

WTC Meeting – Thursday 19th January 2023

Disclaimer: These observations are **not** the 'official' minutes of the meeting, these are supplied by Whittlesey Town Council, normally (1) month following this meeting and can be viewed on their website. Decisions and Voting at this meeting may be ratified and confirmed at the following months meeting.



I am the **only** Councillor in Whittlesey who makes regular reports on Council, Public and Community Group meetings. I have done so for more than 12+ years both as a member of the public and as a Town Councillor. **I have made 6,000 postings on this site.**

I report on the more salient aspects of the meeting(s).

Members of the public present :- ?

Members of the Council present: - **10**

Apologies from Cllrs Mockett, Gerstner, Windle & Davies.

Agenda for this meeting has been previously been published on this web-blog.

I was not at this meeting, the second I have missed, however, our correspondent has made some notes.(e&oe accepted)



A separate Post has been published for Street Scene, Police and CCTV Reports.

(Note, the full Police report we are not allowed to publish in the public domain, however, the crime statistics which I already published previously.

Police Report:-

The PCSO has been actively ticketing vehicles during the week 16th January onwards, both those illegally and those inconsiderately parked.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Joe Punton will be transferring out of Fenland and will be replaced by Acting Sergeant Chris Arnold on the 06th February.

(RG Note) Sgt Punton has been a very good Neighbour Police Officer, he has always been a good communicator and holds (normally) monthly meeting with Key Stakeholders, he has established a good team of NP.

Public Forum.

Public Forum

Bernard Gray-Esson - Pointed out that inconsiderate car parking does not only happen in Whittlesey it occurs in the villages as well police are needed there too.

Robin Sutton - Chair of (Cambridgeshire) NHW, Friends of the Manor & Director of Phoenix Youth Provision handed out his in-depth report on the proposed Southern Relief Road and the allocation of funds to pay for the report taken from the original Heritage Centre funding from The Combined Authority

There is currently ASB in Whittlesey Phoenix are doing an excellent job in managing this but ASB is on the increase nationally and he does not want areas of Whittlesey to become no go zones as some have in cities such as Wolverhampton

The situation for the road has changed since Covid traffic is less now and reports prove that traffic through Whittlesey is low. The dualling of the A47 will reduce it even more. The cost of the by-pass could be in region of £165 million therefore in the National Framework it falls within the criteria for rejection as not affordable the projected costs will deduct from projected value therefore is the money that has been redirected into research for the relief road being spent wisely?

(RG Note – Robin has gone to an extraordinary amount of research in his presentation about the ‘ cost and viability’ of a Southern Relief Road.

I have the document which he handed out to the Councillors present and have attached it at the end of this report.

The case for a Relief Road according to Robin is somewhat ‘thin’ to say the least.

I have stated on several occasions, on meeting with MP Barclay and asking him what he thought the criteria was – simple build at least 8,000 houses and a case for a relief road may come about....

Alan Bessant - 2 points one traffic related Johnsons & Mace planning applications state no right turn into Whittlesey CCC are not putting it into planning permissions as they say they cannot enforce Johnsons are honoring this, but they could change, and we could do nothing industrial activity recommends no Right turn can this be put into planning conditions?

We recognize that the industrialization taking place in Whittlesey creates jobs but also creates pollution some businesses offer facilities like the Field of Dreams in effort to offset this the lease may soon be expiring on the Field of Dreams if so when does it expire and what are the plans for the future?

Station Adopters - Have asked to use WTC bank account to apply for grants. WTC advised it was not possible due to governance issues.

Cycle Route 63 (RG Note) I have previously highlighted the issues earlier in December.



Cycle route 63 is currently not functional. After lengthy discussion it was discovered, there are two routes dry route (the drove) turn right over the railway line at partridge farm and continue the road for the wet route. Signage needs to be improved and Cllr Whitwell is awaiting replies from Sustrans the drove is owned by the Whittlesea Charities and responsibility for maintenance is down to the farmers, it is a byway so vehicles can legally use it.

Cllr Munns – Is stepping down from the Station Project Board and therefor WTC looking for another Councillor to take his place.

Mayors Chain of Office – Cllr Laws propose WTC would like to purchase new links to commemorate the Queens platinum and the coronation. Cllr Boden said these can prove expensive so would like estimates to replace first. Cllr Mason advised the collar the chain sits on was a cheap version and has never fitted properly therefore feels a new one needs to be bought too.

Peel House Boiler - The boiler for Peel House needs replacing WTC recommend that the same supplier who is currently carrying out works on the plumbing should be given the work to replace the boiler too. Cllr Dorling said we should not be replacing fossil fuel boilers.

Cost of boiler £4051 plus VAT A 60 btu boiler total costs £11,000

Cllr Mason - Heritage Centre Has a new proposal £45,000 has already been spent on consultancy fees he has been speaking with 'Can Do Communities' and now has a proposal to put forward. Can do Communities are prepared to prepare an expression of interest to the lottery fund at a cost of £325 per day. The report would take 3 days to prepare. Cllr Boden said he needed more info on 'Can Do Communities' as he worried there would be no VAT to pay. He may be interested but is wary. Cllr Mason pointed out this is a director of the business and offering his services,

Councillor Laws commented lottery bidders should be registered so they can see what lottery bids he has won. Cllr Mason said site of Heritage would be at Manor Cllr Laws & Cllr Boden questioned whether Freedom Leisure should be consulted as they hold the lease. Cllr Mason to provide more info at next meeting.

David Barratt Wilson homes to supply a bus shelter at Eastrea WTC to maintain it. Lengthy discussion took place as the bus shelter on plan covers the footpath which means pedestrians and cyclists (police approve cyclist on path here) need to walk onto the busy road. Cllr Laws to take away and examine again plus there should be two shelters one either side of the road.

(RG Note ;- I sent the following e-mail to Cllr Laws on 11/01/23

Looking at the diagram, it shows (how accurate) the shelter impinging onto the existing pathway. If this was to be the case – I cannot support this, as pedestrians, prams and mobility scooters use the path. If it does not impinge onto the existing path then I would support

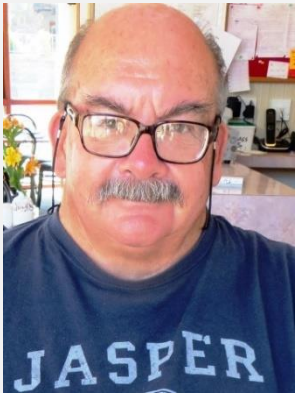
Citizens Advise confirmed WTC will grant for the following year £7,100

Electric Charging Points - EV points will be dispensed with due to difficulties in costs and maintaining.

At the previous Finance & Policy Committee meeting - Cllr Wicks and Boden suggested based on Cllr Dorling's presentation, we do not proceed with the EV points due the complexity. This was proposed by Cllr Wicks seconded by Cllr Miscandlon, with a unanimous vote in favour

The Document re Robin Sutton presentation will follow this report.....

**Date of future Council Meetings: - to be held at Peel House (WTC Offices)
Full Council Thursday 16th February 2023**



I am Roy Gerstner. [The Independent Councillor](#) for St Mary's Ward South - Whittlesey Town Council.

Primarily I report on Council meetings & business (Both at FDC & WTC) to keep the electorate informed on both what I am actively involved with and in part other interests that I believe the electorate within Whittlesey & District may also wish to be informed.

My Web-Blog is community based and I report and comment on many events, meetings and subjects.

I occasionally make a mistake and more than happy to correct if it pointed out to me.

If you have any issues or concerns outside of the St Mary's Ward South, you are welcome in the first instance to contact your own local Councillor.

If you contact me – I am more than happy to forward onto them.

If you have a generic issue or wish to make a comment, I am more than happy to publish or promote any community events – (subject to meeting publishing criteria).

e&oe ©Roy Gerstner.



The only area in the whole of Fenland to 'plant' a 'Queens Canopy Wood'