



Whittlesey Town Council Update

November 2020

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Street Pride and Community Groups

October saw members from both Whittlesey in Bloom & Whittlesey Street Pride continue to maintain existing projects and conduct individual litter picks.

On 20th October, Whittlesey Street Pride provided some much needed TLC to their plough garden project at Plough Road. Following a successful bid to Whittlesey Town Council, the group were able to remove the rotten wood planter surrounds and replace them with eco-friendly recycled plastic. The existing rose bushes were replanted, and signage put back in place.

The group intend to plant flowers and paint the plough at a later date.

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Team continue to support local businesses wherever they can during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. This is now especially pertinent as England has gone into full lockdown again as of November 5th 2020. Many restrictions upon local business have come back into force with many in the hospitality businesses affected. Our emphasis remains to assist local businesses to comply with and understand the new regulations, which we know are ever changing. We are continuing to help business owners with the required written Covid-19 Prevention of Spread Risk Assessments and contacting them regularly to ensure, if open, that they have adequate controls in place to ensure safety, not only for their staff but their customers too.

Our webpages are regularly updated to sure that local businesses, are getting the most up to date advice and our staff

are on call, e-mails and where safe, visits to premises to ensure public health in these unprecedented times. Local businesses have requested a great deal of support over the last few months and it is always nice to be able to help.

Whittlesey and surrounding villages Performance Report: October 2020	
Food Safety Inspection Plan:	
Number of food safety interventions completed	4
Number of Food Safety Warning Letters/ Notices sent	0
Number of Food Safety Advice letters sent	4
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme	
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score went UP	0
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score went DOWN	0
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score STAYED THE SAME	4
Requests for Service	
Total number of Requests for Service received in 2020 /2021	407
Number of Requests for Service received in October 2020	40
Number responded to within 5 working days	40

Streetscene

Performance	
Total number of hours out and about on patrol in the local community:	80hrs in Whittlesey and 10hrs in Whittlesey villages
Number of cleansing inspections carried out:	15
Percentage of cleansing inspections found to be of a suitable standard:	100%

Tidy Fenland – Green Dog Walkers

During October, we have continued to show 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 (including Wype Rd where we are receiving an increase in numbers of Dog Fouling incidents).

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

Tidy Fenland – Fly Tipping

During October, there were **110** instances of fly tipping. The majority of the fly tipping was household related and commercial with 89 instances in total.

<u>Towns</u>		<u>Whittlesey Villages</u>	
Chatteris	6	Coates	2
March	18	Eastrea	0
Whittlesey	11	Ponders Bridge	2
Wisbech	19	Turves	2
Villages	56	Benwick	2

Much of the fly tipping was household related with 69 instances, with 18 commercial waste related.

3 Postal Interview under caution forms were sent out to allow further investigations into fly tipping incidents.

A file is being prepared for court action following non-payment of a fixed penalty notice issued for fly tipping in Floods Ferry Road, which occurred back in July.

Attending fly tipped sites is a priority for the team. During October we attended 30 sites across the district where fly tipping happened in towns or in the surrounding nearby villages.

Street Scene Actions

- 29 Abandoned vehicles were reported to Fenland District Council out of which 6 Abandoned vehicles have been investigated in Whittlesey during the month of October. From the 29 reported vehicles 2 vehicles were removed by our contractor.
- A further 2 nuisance vehicles were reported, these included those being untaxed or parking disputes.
- As part of our patrols, 19 additional cleansing requests were raised in relation to overflowing litter bins, hazardous waste and excessive levels of litter in the town.
- Carried out 10 visits on behalf of Environmental Health in Whittlesey in relation to waste accumulations and COVID-19.
- 13 issues have been reported to colleagues in Parks and Open Spaces, including areas not cut, overgrown hedges.
- 1 business visit was been carried out. We provided advice and guidance on responsible disposal of commercial waste.
- 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 another new trader to the market, selling Medical items.

Planning Enforcement

Performance	
Service Requests received in October 2020	5
Total number of Service Requests in 2020-21	34
Cases Closed this month	3 (14 in year to date)
Notices Served	0

Open Spaces

Tivoli completed the cutting season at the end of October. Despite the unusual working circumstances during the year with the effects of COVID-19, all cuts were completed to a good standard and the number of complaints for missed areas or return visits was a record low.

The two largest areas, the cemetery and the Manor Field were well looked after although the Bower side of the Manor field remains wet and harder to cut back. 40 new mature trees have been recently planted in the cemetery and over time will form a lovely pathway for all to enjoy.

Play areas have returned to normal – the second lockdown does not require them to be closed - but vandalism has still occurred albeit relatively minor and quickly repaired. The work on the play area at Snowley park commenced on November 2nd (estimated 5-week completion) and local interest in what will be Whittlesey's largest play area is keen. Local residents were hand delivered a letter informing them of the new development and the reaction has been positive.

In the town, the following extra-curricular work took place:

- Manor Leisure – pathed area to tennis courts
- Manor Fields – Bench removal
- Station Road Park – Play repairs
- Arnolds Lane – Hedge trim completed
- Snowley Park – Pruning and excess vegetation removal
- Water Tower Recreation – Tree removal
- Plot levelling in Whittlesey Cemetery
- War memorial oak tree trimmed
- Diana Close – tree trim
- Manor Leisure entrance – removal of planters (19/20 November)
- Manor Leisure entrance – shrub clearance
- Horsegate – shrub tidy