



Chatteris Town Council Update

March 2020

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Street Pride and Community Groups

February saw Chatteris In Bloom / Street Pride continue to maintain existing projects and hold their monthly litter pick.

At the litter pick held down Stocking Drove, around 20 bags of waste was collected. Fly tipping found at this location was reported to Fenland District Council.

Also this month a very kind resident made and donated bug boxes to the group for use around the town. The boxes were made from recycled pallets. It is hoped the boxes will go up in sites where biodiversity could be improved.

Environmental Health

A prosecution taken early this year due to poor food safety and hygiene practices has been successful.

Officers were able to evidence a long history of non-compliance with food hygiene legislation and a visit in February 2019 revealed that the standards were so poor that there was an imminent risk to health. This was evidenced as poor cleanliness, cross contamination risks and poor temperature control. The premises were closed whilst the immediate issues were addressed.

This was not the first time this particular food premises had to be closed and the seriousness of the offences meant a prosecution was necessary. The operator pleaded guilty to breaching food hygiene regulations and was fined £2000 and ordered to pay £1000 costs to the Council. Thankfully the majority of food businesses across Fenland are very good and comply with current food safety legislation. However, there are some who do not think food hygiene laws need to be followed and these often need to be dealt with in a formal enforcement manner.

**Chatteris and surrounding villages
Performance Report : February 2020**

Food Safety Inspection Plan:	
Number of food safety interventions completed	7
Number of Food Safety Warning Letters/ Notices sent	0
Number of Food Safety Advice letters sent	7
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme	
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score went UP	1
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score went DOWN	0
Number of Food Safety Premises whose score STAYED THE SAME	6
Requests for Service	
Total number of Requests for Service received in 2019/2020	225
Number of Requests for Service received in February 2020	20
Number responded to within 5 working days	20

Streetscene

Performance	
Total number of hours out and about on patrol in the local community:	62
Number of cleansing inspections carried out:	15 Wenneye 8no. & Mills 7no.
Percentage of cleansing inspections found to be of a suitable standard:	100%

Tidy Fenland Campaign – Green Dog Walkers

In these colder months we are continuing with our dog fouling prevention. Dog patrols are continuing across Chatteris where we know dog walkers frequent. These include all the open spaces and main footpaths. We are checking signs whilst out, renewing where needed and following up on reports.

We have carried out specific patrols in New Road, Park Street, High Street, St Martins Road, Ash Grove, Larham Way, Farriers Gate, East Park Street, Victoria Road and Market Hill. A count was undertaken of fouling's seen and we arranged for them to be removed. Additional signs have been erected. A metal sign was replaced at the Furrowfields Road play area, following damage.

The dog bag dispenser in Furrowfields is well used and regularly refilled.

A written warning has been sent to a resident of Tithe Road that has allegedly been allowing their dog to stray and foul on the highway and front gardens.

Fly tipping

The total number of fly tipping instances recorded for January 2020 is 144 – an increase of 22. This, broken down into areas, is as follows:

Chatteris –4

March –26

Whittlesey – 11

Wisbech – 45

Villages – 58

Total – 144

The majority of the fly tipping was household related with 73 instances, 22 were vehicle related and 14 of electrical and commercial waste.

We have identified the owner and address of a vehicle suspected of fly tipping on the Chatteris by-pass. Our next step will be to call this person in for a formal interview under caution.

Abandoned vehicles to 23rd February

22 vehicles have been reported and investigated this month across the Fenland area – 5 of these were in Chatteris. 4 were parking issues, 1 of these had been reported previously, where the untaxed vehicle was parked outside the owners' property, and the other was not at the reported location.

Street Scene issues

- 287 memorials were inspected in Meeks (General) cemetery – to complete the safety inspections at this cemetery for another 5 years.

- Clarions were advised of a hedge in Birch Avenue that is under their ownership and had not been maintained for 4 years.
- Highways were advised of a deep pothole in Ash Grove.
- A street light in Furrowfields Road was reported as the bottom plate was not attached, exposing wiring.
- High winds caused damage in the cemetery, blowing over a tree. 2 unauthorised benches were also blown over, causing damage to them.

Planning Enforcement

Performance	
Service Requests received in February 2020	2
Total number of Service Requests in 2019-20	30
Cases Closed this month	2 (35 in year to date)
Notices Served	0

With regard to the 2 cases closed in the month, both breaches off planning control were resolved through the submission and approval of retrospective planning applications.

Open Spaces

Winter shrub tidy-up has proceeded as planned, minor tree works have also taken place. Work on clearing graves, plugging and general clearance took place in both cemeteries with more to be completed later this month. All the drains alongside the taps have been cleared in the cemeteries.

The new play area at Wenny Rec continues to be popular although instances of bottles being smashed in the climbing area have been reported. A formal opening for the play area is due in spring.

The mowing season commences on 2nd March.

Useful Contacts

Issue	Contact Details
Street Pride Coordinator	Rebecca Robinett rrobinett@fenland.gov.uk 01354 602134
Streetscene Officer	Anne Marshall amarshall@fenland.gov.uk 07717 866963
Environmental Health Officer	Dawn Sadler dsadler@fenland.gov.uk 01354 622492
CCTV	Aarron Locks alocks@fenland.gov.uk 01354 622481
Planning Enforcement & Section 106	Nick Harding nharding@fenland.gov.uk 07920 160161
Open Spaces	Simon Bell sbell@fenland.gov.uk 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 nstokes@fenland.gov.uk 01354 622317