for Service <b>received in 2020 /2021</b>	<b>367</b>
Number of Requests for Service received <b>in August 2020</b>	<b>32</b>
Number responded to <b>within 5 working days</b>	<b>32</b>

**Streetscene**

Performance	
<b>Total time out and about on patrol in the local community:</b>	<b>75hrs in Whittlesey and 7hrs in Whittlesey villages</b>
<b>Number of cleansing inspections carried out:</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Percentage of cleansing inspections found to be of a suitable standard:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Tidy Fenland – Green Dog Walkers**

During September we have shown a presence in our open spaces to encourage responsible dog ownership and deter dog fouling. Dog fouling patrols this month were specifically undertaken in the Manor Leisure open space, The Bower and The Walk. Dog patrols have also been carried out in Turves, Coates and Eastrea.

Our community champion continues to replenish the dog bags in the dispenser at the Manor Leisure Park and regularly monitors the field for us.

At the request from a local Councillor we have supplied and installed two new Dog Bins in the village of Turves. These bins will be monitored to see the impact they have made.

### Tidy Fenland – Fly Tipping

As we were unable to report the fly tipping figures in last month's report please find both August and September data below:

During August, there were 107 instances of fly tipping. The majority of the fly tipping was household related and commercial with 89 instances in total.

<b>Towns</b>		<b>Whittlesey Villages</b>	
Chatteris	6	Coates	
March	10	Eastrea	2
Whittlesey	11	Ponders Bridge	
Wisbech	39	Turves	2
Villages	41	Benwick	

During September, there were 108 instances of fly tipping. The majority of the fly tipping was household related, commercial waste or vehicle waste with 87 instances in total.

<b>Towns</b>		<b>Whittlesey Villages</b>	
Chatteris	3	Coates	
March	11	Eastrea	
Whittlesey	7	Ponders Bridge	1
Wisbech	28	Turves	
Villages	59	Benwick	

Attending fly tipped sites is a priority for the team. During September we have attended 40 sites across the district where fly tipping happened in Towns or in the surrounding nearby villages.

In Whittlesey we have been given 2 x formal written statements from members of the public who witnessed fly tipping. Our investigations with these are ongoing.

### Street Scene Actions

- 35 Abandoned vehicles were reported to Fenland District Council out of which 5 Abandoned vehicles have been investigated in Whittlesey during the month of September. From the 35 reported vehicles 2 vehicles were removed by our contractor.
- A further 3 nuisance vehicles were reported, these included those being untaxed or parking disputes.

- As part of our patrols, 23 additional cleansing requests were raised in relation to overflowing litter bins, hazardous waste and excessive levels of litter in the town.
- Reported 5 issues to Clarion Housing regarding waste which has been deposited on land they maintain
- Carried out 15 visits on behalf of Environmental Health in Whittlesey in relation to waste accumulations and CV-19.
- Reported 1 issues to F.D.C Assets Team in relation to damaged street name plates.
- 13 issues have been reported to colleagues in Parks and Open Spaces, including areas not cut, overgrown hedges, bollards missing.
- 2 business visits have been carried out. We provided advice and guidance on responsible disposal of commercial waste. This resulted in 1 business signing up to our trade waste service.
- Due to COVID-19 we have continued to assist by litter picking, emptying street litter bins and removing fly tipping in and around the town. This is to ensure we are still offering a front-line service to the public. We have also delivered blue trade sacks to our trade waste customers to assist the cleansing and refuse service.

## Markets

Our Markets have continued to be well supported by the local community. We have recently welcomed 2 new traders to the market. One selling pet food and another selling pet accessories as well as (human) winter accessories.

## Planning Enforcement

Performance	
Service Requests received in September 2020	8
Total number of Service Requests in 2020-21	29
Cases Closed this month	2 (11 in year to date)
Notices Served	0

With regard to the cases closed:

- In one case the investigation concluded that no breach was found to have taken place.
- In one case the breach was resolved as a retrospective planning application was submitted and approved.

## Open Spaces

The grass cutting operation has continued uninterrupted and with only a month left of the cutting season all areas have been kept in relatively good order throughout. The mix of warm and wet weather has seen good grass growth and the parks and cemetery have benefitted from this.

Some hedge cutting commenced at the start of July and further, more in-depth operations will start in November. A number of tree works have also been identified and will be undertaken through the contractor at the earliest opportunity.

Tenders for the expansion and replacement of the Snowley Park play area have been assessed and a contract awarded. Work is due to commence in late October and preparatory trimming of trees and foliage has already taken place. Bidders were asked, primarily, to devise a scheme that would incorporate the naturalness of the site without loss of trees but introduce an exciting area with several attractions. Shortly, the existing area will be closed off and removed. Residents will be kept informed.

Plans to add trees to the cemetery and better provision of planting for the Market Square are in development.

In the town, the following took place:

- Manor Leisure – pathed areas
- Manor Fields – Bench removal
- Station Road Park – Play repairs
- Water Tower Park – Play repairs
- Arnolds Lane – Hedge trim
- Churchfield Way – Elders removed
- Grosvenor Road – Ivy removed from mud wall
- Queen Street Car Park – Pruning
- Snowley Park – Pruning and excess vegetation removal
- Water Tower Recreation – Tree removal
- Plot levelling in Whittlesey Cemetery