

WTC Meeting – Thursday 21st September

Disclaimer: These observations are **not** the 'official' minutes of the meeting, they 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 and many others who attended Thursdays Whittlesey Town Council meeting were **Very Disappointed** – that **None** of the Candidates for the Whittlesey Northwest Bi-election were present at this meeting. Two of the Candidates have NEVER attended any WTC meetings that I am aware of – But are advertising they wish to be a 'Councillor' – maybe for political purposes only – please do not be fooled by some of the 'spin' on election leaflets....

Members of the Council present: 8

Members of the public present: 7



Previous minutes: These were in the pack.

Street Scene Officers Report : This has already been published on this Web-blog

Public Forum:

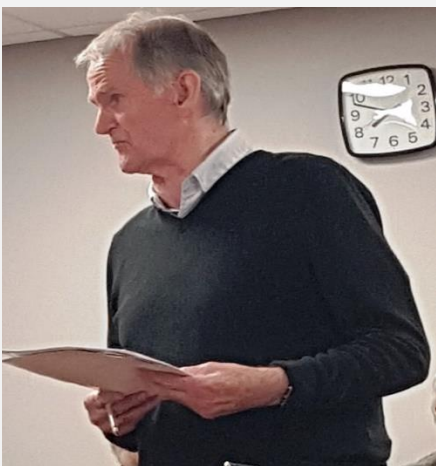


Steve Robertson: Asked 'Why there were no polling cards being sent out for the forth-coming Bi-election for Whittlesey Northwest....

(a suspension of standing orders allowed Cllr Bowen to answer/respond)

Timeframe and Costings, there would be a cost to Whittlesey residents (ratepayers) a sum of £2614 to send Polling Cards out, this is on top of approximately £6,000 for the other expenses in running a Bi-Election.

(RG Note : Given that on a normal election only some 30% actually turn out and vote and on a Bi-election maybe 20/25% may turn out, therefor around 70/75% of Polling Cards are discarded. Waste of Money and Paper. Also no one has mentioned that it was a Conservative Councillor who resigned that has forced this election, I am sure had it have been one of the Independents – the Conservative Group would have made something out of the cost to the electorate. Note also, my previous posts about ex Cllr Ray Whitwell being a very good Councillor – it would be for him to explain the reason(s) of resigning.



Steve Hodson: Asked whether there was any truth in the story going about of an 'Incinerator' coming to Whittlesey. He also mentioned surveyors on The Ralph Butcher Causeway and whether this way due to 'Bridge Movement'.

(RG Note: Council do not normally respond to questions immediately at the public forum, usually there is a written response back to the questioner.)

Picture. Mr. Steve Hodson.

Election of Leader of the Council : The role of Mayor/Leader has been split into two. The Mayor being the civil role and the Leader being the political role.

Cllr Boden : Nominated Cllr Haq Nawaz, this was seconded, he asked for any further nominations – there were None – therefor Cllr Nawaz was elected without there being need for a vote.

Appointments(s) to Outside Bodies :

Items for Discussion : After the somewhat 'confusing' voting of the previous meeting allocating Councillors to Outside Bodies, this has been brought back, as there were a number of anomalies.

As per agenda, each body had nominations and all went to the majority Conservative Group.

Discussion took place on engagement with Sir Harry Smiths regarding 'Junior Councillors being able to engage and take part in future Council meetings. **Cllr Black** would lead on this. (RG Note: commented that this 'experiment' had been tried before at Fenland District Council) (This was briefly discussed at the previous meeting - **Cllr Black** stated that since joining council he had heard much negative talk about local young people. Need to engage. Suggesting two positions be made available for young people to "sit on council".

A new Culture, Arts and Heritage Committee has been set up at FDC ad Councillors were encouraged by Cllr Sennitt Clough to take part in a training session on the 3rd October at FDC (RG Note: Excellent idea something needed – I hope to attend)

A605 Cemetery Road Roundabout.



Cllr Boden: Gave the Council and Public an update on 'enhancements' that could be made to the Cemetery Road Roundabout, the document which is 18 pages in length gave 3 options to make the 'Roundabout' more safety and user friendly to pedestrians and cyclists.

Below – The present view of Cemetery Road – Roundabout.



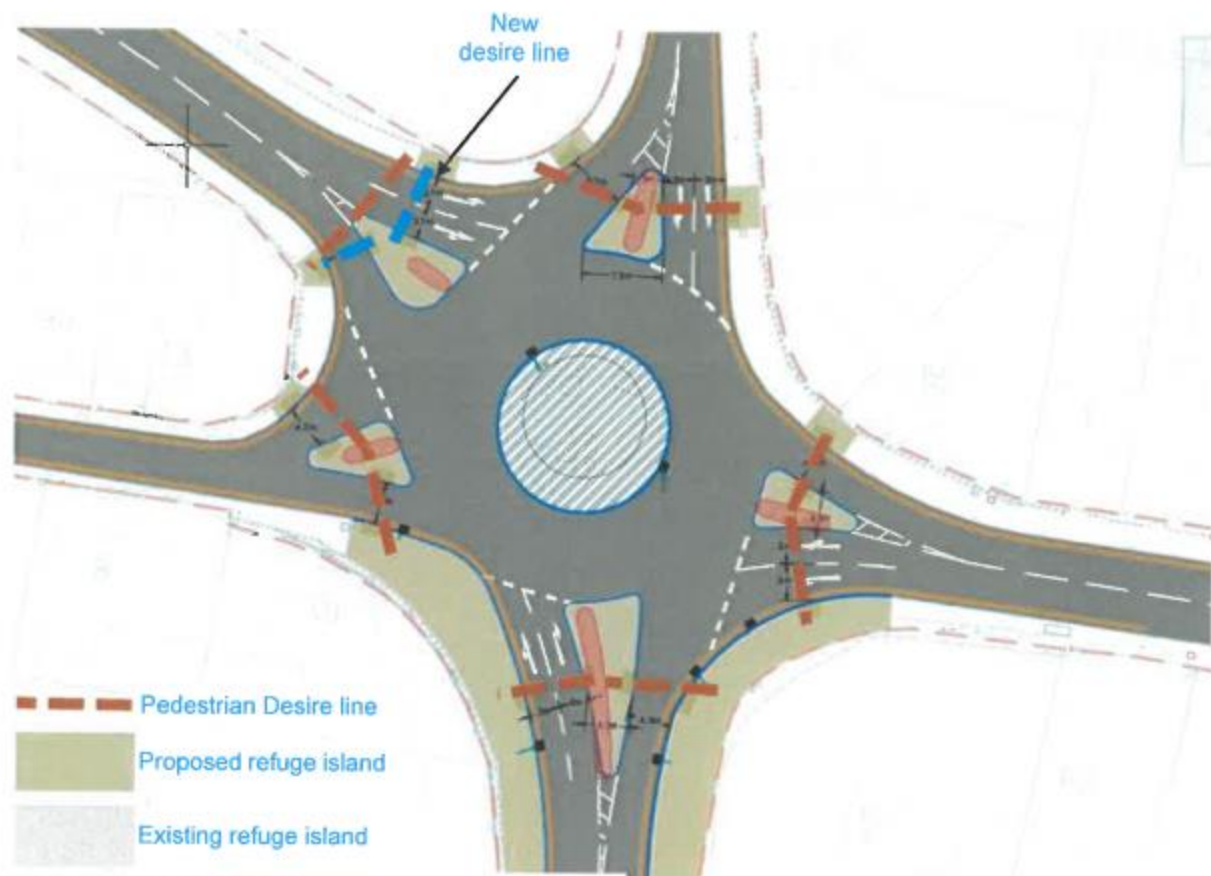


Figure 4: Option 2 Design

Option 2 adjusts the alignment of the approach kerb lines and central islands to provide improved approach geometry, this will lead to a decrease in vehicle approach speeds and better deflection characteristics. The Junction 10 analysis suggests an improvement to the vehicular flow of the roundabout in providing this option despite the reduction in entry lanes

Wider splitter islands will support this re-alignment and lane reduction whilst providing the primary benefit of a safe refuge space for crossing users.

The central island has increased in diameter from 11.8m to 16.5m. The size of the central island plays a key role in determining the amount of deflection imposed on the through vehicles path. This will force drivers to slow and increase steering input which improves awareness and creates gaps for vehicles entering the roundabout and also users waiting to cross.

We Will Remember Them

A proposal for a permanent memorial

to the crew of Avro Lancaster ND475

Barry Wainwright & Bob Wicks, Whittlesey Town Councillors, Coates and Eastrea Ward

(Note: **Cllr Gerstner** stated that there being 3 options, the preferred option practically and cost has been suggested as the above 'Option 2') There has been no timescale given as to when these enhancements may be made.

Permanent Memorial – AVRO Lancaster Eastrea :

Cllr Wainwright, gave insights to what history was to the site and Eastrea and what could be suggested as a memorial. A full version of the proposals attached at the end.

It is hoped that a permanent memorial to the event will be placed at the Eastrea War Memorial.



Figure 4: Eastrea War Memorial

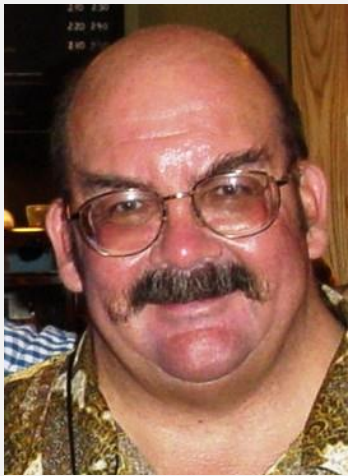
The vision, at this time, is for a granite block, approximately 500mm cube, with an angled top to be placed in the garden, upon a concrete foundation. The granite block to carry a stainless-steel plate engraved with the names of the crew, the 57 Sqn badge, and a brief description of the loss.

Actual wording is to be agreed with the interested parties.

The QE II Platinum Jubilee Wood Project : Cllr Gerstner – gave an update on the official opening of the project, that there had been very positive feedback from both the public and sponsors of the project at Yarwells Headlands (A previous posting on this site).

It is now suggested/proposed that Phase II be planned, the replacing of 4/5 trees which have not survived, this is a very low loss rate but there will be others, and another 20 or so further trees. A communal 'Herb Garden' and a 'small' Poppy Field' in the front/centre of the site. There is hopefully sufficient funding remaining to carry out this work, and sponsors have committed to a further 8 trees at present. The work is planned for 2023/24

Proposed 30mph Speed Limits: Cllr Boden Proposed speed limit on Eastrea Road near Aldi, is premature by Cambs Highways, in respect of there possibility be a 249-housing development along this stretch, when no planning application has yet been submitted or come before FDC Planning Committee. The proposed 30mph limit for Drybread Road, was welcomed.



To find out 'who' your Councillor is – go to the Whittlesey Town Council Website.

www.whittleseytowncouncil.gov.uk

Go to the top Tab Bar – Council Matters
Scroll down to Current Councillors or Find My Councillors.
Contact details are then shown for your Councillor in your area.

The next Full Council Thursday 19th October at 19:30
There is no August meeting.

I am Roy Gerstner the **only** Councillor in Whittlesey who makes regular reports on Council, Public and Community Group meetings.

I have done so for more than 13+ years both as a member of the public and as a Town Councillor. **I have made 7,000+ postings on this site.**

I have been elected as an **Independent** Fenland District Councillor for The South Ward of Whittlesey along with Cllr Mrs Kay Mayor (Conservative)

I have been elected as an **Independent** Whittlesey Town Councillor for the South Ward of Whittlesey South along with Cllr Diana Dickinson (Conservative)

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 Whittlesey 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 it to them.

e&oe

©Roy Gerstner. 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)

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