



Whittlesey Town Council Update

February 2022

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Street Pride and Community Groups

January was a busy month for Whittlesey Street Pride. The group kicked off the New Year with a litter pick on New Year's Day where 15 members attended.

Two more picks were held within the month, 15th & 29th. The pick on the 29th saw 21 members collect 34 bags and 2 new members joined in.

Environmental Health

Officers are involved in responding to complaints at the Saxon Pit site in Whittlesey. Complaints of Odour and noise have been received and a monitoring plan has been put in place. Much of the activity on site is regulated by the County Council or Environment Agency however the council must investigate complaints and refer their findings to the agencies.

The Environment Agency regularly releases community newsletters which can be circulated upon request to iharwood@fenland.gov.uk

Streetscene

Performance

Total number of hours out and about on patrol in the local community:	69hrs
Number of cleansing inspections carried out:	15
Percentage of cleansing inspections found to be of a suitable standard:	100%

Tidy Fenland – Green Dog Walkers

With the short days still with us, patrols to target the most notorious areas have been increased, to deal with the increase of dog fouling reports. This increase follows on from the holiday season. The main areas being, Highcause Way, Arnolds Lane, Coronation Ave, Park Lane, Riverside Close and Thornham Way Eastrea. We have also begun monitoring the cemetery following reports people are ignoring the PSPO in place which bans dogs.

Tidy Fenland – Fly Tipping

The recorded incidents of fly tipping are shown below for Whittlesey and the villages that had fly tipping this month. We attended the 10 incidents in Whittlesey during January. Sadly, despite searching amongst the waste there was leads to follow up. Signage has been renewed in key areas to reduce the amount of waste being deposited in these locations. We are now also working with our more rural residents in relation to providing them with information on reporting incidents and what to look out for.

Month	Total in Fenland	Whittlesey	Villages Total	Benwick	Coates	Eastrea	Pondersbridge
Jan-22	8	10	33	2	0	1	0

Fly Tipping found in the main was household related and a mixture of black bags and bulky items.

2 outstanding Fixed Penalty Notices issued for Duty of Care offences (where a householder has failed to check who they gave their waste too, ultimately leading to it being fly tipped in Whittlesey) have now been paid.

Abandoned and Nuisance vehicles

We received 2 reports of cars being abandoned this month which upon investigation were found to not be abandoned. We have also had 4 further reports of nuisance vehicles, 1 being reported to Highways, 1 reported to DVLA and 1 reported to the Police.

Markets

The Market is going still strong and is nearly at full capacity with regular traders reporting a loyal customer base. Our new diary stall has now become licenced following her initial trial and we are pleased that this gap has now been filled and customers can now shop for their cheeses and chutneys when visiting the market.

A continental market is being explored to come to Whittlesey in partnership with yourselves at the Town Council.

Please note that the Showman's Guild has advised that the Spring Fair will be arriving in Whittlesey on the 23rd of March opening that weekend.

High Streets in relation to COVID

With the new recent changes relating to face masks and some relaxation of the rules we are continuing to have a visible presence within the Town Centre to help local businesses and the public should they have any queries.

The Testing Site at Grosvenor Road is being well used and will remain at this location when the fair arrives.

Street Scene Actions this month

- We have marked 3 burial plots this month.
- Cleansing have continued their good work up to and over the festive period, including the removal of the buildup of leaves following requests from the public to keep our town clean and tidy.
- Littering - A buildup of cigarette butts on Queens Street was reported and has been dealt with by speaking to the business, who are now sweeping the footpath. The Market Place also has had the same problem but patrols along with cleansing visiting is improving the issue.
- 4 Refuse issues were reported and resolved.

Planning Enforcement

Performance	
Service Requests received in January 2022	2
Total number of Service Requests in 2021-22	45
Cases Closed this month	6
Notices Served	0

Open Spaces

Hedges are the focus of the latter part of the year and the team have been diligently working their way across the district in November and December. All hedges were completed before Christmas.

A donation by the Japanese government to the MP of a quantity of cherry trees was received by Whittlesey TC and these were duly planted across 6 locations in the area – Snowley Park, Pondersbridge Village Hall, Thornham Play area (Eastrea), Grounds Way (Coates), Cherry Tree Grove, St Mary's Church. The specimens are 3 metre tall (growing to 5 metre in time) and will provide some lovely colour to the areas. Appreciation goes to Cllr Mayor for her co-ordinating of the project.

The seeding of the wildflower at Manor Field (6,000 sq. m.) has proceeded as planned to date with much positive feedback. Success in this area will precipitate further initiatives across the district.

Another 30 trees have been planted in Whittlesey Cemetery and these supplement those that have prospered following planting last Autumn.

The successful contractor (same as Snowley Park) was duly appointed to undertake the extension to the play area at Burdett Grove and work will commence in April 2022 on a 3-4 week programme worth £45k.

Elsewhere in the town:

- Straw Bear pedestal – repair completed (further work ordered)
- Manor LC entrance hedge – cut back
- Holes to fill at Manor following removals
- Burdett Grove play area – reinforcements to fence panels
- Manor Leisure compound clearance
- New notice board Manor field (Park Run)
- Diana Close – tree trim
- Tree work Peterborough Road