

This month:

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Street Pride and Community Groups

Due to current national lockdown restrictions, February saw members of Whittlesey Street Pride continue to litter pick alone or as part of their household.

Page 1-2: Environmental Health

Environmental Health

Environmental Health continue to receive queries/complaints due to the recent lockdown which are alleging non-compliance of current COVID-19 restrictions. Some relate to whether certain business should be open under the regulations and members of staff not wearing masks or ensuring customers are keeping to a safe distance.

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Appendix – CCTV Report

Officers continue to support businesses access testing facilities and to respond when cases emerge within their workforces. Testing for those who need to go out to work) is now available in each of the towns, booking is not required. In Whittlesey this is available at Whittlesey Baptist Church, 32 Gracious Street, Whittlesey. Open Wednesday and Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Environmental Health Report to Whittlesey Town Council

Whittlesey and surrounding villages Performance Report : March 2021

Food Safety Inspection Plan:	
Number of food safety interventions completed	3
Number of Food Safety Warning Letters/ Notices sent	0
Number of Food Safety Advice letters sent	3
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	3
Requests for Service	
Total number of Requests for Service received in 2020 /2021	530
Number of Requests for Service received in February 2021	33
Number responded to within 5 working days	30

The food safety inspection programme has recommenced this month with support from an external contractor who is working closely with the officer team. This is extra resource in order to catch up on the statutory food inspection programme and support food businesses with their opening plans for later in April.

Streetscene

Performance	
Total number of hours out and about on patrol in the local community:	45hrs
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 February, we have been visiting all our open spaces as part of our dog patrols. We have been socially distancing when talking to dog walkers and are pleased to report that those we ask have bags on them. We have also been supporting our Green Dog Walking volunteers and have provided them with more bags for the Manor dispenser which is being well used.

Since the lock down we have seen an increase in the amount of dog walkers out and about and any fouling's reported to us or seen on our patrols is removed.

Tidy Fenland – Fly Tipping

Figures for February are not yet completed so these will be included in next month's report.

From the figures available, we can advise that 5 fly tipped sites were attended in Whittlesey to look for evidence. Evidence was found at 1 site which was a large amount of household waste dumped in the dyke at Glassmoor Bank. We are in the process of working with a local farmer to take a witness statement as to what he found and hope that we can follow the trail left behind.

Our colleagues at Whittlesey drainage board have already moved the waste out of the dyke for us to remove more easily from the bank.

Abandoned vehicles

During February, we investigated 4 abandoned vehicles. All were removed by persons unknown once a Notice was served.

We also helped to remove another nuisance vehicle from Station Road Car park.

Street Scene Actions

- 4 graves have been marked in Whittlesey cemetery
- Trade waste monitoring has taken place at Bruce's Court following concern a local business has been using the residents flat bulk bins to dispose of their trade waste
- A takeaway business has been issued with a warning letter following reports from the public that staff stand outside smoking and then throwing their discarded butts into the highway
- An additional visit has been carried out at Snowley park to ensure the play area is not too busy. We have also spoken to the users about parking and the need to keep residents' driveways clear. Any cars found parked in such a manner have had nuisance vehicle notice leaflets stuck under their windscreen wipers. A new sign has also been put up in the entrance.
- A den discovered in Pinewood Avenue has been dismantled

- Additional litter has been removed from Aliwal Road

COVID-19 Monitoring

We have ensured that all COVID-19 related signage has been refreshed in the town as well as ensuring the hand sanitiser is topped up. This is being well used which is nice to see. We are also doing compliance patrols and pleased to report no major issues or concerns.

Markets

Our markets continue to be very busy and we hope that following the governments road map announcement that we will be able to welcome back to the market our non-essential traders from 12 April.

Planning Enforcement

Performance	
Service Requests received in March 2021	4
Total number of Service Requests in 2020-21	47
Cases Closed this month	13 (37 in year to date)
Notices Served	0

With regard to the cases closed in the month:

- 7 cases were closed as following the investigation it was concluded that no breach of planning control had actually taken place
- 4 cases were closed as the owner / occupier had taken the necessary action voluntarily to remedy the breach of planning control that had taken place
- 2 cases were closed as a retrospective planning application was submitted and this went on to be approved.

Open Spaces

With a much-reduced staff over the winter period, Tivoli's task is less involved with no grass cutting but the team have been active in tidying up shrubs and hedges, clearing cemeteries and adding gravel to paths and plots. The adverse weather has interrupted the flow somewhat at times, particularly with the impact of excess water but, with few exceptions, all routine tasks have been carried out on time.

Tivoli staffing, reduced over the winter period, is restored to full capacity in March and the new cutting season commenced on March 1st. Caution regarding the saturation of some areas may affect the initial couple of weeks but the first week has gone well with the new staff performing to a high standard. The departure of the main mower position for the town leaves a void and the new employee will take a while to be familiar with all areas but will be given all required support to settle in.

Play areas remain open, despite the COVID-19 restrictions, although closure will take place quickly if circumstances change. Inspections have continued to take place weekly throughout the pandemic.

The play area extension at Snowley Park continues to be busy and successful. Public reaction has been excellent albeit there is some resident concern about the increased volume of traffic. Signage is now in place to ask visitors, some of whom come from Ramsey and March, to park responsibly. Three benches and an extra bin are on order.

New plants have been planted in the tubs on Buttercross.

In the town, the following took or is taking place:

- Additional gravel for kerb sets and pathways at cemetery
- Ramp to north of Snowley Park play area installed
- New trees pinned in cemetery
- Wildflower bed trimmed Claygate
- Station Road Play area surface replaced and reopened
- Hedge work 100% complete
- Shrub clearance Snowley Park
- New bins at cemetery