

## **New Picnic Benches Installed @ The Manor Field Whittlesey.**

Due to wear and vandalism of the old wooden picnic benches in the Manor Field. A plan between Whittlesey Town Council and Whittlesey Street Pride to replace the benches emerged late last year.

Cllr Roy Gerstner (also a 10+ year SP member) took on the role of applying for the funding and liaison with Councils. Alan Hobbs the Vice Chairman of Street Pride taking on the role of Project Manager.

3 quotes were obtained from UK manufacturers of 'Fully Recycled Plastic Benches'. One of the main criteria was that it would be 'UK plastic & UK manufactured'. What was considered the best quality was chosen and funding of £6075.00 was applied for and granted from 'The Glassmoor Bank Wind Turbine Fund' through Fenland District Council.

8 fully UK made Recycled plastic benches ordered in May of this year, two of the benches are fully accessible for wheelchair users.

Whittlesey Town Council granted a budget of £5,000 to professionally install the benches taking into account health & safety along with security. A new CCTV camera has been installed.

In June the picnic benches were delivered, and Alan Hobbs set about building each one. Our local contractor Mr Phil Brannigan (Groundworks) installed the concrete bases and by the end of July all eight benches were in position and secured.

There are four benches located by the Play and Skate area and four benches near the Bower.

The project has gone very well – yesterday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021 we had an official ribbon cutting.

Cllr Roy Gerstner made a short(ish) speech as follows: -

Good afternoon all and thank you for coming along to the Manor Field Picnic Bench project. Our Mayor Cllr David Mason sends his apologies; he is at another event.

The Picnic Bench project is the latest enhancement to the Manor Field, and I acknowledge ex Cllr Gary Swan fantastic play area equipment upgrade a few years ago.

A joint Whittlesey Street Pride and Whittlesey Town Council project has been delivered on time and on budget.

I would like to thank Glassmoor Wind Turbine Fund for their grant for the benches, Whittlesey Town Council for their grant for the installation costs, Mr Phil Brannigan for the groundworks and finally Mr Alan Hobbs SP Vice Chairman for project managing this initiative for all to enjoy.



Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021  
Photos Courtesy RWT Photography / Fenland Youth Radio