



## Whittlesey Town Council Update

May 2021

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### **Street Pride and Community Groups**

Congratulations must go to Whittlesey Street Pride who won the Environmental award at the Fenland Youth Radio – Pride in Whittlesey Awards held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

It is great to hear of the group receiving recognition from the community for their continuous efforts to improve their local street scene and open spaces.

### **Environmental Health**

The service continues to work closely with our public health colleagues in responding to cases of COVID-19. Although case numbers in Fenland are declining, they remain above the national average.

There are 2 priorities being delivered in partnership with health colleagues: access to vaccination for those aged 42 and over and access to testing. Home testing is now available for everyone to access.

We have been reaching out to local businesses to assess what measures they will be introducing to protect staff and customers in line with changes to social distancing measures, as well as offer support where it is required. If you know of any local businesses which may need assistance to reopen safely, please ask them to submit their information through our [online survey](#). We have a wealth of materials in many languages covering our key messages of safety and access to testing.

Environmental Health continue to receive a high number of queries due to the recent easing of restrictions for local businesses, most notably from close contact services such as hairdressing, beauty and tattooists. Many local businesses have implemented robust COVID secure control measures to assist in the prevention of spread of COVID-19. Many retail shops now offer a delivery or Click and Collect Service which their customers can use.

Our food safety inspection programme continues, and many businesses will receive a visit. Restaurants and take-aways will also have the opportunity for a refreshed Hygiene Rating score during these visits.

### Environmental Health Report to Whittlesey Town Council

#### Whittlesey and surrounding villages Performance Report : April 2021

<b>Food Safety Inspection Plan:</b>	
Number of food safety interventions completed	<b>5</b>
Number of Food Safety Warning Letters/ Notices sent	<b>1</b>
Number of Food Safety Advice letters sent	<b>4</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>1</b>
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score STAYED THE SAME	<b>4</b>
<b>Requests for Service</b>	
Total number of Requests for Service <b>received in 2021 /2022</b>	<b>32</b>
Number of Requests for Service received <b>in April 2021</b>	<b>32</b>
Number responded to <b>within 5 working days</b>	<b>32</b>

## Streetscene

Performance	
<b>Total number of hours out and about on patrol in the local community:</b>	<b>75hrs</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>

## Fly tipping

The total number of fly tipping instances recorded for March was 131. Figures broken down into areas is as follows:

Chatteris – 4  
 March – 8  
 Whittlesey – 12  
 Wisbech – 25  
 Villages – 64  
 Total – 131

Most of the fly tipping was household related with 81 instances and we continue to attend as many sites as possible to investigate.

There are currently 2 fly tipping prosecution cases pending with Peterborough magistrate's court.

Tyres that were dumped in Drybread Road have been removed. A fly tip found along Glassmoor Bank contained some names and address which will be followed up.

## Abandoned vehicles

2 cars have been reported as abandoned this month and 1 nuisance car. We have managed to locate the owners on all of these and there was no need for us to remove them.

## Markets

All traders are back now on the market and the markets are proving very busy and popular. There have been no reported issues and all traders are COVID-19 compliant. Feedback from the public is positive.

In order to support the economy and businesses opening again The George pub has a pavement licence for outside custom. This is not utilised on Fridays, so as not to disrupt the market.

## Street Scene Issues

A litter pick and tidy up took place in Station Road open space.

Dog patrols took place this month in all open spaces and Burdett Grove and along Station Road.

Snowley Park Play area is still being visited regularly and there have been no issues.

## COVID Secure

The test site at Grosvenor Road car park has no reported issues or concerns from the test site staff.

New banners will be displayed in the town shortly to promote the updated messages in line with the government road map.

In Whittlesey we have noticed that since the recent lifting of some of the lockdown restrictions concerning retail and pubs the footfall has remained relatively similar. Feedback from the public is that they are pleased to be out and that they feel safe when walking around the town. We have ensured we have a visible presence to offer help and support to local businesses. We are also pleased that there have been no observed COVID-19 health and safety matters.

## Planning Enforcement

Performance	
Service Requests received in April 2021	6
Total number of Service Requests in 2020-21	54 (13 from Jan to Apr)

<b>Cases Closed this month</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Notices Served</b>	<b>0</b>

## Open Spaces

After a wet March where the cutting season got off to a slow start, April gave us little or no rain and nightly frosts meaning that extra water via the Tivoli bowser has been frequently required and applied throughout the district. With the team now fully staffed until October this has been incorporated into the schedule and there has been little interruption to the normal flow of work which has progressed well to date.

The departure of the main mower operative for the town left a temporary void but the new staff have taken to their allocated tasks well, proven very diligent and kept standards high.

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. New bins are in place and benches, now arrived, will be installed shortly.

Vandalism in other play areas is concerning with both Station Road, Burdett Close and Pinewood all suffering from incidents. Repairs are being programmed.

New plants have been planted in the tubs on Buttercross. Elsewhere in the town, the following took or is due to take place:

- Hedge trim - cemetery
- New bin – cemetery
- 2 x Benches - Churchfield Way (May 2021 install)
- Adoption of play area and surrounds - Yarwell's
- New bench - Bower
- Roof repairs - Manor Leisure Centre (Freedom)
- Garden of Remembrance (Straw Bear) – paths trimmed