

WTC Meeting Thursday 22nd February 2024

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FRG 2022



The notes taken by Cllr Eamonn Dorling and members of the public attending. I was absent from this meeting but plan to be in attendance for the March meeting.
(Please see my update regarding [The Manor Grass](#) issue at the end of this report)

6 members of the public spoke, several from the Coates area expressing frustration with sewerage spilling into gardens in Coates, unable to shower, flush toilets, or use a washer/dishwasher.

(Extract from last month's meeting was - . Anglian Water – Cllr Wicks)

Sewerage in Coates is inadequate. Affects Eastrea & Aliwal Road pumping station. Recently contacted by Coates resident that sewage in garden. Response from AW that surface water from storm gets into system. Response is that pump is working at maximum capacity.

(RG Note: There is history about this issue and I attach an e-mail sent/received from Cllr Dee Laws who was quick off the mark to try and help residents in Coates with this problem).

Residents at South Green, Coates attended Full Council taking the opportunity in the public forum to ask for help from Whittlesey Town Council members.

Councillors listened to residents' experiences and appalling living conditions they have been and are still enduring – raw sewage in gardens and on pathways, sinks at times toilets owing to water back filling.

As a matter of urgency Whittlesey Town Council contacted Anglian Water, The Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards and Stephen Barclay MP.

We are now waiting for the Authorities to respond with an action plan - how the water issues will be addressed and resolve for Residents at South Green, Coates.

(RG Note: - I and several Councillors have thanked Cllr Laws on her rapid correspondence with her contacts).

Julie Windle: The new committee for the Whittlesey Festival and a fashion event to raise funding for dementia

Robert Windle: Windle wanted feedback on how CCC inaction on weeds in 2023 and how it has contributed to puddles. The Big Bash, and Youth club volunteering

CCTV: Cllr Dee Laws to propose a three-year contract was agreed by all except Cllr Mockett, who abstained.

Cllr Black his proposal for Junior Councillors which was muddled and spent more time talking about dentistry. He indicated that he was ignorant of Standing Orders. He will focus on a clear proposal and re-present – hopefully before the next meeting.

RG Note: Below is the presentation given by Cllr Black.

Junior Councillors

Aim:

To enable the youth of Whittlesey to engage with the Council & in turn with the local community - Junior Councillors, I have messaged SHSCC to ask if some youngsters might be elected to sit on the Whittlesey Town Council, I would like those elected to be able to include youngsters who are home schooled also so that we can draw on a wide group.

Dentistry:

With the current condition of personal dental care in the UK at its lowest for many a decade, educating our younger residents with regard to dental care & how to prevent issues not only looks after their teeth but also takes pressure off an already overwhelmed NHS.

- To enable a small group of dentists & hygienists to visit the local schools & possibly to hold a drop-in at a central position (possibly Peel House), to give a brief oral inspection for every child within the WTC area. To create a dental record, demonstrate with regard to cleaning & to provide a goody bag containing toothbrush, toothpaste, disclosing tablets, floss, interdental & an instruction leaflet.*
- I have spoken with a local dentist practice here in Whittlesey who would be interested in helping us with reaching out to the local schools. I know that Cllr Dee Laws has also been liaising with a team of Ukrainian dentists looking to set up practice here in Whittlesey & whilst they are in the process of having their qualifications verified for UK standards, I thought they may like to be involved.*
- I understand there is grant funding to help us with this & as such, if you can provide any details of how to obtain this & what the guidelines are etc.*
- Regarding goody bags, I would first approach Cllr Susan Wallwork as she is the portfolio holder for health at FDC or CCC as they have statutory responsibility for prevention – so I would suggest the Public Health Team at the LA, as they might be able to assist.*

Westminster visit & Tour:

I would like to make available to those who are interested in being elected onto the council, the opportunity to visit Westminster to understand how it works & how it is relevant to each and every one of us.

- I understand that Steve Barclay has arranged this in the past & would like to know how we can do this again in the future & how we go about funding & arranging it.*
- This can be arranged by our office Children's tours are booked directly through the Education Tours Office as they cater to the age of those attending, they would also advise if a travel subsidy would be available.*

<https://learning.parliament.uk/en/session-workshop/tours-and-workshops/>

I know Northeast Cambridgeshire falls under travel subsidy B - 50% of receipted travel costs, up to a maximum claim of £1,000.

Work Experience & Apprenticeships:

Involving local employers to highlight what they are looking for with regard to future recruitment, giving work experience & apprenticeship programmes to involve our youngsters.

- *Working with Whittlesey & District Business Community*
- *Need to reach out to all local employers - all sectors.*
- *The apprenticeship and business contacts sound very positive.*

CCTV:

On a recent presentation to the Whittlesey Town Council, it was discussed that we could arrange for small groups of local youths can visit the CCTV control room, to understand what it is that they do, what detail they can pick up & to show the benefits of the system to the Town. This enables a young person & their family members to appreciate the safety that they experience living here in our Market Town

Cllr Laws: Coates War Memorial - Concluded that the war memorial is on soil that belongs to the local charity (and maybe FDC). The group that disbanded forty-two years ago could be re assembled (doubtful) The monument is protected in several ways.

Cllr Laws: Was upset that F&P did not grant funds for the Holy Trinity Church activities for toddlers and wanted to overturn the outcome from Monday's F&P. Cllr Mockett and Cllr Dorling maintained that we should not give funds to any churches.

Cllr Black: The layout for furniture in the chamber by Cllr Black and Cllr Nawaz was roundly rejected because those at the back looked at the backs of those in front, and those in front would need to turn around to speak to those behind them. A new layout will be proposed, and then the costs of replacement furniture will be sent out together with any other work that might be required (like moving one or more screens and the provision of power outlets. Then, F&P will propose to the Full Council.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 21st March 2024

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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.

I am **Roy Gerstner** the **only** Councillor in Whittlesey who makes regular reports on Council, Public and Community Group meetings. I am aware that some Councillors post on Social Media.

I have done so for more than 13+ years both as a member of the public and as a Town Councillor.

I have made 7,500+ postings on this site.

I have been elected as the **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).

A few months ago, I received several 'complaints' about the state of the Manor Field, in respect of vehicle damage done to the grass.

This was caused by Freedom Leisure holding a Swimming Event and allowing cars to park behind the Leisure Centre. Wet and Boggy churned up the grass. Several other areas in/around the field also suffering damage.

FDC Parks & Leisure fully aware and I will address the issues again next month.

If you think this was bad enough

– on the right is a picture I took elsewhere....

