It is nine months since the elections and we thank you for your support in electing us as your County, District, and Town Councillors. We hope that this Newsletter will keep you updated on a number of local projects and issues involving your Councillors in Whittlesey. If you have any feedback please do not hesitate to contact one of your Councillors, whose details are shown at the end of this Newsletter.

**Car Parks**

Fenland District Council has decided that they will not introduce charging for their car parks, which means that parking in Whittlesey will remain free. We all wrote to Fenland making them aware that we opposed the introduction of charges. They took on board all of the opposition and made the right decision.

**Sainsbury's**

It is disappointing for Whittlesey Town Council after their continuous support to receive the news from Sainsbury's that the proposed development along Eastrea Road, Whittlesey will not be going ahead, even allowing for the imminent expansion of Whittlesey. Sainsbury's recognise that this news will be disappointing, particularly given the strong level of support for a new supermarket in the area. This decision has hit a project that would have benefited Whittlesey by delivering a 54 acre Country Park and 11 acre non-retail Business Park. Planning permission has been granted for the Eastrea Road site – this may not be the end of the road, other options are being actively pursued.

**Land North of Snowley and Glenfields**

Outline planning permission has been granted for 150 x dwellings (max). The Reserved matters application relating to the detailed matters of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping is currently being considered by FDC Planning Committee. Whittlesey Town Council Planning Committee raised several concerns when responding to the application as consultees to Fenland District Council planning department. The application was due to be debated at FDC planning committee meeting on Wednesday 3rd February at 1.00pm at Fenland Hall, March. Ward Councillor Ray Whitwell and Whittlesey Town Council Planning Committee submitted presentations highlighting the areas of concern: the Open Space/Play area, Social Housing, Drainage, Flood Risk, Travel Plan, Site Clearance and construction working days/hours including site vehicle movements Management Plan.

**Kings Dyke Bridge**

Cambridgeshire County Council are finalising the plans for the bridge over the Railway at Kings Dyke. This is the final stage and the planning application should be heard in the next few weeks, and it is expected that work will commence in 2016.

**Green Wheel / Route 63 Cycle Way**

The Green Wheel / Route 63 Cycle Way runs in part from the ‘Field of Dreams’ at the Stonald Road end to Funthams Lane, near to the Millennium Bridge, and the section between Funthams Lane and Stonald Road is a Public Footpath and Cycle Way. A few landowners have legal right of access via Stonald Road, however most people who drive their vehicles along this Cycle Way do not. We are discussing ways to prevent these vehicles. We are determined to make sure that this Cycle Way is a safe area for cyclists and pedestrians and that the route is a traffic-free way for people to get safely and scenically from Whittlesey to Peterborough and vice-versa.

**Street Lighting**

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) are seeking to make budget savings by dimming or switching off most street lights between 2am and 6am after April 2016. We have reviewed their suggestions and made comments that selected lights should be left on. Not all street lights fall under CCC – some are maintained by Fenland District Council and these will not be affected. Also, the street lights on the A605 and B1040 will not be affected. We will make sure that all necessary public safety concerns are taken fully into account by the County Council.
Headlands Way and Yarwells Headlands Way ‘T’ Junction
We have responded to several reports from local residents involving near motor vehicle collisions by approaching Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department. We considered a carriageway safety review was necessary and following discussions recently hatched lines have been placed at the ‘T’ junction of Headlands Way. This will further alert motorist to stop and take in to account that traffic using Yarwells Headland carriageway has the right of way before entering the main traffic flow.

Commons Road – Improvement Scheme
Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed to improvements at the far end of Commons Road. Where there is just a grass verge, this area is going to be kerbed, with a footpath, and the road made up to the accepted standards. This work will be carried out in 2016.

Welcome to Whittlesey Town Council Website
Whittlesey Town Council has launched a website; the aim is to provide easy access to all Councillors and how to contact the Town Clerk. The site will keep our residents in touch with all Council meetings. The moving banner on the front page will give immediate information/updates on road closures and flood alerts. The Calendar page contains Council and Voluntary Organisations meetings and Town events/festivals. To access the new site just type in: www.whittleseytc.com

Whittlesey Neighbourhood Plan
Town Council has gained planning permission to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan that will help the Parish of Whittlesey take more control of where future development takes place. We have already started the process, and already we have met a great deal of enthusiasm from local residents and businesses. As part of the public forum our Schools, Churches, Local Police Officers, Drainage & Water Boards, Agent & Developers, Authorities & Voluntary Organisations are represented, We are now working on putting together a questionnaire/survey to be delivered to every household within Whittlesey enabling residents to ‘have their say’, submit any comments and suggestions. A Neighbourhood Plan should deliver a vision for our town, economic growth and a legacy of lifetime homes.

Delph Flood Warden Group
The Flood Warden Group was set up in 2013. It is a community voluntary group, where residents live in close proximity to the River Nene, Whittlesey Washes and regular flooding of North Bank Road, and The Wash Road/B1040. The group offers reassurance and practical help to the households in Stonald and Bassenhally Wards. We have been successful in obtaining permanent road safety closure gates and your Councillors are pressing for electronic signs to warn motorist before they get to the gates. Stonald Ward Councillors will continue to push for greater emphasis to be given to measures, which both alleviate the effects and reduce the risk of flooding. Flood Wardens encourage and ask residents to sign up to the free of charge service offered by The Environment Agency – visit “Floodline” www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline or call: 0845 988 1188. Households can receive messages by landline, text or e-mail but can decide to register for all three options. All personal information supplied is data protected and not shared with a third party. Floodline forms are also available from the Town Clerk, Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Road, Whittlesey.

Tour of Cambridgeshire Cycle Race
With the increased interest shown in cycling in this area, WTC have spoken to the event organisers about the possibility of bringing the race through Whittlesey in 2017. There are various viewpoints to be considered, so your opinion is being sought before March 2016, to allow a decision to be taken. You should receive details and survey form with this Newsletter. Please let us know whether you are in favour or against this. You may also complete the survey on WTC website: www.whittleseytc.com

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