



## Chatteris Town Council Update

September 2020

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

Chatteris Street Pride did not meet in August to partake in any activities.

The group intends to resume litter picking on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September taking into account COVID-19 safety measures at all times.

Keep Britain Tidy's campaign the Great British Spring Clean which was due to take place 20<sup>th</sup> March - 20<sup>th</sup> April was postponed. The Great British September Clean will now take place 11 – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

### **Environmental Health**

The Environmental Health Team continue to support local businesses wherever they can during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. Our emphasis is to assist businesses to open as safely as possible, helping them with the required written risk assessment and ensuring they have adequate controls in place to ensure safety not only for their staff but their customers too.

Over the last 4 months Environmental Health Officers have assisted over 400 local businesses with advice on re-opening safely. Our webpages are regularly updated to sure that local businesses are getting the most up to date advice. The wearing of masks in shops became law on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July. The Police are the enforcers for this part of the legislation however Env Health Officers are able to advise where necessary. Local businesses have required a great deal of support over the last few months and Env H Officers understand that they will need our advice more and more over the next few months.

## Chatteris and surrounding villages Performance Report : August 2020

<b>Food Safety Inspection Plan:</b>	
Number of food safety interventions completed	<b>1</b>
Number of Food Safety Warning Letters/ Notices sent	<b>0</b>
Number of Food Safety Advice letters sent	<b>1</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>0</b>
<b>Requests for Service</b>	
Total number of Requests for Service received in 2020/2021	<b>220</b>
Number of Requests for Service received in August 2020	<b>20</b>
Number responded to within 5 working days	<b>20</b>

## Streetscene

<b>Performance</b>	
<b>Total number of hours out and about on patrol in the local community:</b>	<b>59hrs</b>
<b>Number of cleansing inspections carried out:</b>	<b>15.</b> Slade Lode - 8 & Manea - 7
<b>Percentage of cleansing inspections found to be of a suitable standard:</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Green Dog Walkers – Dog behaviour**

We have been patrolling this month all the open spaces and alleyways. We make sure that we speak with all the dog walkers we see and ask for feedback on areas to patrol and appeal for information.

We are also pleased that we have had overwhelming support from the community following our recent Dog Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) consultation. The results of which were as follows;

- **Q1 Do you agree that we should make failing to remove dog faeces an offence?**  
97% said yes
- **Q2 Do you agree that it should be an offence if you fail to put your dog on a lead when asked by an authorised officer? This would be when the officer decides it is not being sufficiently supervised or the owner does not have it under control?**  
96% said yes
- **Q3 Do you agree that dogs should be kept on a lead at all times in specific public open spaces and areas; such as churchyards, closed cemeteries and open play areas?**  
89% said yes
- **Q4 Do you agree that it should be an offence to take any dog into specified parts of public open spaces and areas; such as open cemeteries and fenced children play areas?**  
81% said yes
- **Q5 Do you agree that a person who is found to contravene a Public Spaces Protection Order in relation to dog control shall receive a fixed penalty notice, requiring them to pay a fine within 28 days?**  
95% said yes
- **Q6 Do you agree with the fine should be increased from the current fine of £75 rising to £100 or £150?**  
32% for £100, 51% for £150 and 17% for staying at £75

With the public's support this will mean that we can apply to have the PSPO sealed and made enforceable for another 3 years.

### **Fly tipping**

The total number of fly tipping instances recorded for July 2020 is 131 which is an increase on June figures.

This, broken down into areas, is as follows:

Chatteris	4
March	14
Whittlesey	16
Wisbech	29

Villages	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>

The majority of the fly tipping was household related making up 87 instances. The remainder was made up of bulky electrical, green waste, vehicle related, and construction related waste.

Officers continue to try and find out who may be responsible for fly tipping we find. We have been able to look through 2 of the 4 piles in Chatteris. These were both in Birch Fen Drove, beside the A142 bypass. Officers found mainly builders waste from a bathroom renovation at 1 site and bricks on the second, with an inflatable boat, silver car front bumper and junior golf clubs. Despite searching the contents there was no evidence found at the scene.

To continue with our enforcement work we have issued 2 formal written warnings to a couple in response to a fly tipping incident where there was insufficient evidence for us to issue a fine.

### **Abandoned vehicles (to date)**

So far this month, 17 vehicles have been reported across the Fenland area, with none requiring to be removed by our contractor.

1 of these vehicles was in the Chatteris area, which was a motor scooter that appeared to have been dredged out of the 40ft drain and left beside the bridge on Doddington Road. Its road tax had expired in 1999, so it may have been there for some time, but despite its condition, was removed by persons unknown following a Notice being issued.

### **Nuisance Vehicles**

Furrowfields Road car park is being monitored closely as there appears to be multiple vehicles being parked here long term. 31 of the 39 bays in the South car park were occupied by various older cars for a substantial period, with a further 12 lined up on the northern car park. Street Scene is working closely with the Assets team to rectify this so that the parking is available for all.

### **Trade Waste**

A multi-agency site visit was carried out at Pera Palace in High Street, a multitude of issues was discovered including trade waste being stored and left to smell. We are working with the owner, manager and staff to get matters resolved.

### **Street Scene issues**

- Cemetery visits have found plots covered in artificial grass, a sunken grave in need of topping up and cremation slabs lifted. These have been reported.
- Overgrown and overhanging vegetation has been trimmed back in the cemeteries.

- Support and advice have been given to officers at Clarion Housing in relation to a fly tipping, dog fouling and recycling issue at the bin bay of their Bridge Street flats. Prevention methods were suggested including repairing the rear fence and to replace the bolt and padlock on the gate which may help improve the situation.
- A resident was spoken to when seen placing cat fouling down a nearby drain.
- The textile bank in Furrowfields Road was seen to be overflowing and has been reported to the agency for emptying.
- A hairdresser has been given words of advice about trade waste following being seen putting their waste out for collection in black bags. The proprietor was advised she needed to order correct commercial waste bags in order for them to be collected. A follow up visit is planned.
- Cambs. County Council Highways were contacted to report the bike rack in Park Street had been knocked over, only a few days after it had been installed.
- A cooling cabinet had been left outside the old toilets in Station Street – obviously from a nearby establishment, but no evidence was found as to which one. It was later removed by Cleansing staff.
- A car seen parking on the FDC owned grass area in Fairview Gardens Chatteris has been asked to find alternative parking.

## **Open Spaces**

The effect of Co-Vid 19 on the operation of the Open Spaces begins to lessen. All play areas have re-opened, though social distancing remains in place. Public, have, by and large, obeyed the rules although isolated instances of transgression and some vandalism (particularly Wenny Rec) have been reported. Play area inspections continue on a weekly basis. Should a second shutdown be required we have the steps in place to undertake this at short notice.

The grass cutting operation has continued uninterrupted with Tivoli continuing a very good start to the season and the constant mix of warm and wet weather has seen the parks and open spaces looking at their finest. Hedge cutting commenced at the start of July, continuing until October and praise for the quality of work to date has been received and appreciated. A number of tree works have been identified and will be undertaken through the contractor at the earliest opportunity.

In the town, the following took place:

- Church Walk – grass cut
- Tree work – Wenny Rec
- St Peters – Car park clearance/shrub work

## 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