

WTC Meeting Thursday 16th April 2026

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AGENDA (Previously published on this Web-Blog)

(This report is from Cllr Barry Wainwright's Notes).....

7 Members of the public in attendance.

Whittlesey Town Councillors in attendance, AM, (Alex Miscandlon), PB, (Peter Bibb), DD (Dianna Dickinson), AB, (Alec Branton), BNW, (Barry Wainwright) CB, (Chris Boden) ED, (Eamonn Dorling) DL, (Dee Laws) HN, (Haq Nawaz), BW, (Bob Wicks) RG, (Roy Gerstner) JM, (Jason Mockett).



F259/2026. To receive apologies from absent members and the reason for the absence
Apologies from from SA, (Saheed Arman).

No (again) apologies from GSG, (Gurninder Singh Gill).

F260/2026. 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 to decide which items are to be discussed as confidential under agenda item number F275/2025

DL: Portfolio holder for planning at FDC.

RG: Member of Planning committee at FDC.

ED: Member of SOAK Education Trust.

BNW: A long time since we had a report.

DL: Do not accept their apology. It has been too long. We pay for the CCTV.
They should supply a report.

AM: Will send email to Aaron Lock, at risk of losing contract.

F261/2026. Street Scene Officer Report & CCTV update

None received. To be supplied every three months – due next month.

F262/2026 Police Report and figures.

None Received.

RG: Police liaison meeting online three weeks ago, only one present – RG.

DL: Only notification received for public meeting. Also AM.

Total Crimes Reported			
Town/ Village	Previous Quarter	Current Quarter	Difference
	Sept - Nov	Dec - Feb	
March	486	402	-84
Wimblington	25	13	-12
Doddington	44	24	-20
Chatteris	150	160	10
Manea	15	27	12
Whittlesey	204	204	0
Turves	1	3	2
Coates	13	4	-9
Eastrea	11	2	-9
Benwick	5	9	4

Shopliftings			
Town/ Village	Previous Quarter	Current Quarter	Difference
	Sept - Nov	Dec - Feb	
March	11	16	5
Wimblington	0	0	0
Doddington	0	1	1
Chatteris	6	7	1
Manea	1	0	-1
Whittlesey	10	4	-6
Turves	0	0	0
Coates	3	0	-3
Eastrea	1	0	-1
Benwick	0	0	0

Theft from Motor Vehicle Crimes			
Town/ Village	Previous Quarter	Current Quarter	Difference
	Sept - Nov	Dec - Feb	
March	13	11	-2
Wimblington	0	0	0
Doddington	0	0	0
Chatteris	2	6	4
Manea	0	0	0
Whittlesey	3	2	-1
Turves	0	0	0
Coates	0	0	0
Eastrea	1	0	-1
Benwick	0	0	0

Residential Burglary Crimes			
Town/ Village	Previous Quarter	Current Quarter	Difference
	Sept - Nov	Dec - Feb	
March	8	6	-2
Wimblington	0	0	0
Doddington	0	1	1
Chatteris	7	2	-5
Manea	0	2	2
Whittlesey	4	7	3
Turves	1	0	-1
Coates	0	1	1
Eastrea	0	0	0
Benwick	0	0	0

F263/2026. To confirm and sign the Minutes from the Meeting of the Council on Thursday 19th March 2026

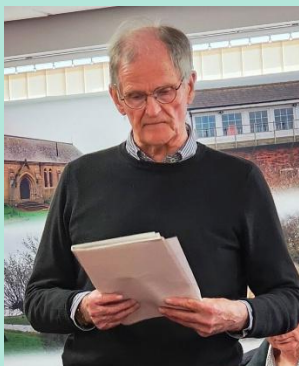
DL: Correction: 242/26 – DL made her usual.

PB: Math Funding should be Match Funding. Also, if we put in £60k, we should get £120k, not £20k Signed with those corrections.

F264/2026 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.

7 Members of the public present



Stephen Hodson: Fenland resident over 50 years.
Understand A605 to be closed at BP garage.
What mitigation, and how will residents be informed?

Why not a scoping report to relief road?
Alternative methods of construction for fenland soil?
In Fenland Citizen an article on sale of Barclays Bank in March.
FDC to suffer a large loss. Buyer chosen, has 6 months to get planning permission. Why didn't FDC get PP? Would help with sale.

Suspend SO

CB: BP garage closure. Still concerned at lack of info. Put off from January. Shocked to find out that other utilities wanted to close the road there. To best of knowledge no provision made for mitigation. Have asked for weekend work to reduce weekday working. Second closure has been stopped. All utilities together. Problems with one getting permissions in place, so whole project delayed. Should be 14 days minimum notice.

Barclays Bank – FDC made surprising profit. Better to make bidder apply for PP.



Matthew Leban, Aspire Learning Trust:

OFSTED at New Road this week.

SHSCC has had challenging period. Work done since ML arrived 12 months. Transport into Whittlesey limits recruitment. All secondary schools are now academies, so CCC not doing improvements.

Set ambitious 5-year plan:

1. Excellent education. First & foremost.
2. Financial Stability – suffering from LG lack of funding
3. Recruit great people. Not easy.
4. Exceptional enrichment (with thanks to Paul Bristow).
Trips to Duxford, Cambridge, museums etc. Coach cost £1k.
5. Community leadership. Work in partnership with WTC & others.
6. Fabulous facilities. Available for school and community use out of hours.

Three big challenges.

Attendance. Not where it should be, especially year 11- **81%** attendance today, despite exams. School pressing hard. Poorly educated live 20 years less than general population. Year 9 at 91% attendance. Primary schools much better.

Recruitment. Good at retaining but not attracting. Many staff attended SHS. Growing. New buildings. Need new teachers.

SEND Funding. Hertfordshire dreadful, Cambs even worse. Letter sent to DfE, fobbed off. Owed £0,5m for provision not funded. AJS has similar problems. School is paying for provision but not being reimbursed.

Extra support is going in. No. of complaints has gone down. Positive SM messages going out.

JM: Not receiving money? Resident of Whittlesey waiting 2 yrs for EHCP plan – No money.No support. ML: Please refer details.

HN: Invitation triggered by OFSTED report, but only one of the metrics. Whittlesey 'Cinderella' of Fenland. Life expectancy 74, Wisbech 72, Warboys 94! Visited the school. Was delighted to see school & facilities. Children's behaviour very well behaved, very polite. OFSTED report asked about. All questions answered. School cannot do everything. Parents & community have a role. One issue is

lack of aspiration. Needs whole community and parents. Lack of participation in Parents evening & parents forum is concerning. It is getting better but needs more.

SEND is of great concern, nationally. Considerable concerns for young people in Whittlesey. Have arranged for Skills Committee (SHSCC could not participate). Hope to produce some initiative to address deprivation.

BW: SEND is a big problem. Know many who have been fighting for years. Applaud fact that CC are here, hope it will be taken forward.

PB: Pleased to hear about enrichment. Had meeting with Paul Trevelick(?). Come up with a few ideas. Trying to access funding.



CB: Not much that school can do to improve position on EHCPs. County council problem. On SEND issue, appalled to hear of money not paid. Willing to give every assistance. Will get written question on next meeting of CCC.

ED: Appreciate attendance. Pleased that not batting figure around. Could you say what proportion of intake come from PE7 postcode schools? ML: more than half?

Transport is double edged teachers need to drive. Acts as a retention for pupils!

What do you want us to do?

ML: Attendance is a national issue, but any help would be good. Looking for money!

DL: What happened to truant officer? ML: would love one, but needs private funding? Over one hundred absent today. DL: what about volunteers.

DD: six stakeholders. Governing body; education dept; teachers; parents; community.

SO, Resumed

F265/2026 Agenda items for Discussion.

Proposal; To use Parish Online software to assist the clerk ED.

Not just the clerk. Provides help for all councillors.

All county councils use mapping software, but not all district & town/parish.

Often challenged on expense – free for 12 months.

Ordnance survey map of area, overlaid with other info. EPC values of houses, ownership of land/hedgerows etc, river info. Printable map at end. Could use it for asset register for WTC or FDC.

Environmental info could plot all trees at Platinum wood. Change of councillors, legacy info retained. Can be set up with clerk in control. All councillors can have input.

Request to consider use. 12 months free has started.

CB: [Point of Order] should be referred to F&P. ED to put report into F&P for circulation.

AM: agreed. Needs a lot more information.

DL: thanks to ED for investigation. Maybe should have consulted clerk. Not really for FC, should be F&P. A lot of info described already accessed other ways.

Proposal; Planning appeal – land next to 61 Wisbech Road, Coates CB

CB: Planning Committee already expressed opposition. Appeal submissions 12 May – need authority to submit further letter of opposition. Expand with increasing problems on A605.

HN: Urge all members to submit an objection.

DL: Appeal is public.

Proposed BNW, seconded BW; unanimous with two abstentions (RG&DL abstain due to planning roles at FDC)

Proposal; Minutes of Southern Relief Road meeting CB

Ad Hoc meetings. FDC producing new local plan – part of which is transport statement. Whittlesey & Chatteris do not have 'gold standard' traffic data. Need this to feed into local plan. Need data to oppose additional housing on A605.

All suggestions from minutes attached to tender for report for FDC plan.

BNW: asks if *DRAFT* minutes can be published as it may be some time before another meeting is convened to approve the minutes. Agreed by all.

F266/2026. To receive Councillor & outside body reports.

None received.

F267/2026. To report on the minutes from the Finance & Policy Meeting on Monday 16th March 2026
Circulated.

Recommend appoint a new internal auditor – Mark Saunders. Former chief financial accountant at FDC. Fee approx. £300. Already doing Wisbech.

CB/DL – unanimous

F268/2026 To report the financial documents.

To report the bank reconciliation to 28/Feb

To report the list of payments & uncashed payments.

ED: payment 6/2/26 – cheque for elections £5k+ CB: Byelection for Whittlesey northwest.

Remarkably quick time!

CB/DL – unanimous

To report the year-to-date figures

Cost centre analysis – £22k short of net. Final should be close to budget.

RG: Commendable to be on target with budget. CB: More luck than judgement!

F269/2026. To report on the minutes from the Planning Meeting on Monday 30th March 2026

OK

F270/2026. To report on the minutes of the Community Projects meeting on 30th March 2026

RG: Can you confirm how the invoicing of the allotments is going?

BNW: about 50% of payments already received (payment due date is end of month). Several plots recovered by council for re-letting, six plots relet this week alone. Waiting list has fifty-nine. Current new tenants have been waiting for 15 months.

F271/2026. Consultations

None received

F272/2026 Information only.

ED: FEN (Fenland environmental network) & CNI (nature recovery from ground up)

JM: Pride in Place update

Meeting last week, not a WTC project.

Church St - Difficult to put park in. Open as open space with benches

Station Road Rec - Give it another go, move to bottom, add additional lighting, cut hedges down for visibility.

Wanted to put something in Birds estate - Teal Road not really suitable wood is at end of life, can be refurbished.

Thornham Way only has toddler equipment – will add junior equipment.

F273/2026 Invitations.

None received

F274/2026 Date of next meeting – Thursday 14th May 2026 6:30pm

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www.whittleseytowncouncil.gov.uk

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

I have over 10,250+ postings on this site.

10.2 million + 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 do 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



**WHITTLESEY
TOWN COUNCIL**



MUSIC ON THE SQUARE
June 14th | July 12th | August 9th

