



## Chatteris Town Council Update

**August 2019**

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### **Street Pride and Community Groups**

July 9<sup>th</sup> saw Chatteris judged for Anglia in Bloom. During the month the In Bloom group were busy finalising last minute touches and maintenance to existing projects. The group now eagerly await the results in September.

Also this month, Green Dog Walkers scheme was launched in the town. The community led initiative involves dog owners pledging to clean up after their dog and encouraging others to be responsible dog owners too.

At the event held at Furrowfields Recreation Ground, 24 dogs registered to the scheme.

### **Environmental Health**

#### **National Licensing Week 17 to 23 June 2019**

As part of national Licensing Week FDC officers have carried out joint compliance visits to a variety of licensed premises. Officers from Police, Cambs Fire & Rescue and Cambs Trading Standards joined FDC Environmental Health Officers working in teams making unannounced visits. They gave advice and guidance to business operators and undertook proportionate enforcement action where non-compliance was found. Issues included:

- Sale of illicit tobacco
- Inadequate fire precautions in living accommodation above two business premises
- Unsafe access to a cellar and first floor room used for storage of food and packaging
- Unsafe hard wired electrics, fittings and extension cables
- Lack of safety measures for lone workers
- Unstable storage of stacked trays of beers cans
- Food businesses not properly registered with FDC

- Significant amount of out date food and drink found in retail stores
- Rodent activity

Officers will be following up on these issues to ensure compliance is achieved and appropriate sanctions are taken against those responsible.

Chatteris and surrounding villages Performance Report : July 2019	
<b>Food Safety Inspection Plan:</b>	
Number of food safety interventions completed	<b>2</b>
Number of Food Safety Warning Letters/ Notices sent	<b>0</b>
Number of Food Safety Advice letters sent	<b>2</b>
<b>Food Hygiene Rating Scheme</b>	
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score went UP	<b>1</b>
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score went DOWN	<b>0</b>
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score STAYED THE SAME	<b>1</b>
<b>Requests for Service</b>	
Total number of Requests for Service received in 2019/2020	<b>76</b>
Number of Requests for Service <b>received in July 2019</b>	<b>19</b>
Number responded to within 5 working days	<b>19</b>

## Streetscene

Performance	
Total number of hours out and about on patrol in the local community:	70hrs
Number of cleansing inspections carried out:	16 Mills ward = 9 Wenneye ward = 7
Percentage of cleansing inspections found to be of a suitable standard:	100%

## Tidy Fenland Campaign

The Green Dog Walkers campaign in the town was launched on Friday 5th July, in Furrowfields Road open space. 19 dog walkers and 23 dogs joined us for our launch and have signed up to be ambassadors for the campaign. The press coverage has also prompted several more enquiries since it was reported with a further 2 people signing up. The day went well and the feedback was that walkers were looking forward to promoting the message and felt confident they could talk with other dog owners about the issues.

The dog bag dispenser is being monitored to see how effective this is. Everyone we spoke to thought it was a good idea but there were concerns that it may be vandalised. We have had 1 report that youths were pulling bags out and then putting them straight in the bin but they were confronted and ran off. This has been the only act. We have noticed that the bags are being used up very quickly so are suspecting people are taking handfuls more than just what they need. The nature of the dispenser means people can't just pull them out on a roll but have to tear them off individually which helps to minimise waste. We have been trialling stocking it up with small amounts little and often which seems to work well. We are aware this is a trial and a novelty so we'll see how this settles down.

## Fly tipping

The total number of fly tipping instances recorded for June 2019 is 112. This, broken down into areas, is as follows:

- Chatteris – 7
- March – 6
- Whittlesey – 17
- Wisbech – 50
- Villages – 32
- Total – 112

The majority of the fly tipping was household related with 64 instances followed by 12 commercial related and 9 electrical. There were just 5 instances of green waste.

Fly tipping at Fenton Way was found to contain evidence and the suspect has been contacted. The Pocket Park fly tip contained no evidence, while the waste to the rear of properties in Tithe Road was referred to Clarion as the landowners.

### **Abandoned Vehicles (to 29<sup>th</sup> July)**

19 vehicles have been reported and investigated as abandoned across the Fenland area in July. The majority of the others were investigated but did not meet our criteria for abandoned vehicles. There was just 1 vehicle reported as abandoned in Chatteris – this is on private land and landowner's permission is being sought before we can take any action.

### **Enforcement actions this month**

- 45 FPNs have been issued by Kingdom up to the 29<sup>th</sup> July.
  - 25 of these were in Wisbech, 15 in March, 4 in Whittlesey and 1 in Chatteris.
  - 39 were for smoking related litter offences, 3 for food related, 2 for spitting and 1 other.
  - The age groups were across the board
  - 76% of the totals were male.
- 1 interview under caution took place following the discovery of evidence in fly tipping.

### **Street Scene issues in Chatteris**

- Untidy gardens were reported in Railway Lane & Mayfly Close – following inspection, and without public health issues, we were unable to act on these but did offer words of advice to the occupiers.
- A business was spoken to following their waste being disposed of unlawfully in black bags – they had run out of commercial waste bags. The matter has been resolved and we will monitor them going forward.
- High hedge advice was given to a resident of The Elms whose neighbours conifers were causing problems.
- Advice was sought from a resident of Boadicea Court who is experiencing problems with inconsiderate parking.
- Brambles were cut back on the Furrowfields car park to avoid injury to passing pedestrians.
- A report of someone living in a horsebox was investigated and the owner spoken to.
- The footpath from Southampton Place to London Road was overgrown – Cambs.CC highways have requested Community Payback to cut back the overhanging shrubs.
- A damaged manhole surround at The Elms was forwarded to landowners Clarion.

## Planning Enforcement

Performance	
Service Requests received in July 2019	3
Total number of Service Requests in 2019-20	11
Cases Closed this month	2 (9 in year to date)
Notices Served	0

With regard to the 2 cases closed in the month, in 1 case the breach was resolved by the submission of a retrospective planning application and the grant of planning permission. In the other case, the investigation concluded that the reported development did not require planning permission.

## Open Spaces

July's mixture of rain and heatwave has seen great growing conditions in the town and the contractor has worked successfully to keep on top of the mowing requirements. The park areas look good, cemeteries are up to standard and the smaller outdoor and play areas maintained in accordance with the contract. Chatteris in Bloom inspection took place in mid-July and although results are not in, the panel was impressed by the town as a whole and the array of sustainable planter areas brought in earlier in the year. The colours in the beds, originally primarily purple have now included much yellow and red and the overall effect is very pleasing.

Additional work completed includes fence line clearance in New Road cemetery, the wall in St Peter & Paul church, the removal of a tree in Wenny Rec and removal of picnic bench in St Peters. Bids for improvements to the play area in Wenny Rec have been received and evaluated.

Tree work in the cemeteries, identified in inspection reports earlier in the year, are also being scheduled to take place in due course

## Useful Contacts

Issue	Contact Details
Street Pride Coordinator	Rebecca Robinett <a href="mailto:rrobinett@fenland.gov.uk">rrobinett@fenland.gov.uk</a> 01354 602134
Streetscene Officer	Anne Marshall <a href="mailto:amarshall@fenland.gov.uk">amarshall@fenland.gov.uk</a> 07717 866963
Environmental Health Officer	Dawn Sadler <a href="mailto:dsadler@fenland.gov.uk">dsadler@fenland.gov.uk</a> 01354 622492
CCTV	Aarron Locks <a href="mailto:alocks@fenland.gov.uk">alocks@fenland.gov.uk</a> 01354 622481
Planning Enforcement & Section 106	Nick Harding <a href="mailto:nharding@fenland.gov.uk">nharding@fenland.gov.uk</a> 07920 160161
Open Spaces	Simon Bell <a href="mailto:sbell@fenland.gov.uk">sbell@fenland.gov.uk</a> 01354 622516
General issues (Please contact Tash if there are any specific issues or matters arising that you would like including in the next newsletter)	Tash Stokes <a href="mailto:nstokes@fenland.gov.uk">nstokes@fenland.gov.uk</a> 01354 622317