

WTC MEETING THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2024

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AGENDA (PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED ON THIS WEB-BLOG)

F137/2024 To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the apology.

Cllrs Mockett & Gerstner.

10 Members of the public present.

F138/2024. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda items discussed later in the agenda and the Council decide which items are to be discussed as confidential under agenda item number F154/2024.

Commercial Offices and Residential Flats.

Confidential Minute from Thursday 19th September 2024

Cllr Laws – Planning portfolio

Cllr Sennitt-Clough – Planning items on agenda, member of FDC Planning

F139/2024. Street Scene Officer Report. (Previously published on this Web-Blog)

F140/2024. Police Report — Councillor only

The police meeting did not take place. Meeting arranged for Nov 6th.

Cllr Laws: Not the first time, and not the only officer in the town! Disappointingly we cannot have a report every month. Also disappointed that 'education' on parking is still taking place rather than enforcement. The chair will raise at the next meeting.

F 141/2024. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Full Council Meeting on Thursday 19th September 2024.

All Agreed

F142/2024. Update by Stuart and Ana Foster on the activities and plans for Helping Whittlesey and imminent plans for local projects.

Passionate about the environment, working for the local community.

During covid looked to develop Helping Whittlesey. Helping Whittlesey - FB page run with Debborah Slater. Brought Layla onboard. Started discussions on reducing food waste – Started Whittlesey Pantry. Registered as charity. It opened over 12months ago and now has 22 volunteers collecting from local shops. 34.5 tons of food last year.

Not a food bank, environmentally, **open to all.**

Now have funding for storage space; Community Cabin at Coates primary school; Christmas Appeal grows each year; Phase 2 plans include opening a repair café – to be run from the Feldale Football Club site, will initially partnering with the Peterborough repair café; Phase 3 to include a Lend and Return scheme – items like strimmer's, household equipment, these could be rented for a couple of hours.

Set up as charity, bank account, strong committee, WTC represented by Cllr Dorling. Social providers from Jenner.

Also serves Coates and Turves.

Now moving into Phase 2 – Reuse and Repair hub. Pride of Fenland award.

Repair café to be opened at Feldale football club. 1st event early February.

Disappointed in volunteer day response. Partnering with Peterborough Repair Café.

Also Rent & Return model – to make appliances available for hire. “Library of Things”.

Also re-sue hub. Take donated broken items for repair and (sale?)

Scale dependent on funding that is being applied for.

Cllr Miscandlon: volunteer event taking place soon. Ms. Rimmer? At Eastrea Centre.

Cllr Laws: must have posters? Can be put on WTC website. – report can be made available.

Cllr Boden: Thanks for the presentation. Encouraging. Any contact to FACT? (Cllr Boden is a trustee). FACT also has community pantry, often over-filled. –

Yes, they had meetings with FACT when setting up.

Cllr Wainwright: any involvement from NQS soc. Prescribers? – some contact going on.

Cllr Boden Statement.

(RG Note: Most of the below has already been issued in the public domain, here on this Web-Blog, WTC & social media)

Have been pushing Cambs CC on traffic issues. 2 weeks ago, facing flooding, contacted CEO Fenland District Council, involved as no indication they acknowledged urgency. regarding Ralph Butcher Causeway Lane closure/traffic lights; B1040/flooding situation/road closures/traffic lights/Delph/Stonald Rd traffic lights (work now completed); and B1093 Benwick Road lane closure/traffic lights.

Utter chaos during flooding of Delph.

Cllr Boden received 2 briefing notes – very useful, giving more info than had been made public.

Gave reason for lane closure on bridge and some indications of future actions. Told that this could **NOT** be made public. Took it up with CCE of CCC and Monitoring Officer. Both this afternoon, with head of transport, agreed to make public.

11/10/2024

1. Update on embankment
2. Update on other Whittlesey issues

Bridge has steep slope, supporting roadway. Temporary closure is a precaution due to cracks. To allow tests and monitoring. Jones Bros undertaking monitoring surveys. Vehicle restraint found safe. 3 sensors to detect movement.

Helping to design remedial work. All wish to maintain safety by keeping closure in place. Operative on site to manually adjust the signal timing if necessary. Additional measures – 2 extra operators to communicate length of queues. Looking into installing cameras to monitor this. Core highways operative on site, water filled barriers to be sited to prevent unauthorised access. Asking police to help with stopping removal of lights.

The timings of 7 minutes/2 minutes seem to be best but causes frustration for 7 minutes.

Unable to confirm the date, due to complexity.

B1040: closure due to erosion. Since March 2024. Program for remedial work dependent on weather. Working with Milestone on light phasing. Start date still unknown.

Morton Fork crossroads work completed.

B1093: emergency work lane closure – work due 25/11/2024. Reopen 30/01/2025.

Closures planned in Feb on A605.

What happens if an accident closes the A47? No answer yet

Movement of embankment shows settling of embankment as well as horizontal movement. Jones monitoring and looking for solution CCC also taking advice.

Movement appears to be accelerating!

Underlying cause yet to be determined. If change in rate increases, full closure may be needed!!!!

Cllr Boden asked for Plan B – formalise what happens next time flooding closes B1040/North Bank. Need solutions in place to reduce impact.

Also asked for Plan C – what will they do if full closure is needed?

F143/2024 Public Forum.

To allow any member of the public to address the council. Time allowed 15 minutes in total to be split equally between the total amount wishing to speak.

10 members present.

Richard Dale: was going to raise traffic issues. Thanks to all for taking calls, including abusive ones. Are we going to get a relief road?

Steve Robinson: JM phoned to discuss the role of leader. Answered most of concerns. Thanks to JM for the time spent.

Andrew York – thanked Cllrs Laws and Boden for prompt response to traffic chaos last week; and said the B1040/A605 petition raised by Cllr Arman is a good idea.

F 144/2024 Agenda items for Discussion.

Section 106 Contributions & Response to FDC — Cllr Laws

No recent news at WTC

New S106 officer at Fenland. Should be circulating info around councils. If we have any projects that need funding, we can submit them.

Cllr Boden: establishing wish list is good. Part of a wider set of questions. S106 for local community good. Not been very helpful to Whittlesey or other towns & villages.

Need to change the process. Highly technical areas, developers employ people to try and reduce exposure. Cllr Laws reported FDC have a new S106 Officer who is contacting all town and parish clerks within Fenland to explain how the S106 system works and asking them to put forward their “wish lists”. Cllr Boden explained that developers are obliged to pay for local community improvements when they have significant developments.

Cllr Laws said Whittlesey doesn't get a good deal from S106 contributions.

20 mph speed limits: in future, Ward Councillors must be consulted before 20 mph limit is imposed in W'sey; agreed the topic should go to Projects Committee.

Local Highways Improvements: Still working on 2022/2023; unanimously agreed that a more robust request for automatic rising bollards in High Causeway be re-submitted (previous request was turned down).

B1040 & A605 Petition - Cllr Arman

Now in Info only section

Motion to discuss further roll out of 20MPH limits — Cllr Wicks
Before last election went against CC wish for blanket 20mph zones.
Decided on selective schemes.

Now well past the election, need to consider where we want.

Cllr Wicks has info on timelines to be circulated. Ward Councillors should have an input.

Cllr Boden: Yes, should have council involvement.

Cllr Sennitt-Clough: Scheme at Elm went to public consultation. Ely imposed on the whole city without consultation.

Cllr Laws: Complaints on Inhams Road (designated HGV route). Being logged by residents.

Cllr Miscandlon: Suggestions to Projects Committee?

Cllr Sennitt-Clough: 20mph limits come at a financial cost - £100k at Ely for signage. Need to consider public money.

Cllr Laws: S106 goes to highways! Happy to spend that money.

Motion to discuss TORs for Projects Committee — Cllr Wicks
Already discussed in section 5 of Finance & Policy.

Cllr Wicks Motion to discuss Local Highways Improvements (LHI's) for this round of submissions.

Cllr Miscandlon no dates yet for LHIs. Still working on 2022/23. Expression of interest for 2025/6 interest, but no dates yet for applications.

Cllr Wicks: Need to start formulating a list.

Cllr Laws: Last LHI was for bollards.

Cllr Boden: Discuss item 9 now. Refused because they made mistakes. Put it in non-complex, so it is too late to be discussed. Should be resubmitted, after review.

Cllr Wicks: no presentation this year? No, they don't do it anymore.

Cllr Laws Protocol in dealing with Planning applications —
Need to highlight protocol.

Town council to provide comments to district council. FDC make decision. Crucial to declare any interest.

Any other matter that can affect transparency should be declared.

Predetermination / bias – advice can be sought from the monitoring officer or clerk.

Must declare whether they have been lobbied. Lobbyists should be redirected to planning officer.

Cllr Laws: Why members of FDC & CCC Planning Committees need to avoid the appearance in predetermination —

When FDC & CCC determine applications, they must not give perception of predetermination.

Cllr Boden: The process is undemocratic. Lobbying: no representative on the planning committee.

Cllr Miscandlon Allison Homes public open space proposal:

Allison Homes – public open space proposal (Drybread Rd): they have asked if Whittlesey Town Council would like to take over the management of the open space/grassed area on this site.

Unanimously agreed to raise this with Allison Homes at the next Planning meeting when they are due to speak to the committee.

Cllr Laws: FDC won't take it!

Cllr Dorling against

Cllr Wainwright: clarify – they aren't gifting the land, just the management of it.

Cllr Sennitt-Clough: Issuer with management company's green spaces.

Not our responsibility, but we have duty to residents to support them. Is there scope for Cllr Dorling to liaise with Alison Homes on the design of green space without taking any responsibility for it?

Cllr Laws: Management company is a civil matter between occupiers and sellers.

Cllr Boden: Correct to let them have their say. Lots of problems with management companies.

Cllr Wicks: Remind that all conversations should be 'without prejudice'.

Cllr Miscandlon: Propose to talk to Allison Homes on 4th November.

Cllr Gerstner LHI for the rising bollards (High Causeway) was **unsuccessful** in the latest round of bidding at CCC, where does this leave the project —

See above.

F145/2024. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.
None

F146/2024. To receive the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 16th September 2024 and report the minutes from Monday 14th October 2024
CB: mtg on 16/09 – draft minutes reported last meeting.

Draft minutes of 14/10 in pack. Bank recs to 30/09 – day before next tranche of payments from FDC. shows cash reserves at the lowest ebb of the year. – a healthy balance.
Suggest this figure be minuted every 6 months.

Propose that we approve vouchers to £899. Unanimous

Item 5 (phone system). Figures for 5- & 7-year options. 5-year options £95 & £120 per month.

Unanimous selection for Mercial at £95 per month

F147/2024 To report on the financial documents.

To report the bank reconciliation to 30th September 2024

To report on the list of payments & uncashed payments.

To report on the year-to-date figures

As above

F148/2024. To receive the minutes from the Planning meeting on Monday 30th September 2024 and report the minutes from Monday 14th October 2024.

Approved

F149/2024. Consultations

Cllr Laws Whittlesey Relief Road Consultation:..

All details are published on posters and social media and web sites. It is important that 2 open-day events are well attended.

4 options to be displayed.

Cllr Boden: important consultation.

Cllr Sennitt-Clough: important to make feelings known. Event at Aldi 9am to 3pm.

Petition is not political.

Active Travel Hierarchy Consultation

Cllr Boden: fake consultation – result will be that we don't want to use our cars!

F150/2024 Information only.

Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Wood update — Attached.
In pack

Climate Leader Representative — Community Hub – Attached
In pack

Street Pride Update — Attached _
LHI — panel results — Attached _
In pack

Role of Leader — Cllr Mockett
Dealt with in private.

Petition

Thanks to Cllrs Laws/Sennitt-Clough for help. On several forums.

Cllr Sennitt-Clough: understand it's a CCC petition, following their guidelines.
So was the Ely 20mph petition. They had hard copies available. Cllr Boden will find out.

Cllr Laws how long is it open for? – 6 months. B1040 predicted to be closed at least 3 times in this period.

Cllr Arman reported the A605/B1040 petition currently has **554** signatures; **3000** needed in order to have it debated by CCC; it was suggested that, in addition to the online form, hard copies be made available at Peel House and W'sey library for those without Internet access.

F151/2024 Invitations.

F 153/2024. Exclusion of the press and public

F154/2024. To discuss those items previously agreed at agenda item F138/2024

F152/2024. Date of next meeting —Thursday 21st November 2024 6:30

To find out 'who' your Councillor is – please go to the [Whittlesey Town Council Website](http://www.whittleseytowncouncil.gov.uk).

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 14+ years both as a member of the public and as a Town and District Councillor.

I have made 8,500+ postings on this site.

I had over 5,000,000 hits on this site.

I have been elected as the **Independent** Fenland District Councillor for The South Ward of Whittlesey along with Gurninder Singh Gill (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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FRG 2022

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