



Whittlesey Town Council Update

February 2023

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Street Pride and Community Groups

Whittlesey Street Pride held two litter picks in February, both attracting 15 members to each.

Also, this month Benwick In Bloom's latest project saw them install a soldier silhouette and lest we forget plaque to the pill box, which can be viewed along the riverside walk opposite the St Mary's Churchyard, as a beautiful way to remember 'the fallen.' Funding was provided by Burnthouse Windfarm Fund.

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Team have been as busy as ever this month especially with new planning applications relating to the Whittlesey and surrounding villages areas. A total of 15 new planning applications came in where officers have to assess any potential impact of that newly proposed development on residents who live locally.

In relation to Food and Health and Safety inspections in the Whittlesey area and surrounding villages the EH Team is working hard to ensure all the routine inspections booked in are completed. Officers are also assisting local businesses wherever they can, ensuring good practice in food safety management is implemented.

Noise complaints continue to be steady with dog barking and excessive accumulations being the main source of complaints. Luckily over 96% of our nuisance and accumulation complaints are dealt with informally with officers working hard to reach amicable solutions between the parties.



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Streetscene

Performance	
Total number of hours out and about on patrol in the local community:	105 hrs
Number of cleansing inspections carried out:	15
Percentage of cleansing inspections found to be of a suitable standard:	96% 2 parts failure

Tidy Fenland – Green Dog Walkers

This month we have continued to keep a visible presence through patrolling in the open spaces and areas known to be used by dog walkers. This is having a positive effect on the number dog fouling's seen and is also reflected in the low numbers being reported to us. We are also maintaining signage in the area too, making sure that it is clear and visible.

Tidy Fenland – Fly Tipping

Total number of fly tips for January and February are shown below. Rural villages tend to be those most affected. Although there were no instances of waste dumped in the villages around Whittlesey in January and February.

Month	Total	Chatteris	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	Villages
Jan-23	57	9	11	2	17	18
Feb-23	54	5	9	3	22	15



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We are attending as many of the waste sites in the area as possible. This month we attended all of the fly tips in Whittlesey. The waste found was mainly household related, consisting of a mixture of black bags and bulky items. Sadly, despite searching amongst the waste there was no evidence found to follow up, but we had the waste removed quickly to deter further waste being added. New anti-fly tipping signs have been placed in key areas. Our prevention work has also taken place in the villages.

The 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) have now been paid.

We are also referring a case to legal for prosecution following our investigations relating to waste found fly tipped at Snowley Park.

Abandoned and Nuisance vehicles.

Street Scene received 15 reports of vehicles being abandoned this month, with 3 being in the Whittlesey area. Upon investigation 1 owner was contacted via a DVLA search and moved their car, another car was moved by the owner while we were on site and the last car was in a private car park and belonged to a resident. We also had 1 further report of a nuisance vehicle parked on Snoots Road, this was removed by CCC Highways.

Markets & Fairs

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

Street Scene Actions this month.

- Trade waste - 1 black bag was discovered by a litter bin in High Causeway and the shop responsible spoken to regarding their waste collection. A follow up visit will be made in March.



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- CCC Highways - 5 issues reported in relation to fallen trees, unsafe road signs, a loose bollard, and a loose kerb.
- Marked 2 graves and monitored Whittlesey cemetery.
- Clarion have been notified of 2 large holes in their grass verge on Crescent Road following a visit.
- Cleansing have continued their good work. Further reports for action resulted in a request for a bin to be emptied and removal of broken glass.
- A report to repair the lock in the public disabled toilet has been made as the door is not locking consistently.
- BT was advised that 2 of their green boxes were broken and 1 had fallen blocking the footpath.
- Additional Littering patrols have taken place in Lovells Court, Queen Street, Victory Road and Funthams Lane.
- Parks and Open Spaces – we reported 2 fallen trees while on patrol and an overgrown hedge containing litter.
- Refuse – 1 visit following a missed bin and resident spoken to.
- Street Pride – we continue to assist our volunteers with their good work and follow up any areas that they feel needs patrols or intervention.

Planning Enforcement

Performance	
Service Requests received as at Feb 2023	3
Total number of Service Requests in 2022-23 (Feb to Feb)	34
Cases Closed this month.	2
Notices Served	0



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Open Spaces

All cutting completed in the middle of November with two extra weeks compensating for additional growth caused by the extraordinarily warm seasonal weather. Attention has now focussed on the trimming and cutting back of hedges and shrubs before the cycle continues anew again in March 2023. The Tivoli team is reduced by 50% over the winter months and they are spread thinly across the entirety of the district. By and large the season has gone well despite the temperature extremes and the number of grass-cutting complaints has been the lowest on record by some way. Compliments to the team who have stuck to their task well. Recruitment for seasonal staff has gone well with intended cutting rounds starting March 6th.

In the town the chapel restoration is well under way with completion scheduled for March at which point barriers will be removed.

A bid for supplementary funding to address the provision of facilities on the tennis/netball courts has been submitted and a further £25k approved to supplement the £45k agreed by the Combined Authority. Tenders for the work will be released as soon as possible. The guttering at the Manor Leisure Centre has been replaced and painted. Action will shortly be taken to prevent cars using or turning on the pathway leading to the courts from the main entrance. This is not popularly received by those who have currently contributed to the breaking up of the pathway slabs.

The food bank, now located at Manor LC, is working well but attention has been paid to the damaged grass at the rear of the building in the New Year with the addition of wood mulch.

Cricket will return to the Manor field in 2023 and the pitch is currently being prepared and storage areas for their equipment introduced



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Sadly, Bernadette Gipson has left her post as area manager for Freedom LC. Bernadette has spent most of her adult life working at Manor LC but has decided the time is right for a change. We wish her all the best and recognise the enormous contribution she has made in her time at the centre. She will be greatly missed.

Elsewhere in the town

- Yew tree cut back – Cemetery.
- Bin relocated – cemetery.
- Manor LC – fascia removed.
- Stabilise table tennis at Manor field.
- Garden of Remembrance – rose bed trimmed back and compost added.
- Goal nets positioned on Manor field (removed from Burdett Grove)

Coming soon:

- Turfing of plots
- Grass seed cemetery
- Commons Road – repairs to growth along hedge line