



Whittlesey Town Council Update

June 2022

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Street Pride and Community Groups

During May, Whittlesey Street Pride held two litter picks and also attended Coates fete on 21st May.

Whittlesey In Bloom also had a busy month maintaining existing projects.

On 25th May, an official opening of a platinum jubilee tree seat installed in Benwick by Street Pride / In Bloom volunteers and local residents took place. The tree seat is made from 100% recycled materials and replaces the one which was originally installed in 1911 to celebrate the coronation of King George V, however it is believed the seat was destroyed during VE celebrations in 1945.

What a lovely project to bring a piece of history back to life and is a great asset for the residents of Benwick. The group also hope that this will go towards helping them win gold in the AIB awards later this year.

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Team are continuing to work with the owners and businesses at the Saxon Pit in Whittlesey to ensure that noise and dust is kept to a minimum at the site. The Environment Agency and the Cambs CC Planning Section are also liaising with the team on a regular basis.

The service are pleased that all programmed food safety inspections for the year 2021-22 have been completed in line with the food standards agency recovery plan.

Environmental Health Report to Whittlesey Town Council

Whittlesey and surrounding villages Performance Report : June and July 2022

Food Safety Inspection Plan:	
Number of food safety interventions completed	10
Number of Food Safety Warning Letters/ Notices sent	3
Number of Food Safety Advice letters sent	7
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme	
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score went UP	0
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score went DOWN	3
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score STAYED THE SAME	7
Requests for Service	
Total number of Requests for Service received in 2022 /2023	31
Number of Requests for Service received April to June 2022	25
Number responded to within 5 working days	25

Streetscene

Performance	
Total number of hours out and about on patrol in the local community:	80hours
Number of cleansing inspections carried out:	15 Bassenhally and Lattersey Wards
Percentage of cleansing inspections found to be of a suitable standard:	100%

Tidy Fenland - Fly Tipping

We continue to attend areas which may suffer fly tipped waste which includes this month 4 sites visited by Street Scene. After looking through items evidence was found at 1 site, was photographed and is now being investigated.

During May the Council received and removed 56 instances of fly tipping. Broken down into locations is shown below:

Month	Total	Chatteris	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	Villages	W'sey Villages
May-22	56	2	5	5	12	32	4

Some of our proactive investigation work includes being able to issue fines to those who we believe have breached their householders' responsibilities in ensuring their waste is removed responsibly. As a result, a recent fine issued has been paid which related to a large fly tip in Drybread Road on 04/10/2021. The fine of £250 was paid in full.

We are also following up a report that a local resident is using a rouge company to remove asbestos from their property.

Green Dog Walkers

We are pleased that our low levels of reported incidents of dog fouling has reduced. We continue to patrol Thornham Way open space which residents are concerned about, but residents have fed back that in Park Lane and the Horsegate area they have noticed an improvement following our patrols and signage.

Nuisance and abandoned Vehicles

There were 6 reported abandoned vehicles this month. 1 in Coates, 1 in Eastrea, 3 in Whittlesey. All were either moved by person unknown or did not meet the criteria for enforcement action. The 6th vehicle was issued with a formal Notice allowing us to do a DVLA search to locate the registered keeper. A letter was then sent informing them of our intention to remove the vehicle.

Markets & Fairs.

Unfortunately, the Showman's Guild cancelled the summer fair due to the Showman attending other events. The Autumn fair is still due to take place with actual dates to be confirmed but likely to be the 2nd week in September.

All of the Friday Market Traders continue to feedback that the market is doing well but when there is wet weather this can cause trade to be slow. We currently nearly at full capacity but do have room for a few more stalls. The Charity space continues to be well used but sadly we had to ask one to leave the marketplace as they had not provided any notice nor sent any associated paperwork selling produce which conflicted with another stall. Advice was given and we hope to still be able to help them if they need to attend in future.

The community vaccination bus attended the Buttercross this month offering a drop-in session for Covid 19 vaccinations. It was very well attended.

Street Scene Actions

- We have been carrying out patrols due to the spate of recent ASB which has sadly taken place around the town, particularly at the Manor and Yarwells Headland after 2 young trees were reported vandalized and a spate of fires.
- The bollards on the Market Place have been reported as they are becoming hard to lift into position. We hope to have them inspected soon.
- CCC Highways have been advised of 2 overgrown hedges blocking the footpath, uneven slabs on High Cause Way and a potential trip hazard pothole.
- A joint visit with some new colleagues took place in the cemetery to show them the open space to assist with the processing of interment paperwork and to improve understanding of the service the Council gives to support the community during sad times.
- 2 overflowing full litter bins have been reported for emptying.
- An alarm left going off at Grosvenor House was causing concern for nearby residents. We were able to assist our Environmental Health colleagues with locating the owner to ensure it was turned off.
- A site visit was carried out after evicted tenants reportedly began camping in a private carpark, but we found no sign of this.
- 2 site visits regarding overgrown hedges in our open spaces were carried out to check and found all ok.

- Following refuse issues, a site visit to Ottoman was carried out where it was found that their bulk bin is too large to go through the new opening meaning it is left on footpath.
- 3 visits were carried out this month to check trade waste compliance which saw 2 businesses without a collection. We were able to assist and offer them a collection. Another business was supported when their waste was found by a litter bin on High Cause Way and advice given on commercial waste disposal.
- Partnership working with the local PCSO in reporting cars to be issued with parking tickets beside Heron Food.

Planning Enforcement

Performance	
Service Requests received in May 2022	4
Total number of Service Requests in 2021-22 (May to May)	43
Cases Closed this month	6
Notices Served	0

Open Spaces

Grass cutting recommenced has progressed well since commencing in March. Last year's hot-spot, Manor Field, has seen some extra attention and looks great but all areas in the town have received at least two cuts as per schedule. The wildflower meadow is beginning to colour up as the warmer weather takes effect and public acknowledgement has been gratefully received although the "anti-brigade" remain stoically unconverted.

The successful contractor (same as Snowley Park) undertook the renovation/improvement scheme at Burdett Grove and the play area opened in late May. Locals inhabiting the houses surrounding the area have raised concerns about the increase in footfall, anti-social behaviour and the lack of consultation. Whilst the area is aimed at 3-12 year olds there will always be older children who cannot resist the temptation on offer. Numbers have been excellent. Further deterrents to any anti-social behaviour will be installed shortly

Vandalism has also been present at Burdett Grove, mainly offensive graffiti (cleaned on a regular basis), damage to newly planted trees in various sites, and, more recently and seriously, the fire to the new bench at Manor field. See Facebook for public reaction but offenders remain at large

Adoption of the play area and adjoining fields at Yarwell's Headland has now been completed and this now becomes part of the Tivoli maintenance regime for cutting and inspections.

Elsewhere in the town

- Garden of Rest – beds cleared, new plants installed
- Manor LC entrance hedge – cut back
- Relocation of cherry tree to Ashline Grove
- Water Tower play area – repairs
- Bowker Way – cut missed
- Snowley Park play – clear up
- Queen Street tree – cut back

Coming soon

- Manor – resurface access road to field
- Bins - Burdett Grove
- Defensive hoops – Burdett Grove
- Tree work – Peterborough Road
- Jubilee Memorial bench – Garden of Rest



The Whittlesey Manor Field – Wild Meadow – Drone Pilot – Robin Sutton.
Picture ©