



Whittlesey Town Council Update

November 2021

This month:

Page 1: Street Pride and community groups

Page 1: Environmental Health

Page 2 & 3: Streetscene

Page 4: Planning Enforcement

Page 4-5: Open Spaces

Page 6: Useful Contacts

Appendix – CCTV Report

Street Pride and Community Groups

In October, Whittlesey Street Pride held two group litter picks and met face to face for a committee meeting.

At the meeting, the group discussed future projects and plans to meet socially during the Christmas period.

Environmental Health

We are working with the central government Enhanced Response Area team to ensure the roll out of any support offered for vaccination capacity meets demand.

The service continues to roll out the food safety inspection programme following government guidelines.

The service is now operating with support from colleagues at Breckland Council – who are supporting the food lead role at the council- and with 2 new members of interim staff so the number of inspections will increase over the coming months.

Businesses are reporting they are pleased to see officers returning to support with compliance queries including the new 'Natasha's Law' regarding food labelling. This is now relevant for all businesses who package products on site.

Streetscene

Performance	
Total time out and about on patrol in the local community:	105hrs
Number of cleansing inspections carried out:	15
Percentage of cleansing inspections found to be of a suitable standard:	96%* 2 failed due to excess detritus. A road sweep was requested.

Tidy Fenland – Green Dog Walkers

During October we have continued to show a presence in our open spaces to encourage responsible dog ownership and deter dog fouling. Dog fouling patrols this month were specifically undertaken in the Manor Leisure open space, The Bower and The Walk. Dog patrols have also been carried out in Turves, Coates and Eastrea.

Tidy Fenland – Fly Tipping

We are still collating October's figures but during September, there was 99 recorded fly tipping incidences in Fenland. The majority of waste found was household related. Broken down into locations these are shown below;

Month	Total	Chatteris	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	Villages
Sep-21	99	4	15	6	23	51

Villages affected:

Benwick	Christchurch	Coates	Coldham	Doddington	Elm	Friday Bridge	Gorefield	Guyhirn
1	2	1	11	2	3	3	2	5

Manea	Murrow	Newton	Parson Drove	Pondersbridge	Turves	Tydd St. Giles	Wimblington	Wisbech St. Marys
2	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	5

Officers continue to attend as many fly-tipped sites as we can to look for evidence.

During October a Fixed Penalty Notice of £400 was issued to a homeowner for waste found dumped in Snowley Park. The fine was issued because the individual had not disposed of their waste legally. Instead, they paid a non-traceable individual to take their waste away which was later dumped. They had failed to prevent this by checking these individuals were registered waste carriers and that they were legit.

We are also following up information obtained relating to waste dumped at Beggars Bridge, March Road, Dry Bread Road and Long Drove. Formal interview under cautions have been sent requesting further information on waste disposal.

Reopening High Streets in relation to COVID

We are continuing to monitor the Town Centre to ensure support for shoppers and local businesses. Signs and banners continue to be refreshed to display the new message of 'do the right thing' based on carrying out regular lateral flows and having vaccinations where offered.

Markets

Our markets continue to grow and be successful. We will be welcoming a new dairy stall to our Friday market selling speciality cheeses. This will mean the market is nearly at full capacity, which is great news.

Street Scene Actions

- We have received 18 reported abandoned vehicles in October. With 4 being in Whittlesey. 2 were inspected and found to not be abandoned and our investigations are ongoing with the remaining 2. We are pleased that we have now been able to arrange the removal of the trailer on Drybread Road.
- We have received a complaint this month regarding nuisance parking relating to vans parked on the chevrons on Queen Street. Whilst we have no enforcement powers to prevent this, we have written to the company regarding the public's concerns, asking them to park their vans elsewhere. We have referred to the Police for assistance with locating the registered keeper of the 4x4x on Briggate West, following multiple reports about its nuisance parking.
- The Buttercross was fenced off in October, due to falling masonry from the roof which is awaiting a contractor to make safe.
- We have reported the broken concrete bollard located in the car park behind the Library, for repair.
- A member of the public enquired about who would be best to contact regarding a new road crossing on Eastrea Rd near the Taylor Wimpey site Whittlesey Fields. We have referred him to Highways.
- 9 graves have been marked this month.
- Following a request from Clarion, Dog Fouling prevention signs have been placed around Quinion Place.
- Potholes along the verge on Drybread Rd grass has been requested to be filled.
- Assisted Street Pride in providing equipment to volunteers, allowing them to continue their good work.
- Worked with CCC Highways in relation to a loose kerb in Lovells Court.

Planning Enforcement

Performance	
Service Requests received in October 2021	4
Total number of Service Requests in 2020-21	48
Cases Closed this month	0
Notices Served	0

Open Spaces

Grass cutting has now finished for the year (October 31) with the exception of the leaf collection in the cemetery and Garden of Rest. To all intents and purposes all has proceeded well throughout the season with regular compliments (and a couple of complaints thrown in) of the standards achieved. Biggest area of complaint has been the frequency of cut at Manor Field but this will not change from the contracted fortnightly. This is the end of the first year of a 5-year contract with our grounds-maintenance contractor, Tivoli, and we are happy with their performance thus far.

Hedge cutting is the focus during the whole of November and the team, reduced in numbers by 50% over the winter, will be deployed across the area to tackle the many hedge rows and their annual trim. The team have made a good start but, as is normal, we have had a number of calls from 'regulars' who expect us to complete the task by the afternoon of November 1st.

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 have now been planted. Whilst we presumed this would be generally welcomed, and is a pre-cursor to other areas across Fenland, a small number of residents are vociferous in their objections.

Tenders have been issued for the replacement/possible expansion of Burdett Grove play area. These are due for return in December. As yet, 4 companies have expressed an interest for the £45k project. Elsewhere in the town

- Bandstand Buttercross – tiles repaired
- Queen Street – tree trimmed
- Snowley Park – shrubs removed
- Straw Bear – weed removal
- Straw Bear pedestal – repair on order
- Manor – mulch for Park run
- Yarwell's – drain clearance
- Claygate – wildflower trim (to do)
- Irving Burgess – tree work scheduled
- Electric box damaged at Manor play area – replacement cage on order