

# FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Whittlesey Growing Fenland projects secure Combined Authority funding**

Exciting masterplan projects that will benefit Whittlesey residents and businesses and help the town to thrive are forging ahead thanks to investment from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA).

The Whittlesey Growing Fenland Masterplan Project has successfully secured the full £1million of capital funding from the Combined Authority's Market Towns Programme to progress and deliver a number of key projects for the town.

The Masterplan is one of four separate Growing Fenland Masterplan Projects for each of Fenland's market towns – Chatteris, March, Whittlesey and Wisbech. They have been led by Fenland District Council with Cambridgeshire County Council and Combined Authority representatives, and stakeholder groups made up of town, district and county councillors and business and community representatives.

The first Whittlesey project approved by the CPCA Board was a £57,500 application for Interactive Highway Signs, which will give vital alerts to drivers when local roads are closed due to flooding or roadworks. The three signs are currently being fabricated and are due to be installed in their approved locations and working by early summer.

One of the town's most ambitious projects is to build a new Whittlesey Heritage Visitor Centre to showcase local artifacts and the history of Whittlesey from Bronze Age to modern day.

This £500,000 project will be sited adjacent to the Kings Dyke Nature Reserve on land to be generously leased by Forterra plc. Whittlesey Town Council, who will be managing the project, have already approached four local architects inviting them to submit innovative designs which meet the project brief for a stunning eco-friendly building.

Linked to the new Whittlesey Heritage Visitor Centre will be a new Whittlesey Heritage Walk. The walk will take residents and visitors past places of historic interest where they can learn more about the rich built history of the town through a combination of bespoke signage and a downloadable app. A slightly longer version of the walk will start and end at the Heritage Visitor Centre, and additional routes off the main Heritage Walk will also lead to the Lattersey Nature Reserve and Whittlesea Railway Station.

Finally, local businesses will soon be given the opportunity to apply for capital funding grants of up to £10,000 to support them with growth plans and Covid recovery, as well as help to protect and create local jobs. Details of how to apply and the eligibility criteria will be published shortly.

The Whittlesey Growing Fenland stakeholder group, along with the other three Growing Fenland stakeholder groups in the district, have also allocated £100,000 of their funding to help deliver a district-wide Civil Parking Enforcement project. All groups are keen to tackle poor parking across the district and further details of this complex scheme are being worked up with external partners.

Leader of Fenland District Council and Cabinet member for finance, Cllr Chris Boden, who is also a town, district and county councillor for Whittlesey, said the Growing Fenland investment was fantastic news for the town.

“The Whittlesey Masterplan has taken into account the views of local residents and businesses and helped to identify what our town and local economy needs most, and I’m excited to see the great work already progressing as a result of the plan and the Combined Authority investment.

“Whittlesey, like towns across Fenland, Cambridgeshire and the whole of the UK, is under unprecedented pressure right now but this funding will go some way to supporting its Covid recovery while benefitting residents and businesses and attracting visitors too.”

Cllr Dee Laws, town and district councillor for Whittlesey and Chairman of the Whittlesey Growing Fenland Stakeholder Group, said: “I’m absolutely delighted that Whittlesey has successfully secured its full share of funding from the Combined Authority’s Market Towns Programme. Investment at this level is a huge boost for the town, funding a vital highways improvement, capital grants to support our businesses and a fantastic new community facility and walk that will celebrate our heritage.”

For more information on the above projects or the Growing Fenland Masterplans please email [info@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:info@fenland.gov.uk)

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**For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226**