



Chatteris Town Council Update

May 2020

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Street Pride and Community Groups

Due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic events, groups are still not conducting any activities at this time.

The Street Pride Co-ordinator remains in contact with the groups and has encouraged them to stay in touch including if they just fancy a chat.

Groups themselves are finding alternative ways, to meeting in person, to keep in touch with each other. Many are using social media and the newly formed street pride group in Christchurch met online via video conferencing platform Zoom to discuss future plans and just say hello.

Environmental Health

More than 150 reports of business closure issues reported by both the public and business community have been received since the end of March. These have in the main been resolved with either a visit or telephone call. Further guidance is expected soon from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government which, it is hoped, will support greater consistency for certain business sectors. Requests for advice from both the public and businesses can be referred to envhealth@fenland.gov.uk and a response will be provided.

There is an increased number of reports relating to noise from neighbours and burning in gardens. These are being responded to with advice and support; many of the reports are linked to people being at home for extended periods of time therefore being exposed to these issues more than usual.

Streetscene

Performance – (Month)	
Total time out and about on patrol in the local community:	51hrs
Number of cleansing inspections carried out:	8 in Birch, 7 rural (Manea)
Percentage of cleansing inspections found to be of a suitable standard:	100%

Tidy Fenland Campaign – Green Dog Walkers

Street Scene officers are still offering support to the community and are working (albeit with social distancing) as normal. We are continuing to monitor our open spaces and with our intervention methods to promote responsible dog ownership. This includes topping up the bag dispenser in Furrowfields Road open space and replacing litterbin signs to remind dog walkers they can be used to dispose of their dogs waste.

We have received a few enquiries about dog fouling along more rural footpaths and so have been out as well as reminding people to be responsible dog owners via our social media.

We have also been assisting our cleansing colleagues with ensuring the bins around the town are emptied regularly.

A consultation for refresh of the dog control enforcement powers will start in May. Please use the link below to take part:

<https://www.fenland.gov.uk/consultations>

Fly tipping

The total number of fly tipping instances recorded for March, 2020 is 114.

This, broken down into areas, is as follows:

Chatteris –3

March –33

Whittlesey – 5

Wisbech – 31

Villages – 42

Total – 114

The majority of the fly tipping was household related with 68 instances, 9 were vehicle related, 8 were electrical, with 8 each of commercial and green waste. Surprisingly, 8 animal carcasses were also found and removed from various locations.

There have been several loads of waste fly tipped and burnt on private farmland between Doddington Road and Fenland Way. A witness has forwarded details with photographs of the alleged offenders' vehicle. This is being investigated to assist the land owner with advice on removal and to find out who may be responsible.

We are continuing with our patrols as normal, as a lot of this is lone working. We have been visiting areas which suffer from fly tipping. In these difficult times we are trying to ensure we are still able to focus on the Council's priorities.

With the recent closure of the household recycling centres, we are monitoring to see if this affects fly tipping. So far this has not had a noticeable impact, but it is still early days and the team remains proactive in fly tipping prevention and investigations.

Abandoned vehicles (to 28th April)

9 vehicles have been reported this month across the Fenland area with just one abandoned caravan being removed by our contractor from a March location. There were no abandoned vehicle reports from Chatteris residents this month.

Street Scene issues

- Covid 19 closure signs have been put up in all open spaces, closing the gated play areas and reminding visitors to adhere to the social distancing requirements.
- Checks were made to confirm a fire damaged horsebox had been removed from Fenton Way.
- A resident has been disposing of used cat litter on the entrance to grassland in Lancaster Way. Clarion Housing Association owns this land and has been informed.
- A fridge/freezer had been dumped and removed by FDC from the old railway line.
- Fly tipped asbestos sheets were reported in a dyke, but were outside Fenlands' boundary, so passed to East Cambs for action.
- The annual funfair has not been able to take place this year.
- Our Markets are counting to be open with those traders selling essential items seeing an increase in trade.

Planning Enforcement

Performance	
Service Requests received in April 2020	3
Total number of Service Requests in 2020-21	3
Cases Closed this month	1
Notices Served	0

The case closed was found to be one that we were already investigating.

Open Spaces

Unfortunately all play areas have had to be closed as required by government guidance. Signs have been put up and skate parks are also closed. Public have been very supportive of the new requirements. There have been some instances of vandalism,

The grass cutting operation has continued with Tivoli maintaining their very good start to the season and a month of warm weather has seen the parks and open spaces looking at their finest. Some challenges to staff whilst carrying out their work have been received on the basis of whether their work is essential but Tivoli and FDC have followed government guidelines – Communities Secretary, Robert Jenrick making it clear that parks must remain open - and common consensus is that their work in keeping the areas in good condition is much appreciated.

In the town, the following took place:

- Drop bollards St Peters Church installed
- Wildflower preparation St Peters Church
- New road grass verge cut missed – rectified immediately
- Tree grids Park Street topped up
- New Road cemetery – bollards installed to prevent parking on grass

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