



## Whittlesey Town Council Update

September 2023

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### Street Pride and Community Groups

In September, Whittlesey Street Pride held two litter picks. Both picks saw a great turnout of members.

The Anglia In Bloom results were announced at an award ceremony on 20<sup>th</sup> September and it was another extremely successful year for Benwick In Bloom, achieving Silver Gilt as well as being winners of the best small village category. All the volunteers and partner organisations involved should be very proud of themselves. The hard work certainly paid off and a fantastic well done to everyone involved!

### Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Team have been very busy in the Whittlesey Town and the surrounding villages this month.

The Food Safety inspections completed in the areas totalled 12. Having now completed the requirements of the Food Standards Agency's Recovery Plan by 31st March 2023, the Food Safety Service is in a good position to fully revert back to the pre Covid model for the programme of food hygiene inspections.

A total of 11 planning applications were received where the team have to determine any likely impact on local residents from that proposed development.





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In relation to complaint investigations in the Whittlesey areas Environmental Health received 56 requests for service.

These included:

34 complaints relating to Noise from Barking Dogs, loud music, odour from dog fouling/other, commercial dust and odour

12 Licensing/ Commercial and Health and Safety enquiries

10 accumulations and pest complaints.

### Streetscene

Performance	
Total number of hours out and about on patrol in the local community:	19hrs
Number of areas inspected regarding Cleansing:	15
Percentage of cleansing inspections found to be of a suitable standard:	88%* Those below std have been reported for cleansing

### Tidy Fenland - Fly Tipping

We will report Septembers Fly Tipping stats next month as these are still being collated. However, we continue to visit as many of the incidents as possible to look through the waste in search of evidence.





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### **Tidy Fenland - Local environmental quality**

The Council has been approached by a scout leader from the Whittlesey regiment. They have asked if we would like to work with the children that are working on their 'environmental badge' to run a poster competition, specifically round littering, dog fouling and fly tipping.

With your approval we have confirmed that we will be happy to promote this at their group session held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November. The competition will have a cubs and a scouts category with the winning designs awarded a prize for their efforts. These posters can then be used around the district to promote responsible waste management.

### **Abandoned and Nuisance vehicles.**

Street Scene received 14 reports of vehicles being abandoned, with 5 being in Whittlesey. All were investigated where it was found that 3 did not meet the criteria but 2 were issued with a 7-day notice for removal. 1 owner made contact and moved the car, but the other we are still due to remove via our contractor. 2 vehicles were reported for having no valid road tax whilst on the highway.

We have been carrying out intervention actions relating to the 2 vehicles parked in prominent locations used for advertising. Despite our best efforts the owner has refused to move them, so the matter has been referred to our colleagues in Planning Enforcement under their delegated powers under the Town and Country Planning Act.





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### Street Scene Actions.

- 7 reports have been made to CCC Highways during this time. They included reports in relation to potholes, a dead tree, trip hazards & weeds.
- Visits have also been made by Street Scene to cut back straying vegetation from hedges blocking footpaths impeding access.
- 5 graves have been marked in Whittlesey and with the help of bereavement confirming a burial plot for a family member.
- 1 street name plate was reported for replacement and on order.
- The Buttercross lights were reported due to some of the lights remaining on during the day.
- 1 site visits for colleagues in Parks and Green Spaces were carried out, speaking to a resident about issues with the open space and to take photos of overhanging trees and broken wooden posts.
- 1 trade waste visit was carried out to local business regarding their waste being put in a street litter bin. We will be working to ensure that they are compliant with their own waste collection as is their obligation.
- Graffiti seen in and around the town has been removed from the public area and those on private land have been reported to the landowner for removal.

### Markets and Fairs.

The Autumn funfair has been cancelled by the Showman's Guild with a request to postpone to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October instead.





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### **Open Spaces**

Tivoli are on target with grass cutting across the district and look to finish the season on a high. They are also continuing with the hedge work scheduled for this month, this is a huge task which must be completed alongside their other duties. In the town work completed includes:

- Urgent tree work at Manor and Whittlesey Cemetery
- Giant hogweed treated at Station Road industrial estate footpath
- Removed shrub in Eastgate
- Remove lower branches of shrubs in Blunts Lane
- Hedges at Cemetery Road

### **Coming soon**

- Prune roses in Garden of Rest
- Weeds removal and prune rose in St Marys Churchyard
- Hedge at The Paddocks
- Install bollards near dryside to prevent vehicles parking on grass
- Shrub maintenance at Manor
- New bench near wildflower meadow at Manor