



## Whittlesey Town Council Update

October 2021

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

Whittlesey Street Pride continued to maintain existing projects throughout September. The group are working with new members and have returned to group litter picking.

The group also attended both Coates Fete and Big Bash to promote themselves.

### **Environmental Health**

Throughout October the Health and Safety Executive are supporting 100 local businesses with advice about management of stress at work. This is a pilot project to assist the health and safety executive with developing materials for small businesses post covid-closures.

The business sectors being supported in Fenland are close contact services such as Tattooing and Acupuncture, beauty and hairdressing including some children's leisure venues and non – essential retail. These are all sectors who were closed for much of 2020.

## Streetscene

Performance	
Total number of hours out and about on patrol in the local community:	90hrs
Number of cleansing inspections carried out:	16
Percentage of cleansing inspections found to be of a suitable standard:	99%

## Dog Fouling

The Council continues to monitor the key areas within Whittlesey and surrounding villages. Now that the nights are drawing in, historically we experience an increase in reported dog fouling incidents. So as a preventative measure we have been patrolling our alleyways and open spaces as well as checking and refreshing signage and speaking with dog walkers and the public about areas of concern. The poo bags in the Manor are still being replenished weekly.

## Tidy Fenland – Fly Tipping

This month's fly tipping figures broken down are:

Month	Total	Chatteris	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	Villages
Jul-21	232	4	28	16	53	131

Villages affected:

Christchurch	Coates	Coldham	Doddington	Eastrea	Elm	Benwick	Rings End	Wimblington	Wis St Mary
8	0	26	6	0	5	1	0	2	26

Friday Bridge	Gorefield	Guyhirn	Leverington	Manea	Murrow	Newton	Parson Drove	Tydd	Turves	Ponders Bridge
15	2	5	0	2	2	4	17	2	7	1

We continued to attend as many sites as possible that have received fly tipping. Rapid Response have now received a camera, this will help with our investigations when evidence is found when Street Scene is not close. We are following up on information found at 5 of these. We also monitor areas to identify fly tipping hot spots and ensure that fly tipped waste is removed as quickly as possible to avoid further fly tipping.

Hopefully in late October we will be carrying out business visits to check on waste compliance and be on hand to offer advice.

### **Abandoned vehicles**

During September we received 5 reports of abandoned vehicles in Whittlesey and surrounding Villages. 2 were inspected and then removed by our contractor. The others did not meet the criteria but were later moved by persons unknown.

### **Reopening High Streets in relation to COVID**

We are continuing to monitor the Town Centre to ensure COVID compliance and support the public and local businesses. Also, to be on hand to assist members of public with various advice relating to Covid 19 and Environmental issues.

Signs and banners have also been refreshed to display the new message of 'do the right thing' based on carrying out regular lateral flows and having vaccinations where offered.

### **Funfairs**

We were pleased that the fair was able to visit Whittlesey during September, this was well attended by the public and we are pleased that there have been no incidents as a result of them attending for the Council.

### **Street Scene issues**

- Marked 5 graves in Cemetery during the month of September.
- Working with the community in relation to targeting certain areas regarding various issues in the open space area, including excess litter.
- 16 Cleansing inspections carried out. All -apart from the detritus level in one road-areas inspected passed.
- We have continued to assist by litter picking, reporting full street litter bins and removing fly tipping in and around the town as quickly as possible.
- Waste illegally left on the foot path by a business was removed and the business owner spoken to regarding his practice's. A follow up in October.
- Assisted with Market and Events on 2 new enquires and sent out application forms and advice given.
- Working with Cross Keys Housing to remove fly tipping.
- Reported 3 issues to parks and open spaces
- Reports sent to cleansing to clear waste as quickly as possible.
- Assisting with the smooth running of our Markets and advice given to traders regarding up-and-coming local events.
- Assisting with ASB complaints by carrying out patrols and site visits.
- 1 street name reported as broken and requested for repair.
- 43 fly posted materials have been removed this month from street furniture.
- Loose tiles on the Buttercross roof have been reported for repair and the area made safe.

## Planning Enforcement

Performance	
Service Requests received in September Month 2021	4
Total number of Service Requests in 2020-21	52
Cases Closed this month	7
Notices Served	0

## Open Spaces

Grass growing slows down in September and whilst the two cuts per month regime continues (to the end of October) all areas look well maintained. Complaints of missed cuts are very low and those that have surfaced have been dealt with quickly. The larger areas, particularly Manor Field continues to look very good in particular on Big Bash Day when the cutting regime was tweaked to accommodate the festivities and additional work to improve access was completed.

September also saw the completion of round one of the hedge-cutting. Teams have been out, including at weekends, to ensure all took place in time. A second hedge cutting programme will be undertaken in November. Cemeteries also look good with cutting all proceeding as planned.

Play areas have remained open throughout the pandemic but many have suffered from vandalism and wanton misbehaviour in recent months. Burdett Grove remains closed for the time being with surfacing issues, Station Road has been re-opened but Snowley Park continues to be popular (further benches have been added).

The successful Wellies in the Woods programme at the Manor Field which introduces children and their parents to local wildlife has re-commenced from September onwards. Work has commenced to introduce a wildflower meadow into the Manor Field – to replace the deliberately uncut area nearest the town. First spray was completed in September with a second (followed by a cut and collect) in October. Seeds to be planted thereafter.

Elsewhere in the town

- Snowley Park – additional; bench installed
- Manor – willow removal
- Manor – mulch for Park Run
- Water Tower – hedge reduction
- Irving Burgess – tree work scheduled
- Electric box damaged at Manor play area – replacement cage on order
- Straw Bear memorial – work to repair pedestal