



## Wisbech Town Council - The Town Plan - 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2014

Copies of the Town Plan are available at Wisbech Town Council from the office of the Town Clerk, Council Chamber, 1 North Brink. Wisbech. PE13 1JR. Tel: 01945 461333. Email [wisbechtc@aol.com](mailto:wisbechtc@aol.com). Or on the website [www.wisbechtowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.wisbechtowncouncil.org.uk).

*Reviewed and up-dated following the Annual Assembly for the town in April 2010, and the Town Council meetings in May 2010 .*

*Wisbech, in the County of Cambridgeshire, is on the crossroads to Lincolnshire and Norfolk, and known traditionally as the Capital of the Fens, but with limited powers since 1974 when it became a parochial council, instead of a borough. In keeping with its historic profile, however, and its importance to the infrastructure of the district there have recently been a number of significant developments in the town, including: the extensive and prestigious Harbour and Boathouse development, and the multi-million pound Wisbech Flood Defence Scheme. The harbour has been developed to provide berths for 128 yachts, boat lift and extensive repair facilities. The award winning, £4.2 million Boathouse offers extensive office space and conference facilities. The Flood Defence Scheme will sustain flood protection for nearly 10,500 homes and more than 1,200 businesses along the river Nene. Other new developments in Wisbech recently include: the purpose built Oasis Community and Children's Centre; Community House; Centre 4 Youth; and the Rosmini Community Centre. These have all been achieved by partnership working and community support, as well as substantial funding from various agencies. Wisbech Town Councillors and the Town Clerk are involved with many local organisations that have an impact on Wisbech, including the development of new library facilities for the town, funded by a combination of Big Lottery and County Council money. Other community funds that contribute to initiatives in Wisbech come from Fenland District Council and Roddens, the new housing association for Fenland District. Over 50% of Roddens housing stock is in fact in Wisbech, and they provide free use of Community House, Southwell Road, for community use.*

*Wisbech Town Council is proud to have been able to establish the new Wisbech Youth Council for young people between the ages of 12 and 19 who live, earn or learn in the town. Around twenty adolescents have been working closely with Wisbech Town Council and with Cambridgeshire County and Fenland District Councils to help improve the town. £850,000 has already been allocated for dedicated youth facilities, and a new youth centre has recently opened called Centre 4 at the Queen Mary Centre, which is also the location of the Town Library until the end of 2009, while the Main Library is being significantly improved. The library services are involved with Wisbech Youth Council to improve its services, and the Town Council also plans to organise both a music festival for young people and a multicultural food, music and dance festival each summer, in partnership with the Wisbech Youth Council, Wisbech Youth Extravaganza, and many others. Wisbech enjoys a significant and interesting heritage, which is reflected in such wonderful attractions as Peckover House and gardens ; Elgood's Brewery and gardens; Octavia Hills Birthplace House; Wisbech & Fenland Museum; Wisbech Castle; and the grade 2 listed Council Chamber, sandwiched between two banks on the beautiful North Brink of the town. Wisbech Town Council takes great pride in supporting the heritage of Wisbech, and of its other achievements, and is proud to produce the official Wisbech Town Guide 'Welcome to Wisbech', which promotes the town effectively, through the distribution of 15,000 copies of a rather beautiful magazine which includes a map as well as information about the 'old and new' aspects of Wisbech. Wisbech is twinned with the town of Arles, in the Camargue district of Southern France, which in itself is a beautiful historic town.*

*Wisbech achieved two Green Flag awards in 2008 for Wisbech Park and St Peter's Church Gardens. The town was also awarded the ultimate honour in the local Anglia in Bloom competition, achieving a Gold standard across all areas including; best local authority parks displays; best schools project; and most improved entry in 2008. A Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medal was also given and Wisbech was judged the Best Large Town in the Anglia Region. During the summer of 2009, Wisbech went on to win gold Britain in Bloom Competition, and is going to be striving to hold on to its title in 2010. Once again partnership working and volunteer action have been key to these achievements. Wisbech Town Council also recognises the many challenges that the town faces resulting from years of deprivation in the area, and elected Members of the Town Council have worked as individual councillors to support initiatives such as the exciting and effective changes and developments, such as the £35,000 new build programmed for the Thomas Clarkson Community College, and by supporting the Citizens' Advice Bureau.*

*The Town Council and the Youth Council meet regularly in the Council Chamber which is located on the first floor of the old Corn Exchange at 1 North Brink. The building has been used as a Council Chamber since 1835, and has a long tradition of serving the people of Wisbech. In 1974, Local Government re-organisation changed the Borough Council to a Town Council with parochial powers. The Borough Council at*

*that time gave everything that it possessed to the newly established Fenland District Council. One of the functions it did keep was that of the office of Mayor, who is also the Chairman of the Council and presides over the monthly full Council meetings held in the Council Chamber. The Council also has fortnightly Planning meetings, and regular Finance & General Purposes, Allotments, Civic Amenities, and Youth Council meetings. As well as having an open Annual Assembly each April, open to the public to attend and participate. The Council also has a public participation session at the start of every meeting to which press and public are invited. Details of meetings may be found on the website: [wisbechtowncouncil.org.uk](http://wisbechtowncouncil.org.uk), and on the notice board at 1 North Brink, Wisbech.*

**Wisbech Town Council continued with its commitment to support local voluntary and community organisations and Members agreed to provide grant support to the following groups for the tax year 2010/2011** In February 2010 the Council agreed to double its support to the Community by providing grants through a new Special Projects budget, and a small grants budget.

**The special projects supported by grant aid by Wisbech Town Council annually at the discretion of the Council. Special Projects taht received funding in April 2010 were as follows:**

The Wisbech and Fenland Museum - £6,000 ; Wisbech Town Library (held at Museum) - £1,000 ;  
Rose Fair - specifically to pay for park and ride - £1,500 ; Wisbech In Bloom - £2,000 ; Fenland Arts (Wisbech) - £1,000;  
Fenland CAB towards advice in Wisbech - £ 1,000 ; Wisbech Rock Festival - £5,000 ; Wisbech Youth Council - £1,500 ;  
Wisbech Christmas Market (Fenland District Council) - £1,000; St Johns Ambulance - £250 ; WisARD - £250 ; Arles Twinning NIL (held in abeyance at present) ; WOPWA (Wisbech Old Peoples Welfare Assoc) - £250.

**The small grants budget has a lower limit of £100 and an upper limit of £1,000. Grants from the small grants budget will only be considered for organisations that have made an application by the end of January. Grant support is limited to organisations whose headquarters are in or who operate substantially within the Parish boundaries of Wisbech Town Council, and who are not profit making or statutory bodies. Paid from the Small grants budget in April 2010 were the following:**

Kit Club (Keep in Touch) - £100 ; Wisbech & District Tourism Development Group - £100 ; Wisbech Rugby Union Football Club - £200 ;  
Wisbech & District Indoor Bowls Club - £200 ; Wisbech Swimming Club - £200 ; Wisbech Lawn Tennis Club - £200 ; Angles Theatre - £1,000 ;  
Wisbech Music Society - £200 ; The Wisbech Players - £200 ; Wisbech Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society - £200 ; 272 (Wisbech) Squadron  
Air Training Corps - £200 ; Volunteer Centre Fenland - £200 ; Wisbech & District Talking Newspaper - £100 ; St Augustine's Day Centre - £100  
St Raphael Club - £100 ; Friends of St Peter & St Paul Church (membership) £100 ; Wisbech Physically & Able Bodied Club PHAB - £100 ;  
FENVISION Isle of Ely Soc for the Blind (Wisbech ) - £100 ; Oasis Day Centre - £100 ; Wisbech Riding for the Disabled - £100.

Organisations may request application forms from the Clerk's office at 1 North Brink, Wisbech. PE13 1JR Tel: 01945 461333 or email [wisbehtc@aol.com](mailto:wisbehtc@aol.com).

The closing date for applications is 31 January each year for consideration. Applications are considered by Wisbech Town Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee at the scheduled meeting in February, and recommendations are put to the Full Council meeting in March. The grant awards are distributed in April.

This Town Plan is designed to detail the Town Council's objectives and strategy for Wisbech, together with budgetary implications and partnership details across a range of activities that the Council is either involved with or plans to be involved with.

It is not intended for this Town Plan to be either the definitive list, or set in stone, but rather to be a growing and developing Town Plan that will be reviewed and refreshed regularly, with a view to continuous improvement.

If at any time people who live, earn or learn in Wisbech have any proposals to make to the Town Council they should contact the Clerk's office at 1 North Brink, Wisbech. PE13 1JR Tel: 01945 461333 or email [wisbehtc@aol.com](mailto:wisbehtc@aol.com).

## The Partners

### ABBREVIATIONS:

CCC = Cambridgeshire County Council; FDC = Fenland District Council; WTC = Wisbech Town Council; C4 = Centre 4 Youth; CNHS = Cambridgeshire National Health Services; CALC = Cambridgeshire Association for Local Councils; SLCC = Society for Local Council Clerks; CiLCA = Certificate in Local Government Administration; CAB = Citizens Advice Bureau; WisARD = Wisbech Area Regeneration and Development Trust; WCDT = Wisbech Community Dvpt Trust; WOPWA = Wisbech Old Peoples Welfare Association; COWA = College of West Anglia; WYC = Wisbech Youth Council; WYE = Wisbech Youth Extravaganza.

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Achievement date</b>	<b>WTC Budget</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Achieve and maintain Quality Council Standards – and work towards objectives set in Annual Appraisals, and as approved by Council on an on-going basis, and as set out in this town plan.</b>	Achieve Quality Town Council Status	Dec 2007	Increases in Salaries/pensions/tax and National Insurance costs.	<b>CALC SLCC</b>
	Review and change staff responsibilities for Clerk and Deputy Clerk	April 2008		
	Review of staff hours – for Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Beadle	April 2008		
	Clerk and Deputy Clerk' s to achieve CiLCA qualification.	May 2008		
	Review of staff hours – Clerk and Deputy Clerk.	1 April 2009		
	Review of Financial Regulations	Feb 2010		
	Review of organisation/procedures/and the operation of the Council – new staff handbook .	March 2010		
	New Civic Handbook	March 2010		
	Review of staff hours for Allotments Inspector	April 2010		
Broadening of Committee structure and responsibilities	May 2010			
<b>Support initiatives that promote the economic and social development of Wisbech</b>	Provide expertise (councillor and officer representation on management boards etc).			As listed in action column

	<p>CALC; Christmas market; CAB; Community Safety; Fenland Arts; Fenland Links; MENCAP; Museum; Nene Waterfront; Nestle Purina Liaison; Parish Paths; Rose Fair; Wisbech in Bloom; Chamber of Commerce; Wisbech Charities; Cycle Forum; WOPWA; Tourism; Arles Twinning; WisARD; Library Devpt; WCDT(Oasis); School Boards.</p> <p>Invite groups to attend Council meetings to brief Councillors and lobby support.</p>			
<b>Support voluntary groups and community organisations in Wisbech, and for services and events dedicated to Wisbech.</b>	Provide grant support (refer to list on page 3 of this document).	1 Apr 2008	£11,600	As listed on page 3 of Town Plan.
<b>Support Civic Duty</b>	<p>The Mayor is not only the Chairman of the Town Council, but also its civic head and as such is in much demand to support schools; charities; voluntary organisations; events; openings; and a host of other civic duties.</p> <p>The Mayor is supported by the Mayor's secretary in the form of the Clerk or Deputy Clerk of the Council, and the Beadle.</p> <p>A full list of engagements is maintained in the Clerk's office.</p>		£6,000	<p>Refer to Mayor's engagements in office of the Clerk</p> <p>Includes: Veterans day Remembrance Mart Fair Statute Fair Christmas Lights Switch on Civic receptions</p>

	The Mayor reports back monthly to full council on the engagements s/he has attend on behalf of the Council. These may be up to three or four a week on average.			Rose Fair Apple Day Prize givings Assemblies Events Festivals Distribution Fund raising
<b>Reduce the incidence of crime and disorder in Wisbech.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase contribution to CCTV costs</li> <li>• Support Neighbourhood Management teams</li> </ul> <p>Support Wisbech Designated Public Places Order</p>	<p>1 Apr 2007 1 Apr 2008 1 Apr 2009</p> <p>1 Apr 2008</p> <p>October 2008</p>	<p>£12,500 £19,000 £25,000</p>	<p>FDC</p> <p>Police, Community groups, FDC</p>
<b>Improve the port area of Wisbech</b>	<p>Support the Nene Waterfront project to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thoroughly clean and clear the site, which had been heavily contaminated and an eyesore.</li> <li>• Increase capacity of yacht harbour to 128 berth holders in Wisbech.</li> <li>• Increase the capacity of the boat lift.</li> <li>• Improve the slipway so that it can facilitate 120 tonnes.</li> <li>• Bring a lot of skilled jobs into the area generated by the current boatlift and boat refurbishment and repairs, and even more so when the larger boatlift is completed.</li> </ul>	2007		<p><b>Nene Development –</b></p> <p>FDC committed £1.3 million to lever in £50 million regeneration funds of which £40 million was private sector investment.</p> <p>The Boathouse cost £4.2 million of the total cost</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed housing development on the Nene waterfront sites form part of the local planning framework and any developer will have to adhere to those conditions.</li> <li>• The Boathouse to provide premises for 120 business people.</li> </ul> <p>Promote the Boathouse and business opportunities available as a result of the development (editorial in Town Guide and offer of advertising space).</p> <p>Use the Boathouse for civic functions where appropriate.</p>			
<p><b>Make available for public use, derelict and underused large public and private buildings in Wisbech</b></p>	<p>Invite FDC officers to address the Town Council.</p> <p>Lobby FDC to exercise public safety, compulsory purchase and any other powers they have to discourage owners from leaving their premises empty and derelict.</p> <p>Investigate the opportunities for grants, and other means to acquire, and bring into public use unused buildings such as the Corn Exchange, and derelict buildings in the High Street.</p>			<p>FDC Heritage Lottery CCC Private individuals</p>

<p><b>Support library facilities in Wisbech</b></p>	<p>WTC Consider planning applications and give a considered view to facilitate improvements to the library service in Wisbech.</p> <p>WTC Invites CCC officers from the library service and the portfolio holder to address the Council and describe any proposals.</p> <p>Senior Member plus Town Clerk serve on the Community Management Board during the library development</p> <p>Town Clerk serves on the design workshop.</p> <p>WTC represented on the Community Management Board for the new library.</p>			<p>Big Lottery</p> <p>CCC</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Library service</p> <p>Community Management Board</p>
<p><b>Encourage Tourism/promote the heritage of Wisbech Town</b></p>	<p>Produce a 32 to 48 page Town Guide (15,000 copies). Size and number of copies is dependant on advertising sales (annually or as required)</p> <p>Ensure that it has features on the old and the new, such as Peckover House and the Nene Waterfront Boathouse + Map + it is free.;</p> <p>Disseminate Town Guide widely through Tourist information, Libraries, shops.</p>			<p>FDC, CCC, Peckover, Octavia Hill, Oasis, Rosmini, Centre 4, Museum, Castle, Boathouse etc.</p>
<p><b>Safeguard and promote the heritage of the Council Chamber</b></p>	<p>Wisbech Town Guide (produce) – to promote the heritage of the town.</p>			<p>Public Catalogue</p>



	refreshments or catering: £225 for morning (9 am to 12 noon); £275 for afternoon 1pm to 4pm); or £350 for Saturdays either 9 am – 12 noon, or 1 pm to 4 pm.			
<b>Improve traffic flow in usage.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WTC receives regular updates from Highways and participates in consultation</li> </ul>			CCC
<b>Provide a rail link between Wisbech and March</b>	<p><b>WTC invites pressure groups to speak with Council</b></p> <p><b>Bramley Line</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WTC have pledged support to Brian Baylis who described the progress of the Wisbech &amp; March Bramley Line for Member's information</li> </ul>			Bramley Line
<b>Keep abreast of developments that may affect the citizens of Wisbech</b>	<p>Members of WTC are asked to read and note a number of items of correspondence from CCC, FDC, and other organisations at monthly meetings such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peterborough Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) – Preferred Options stage Consultation.</li> <li>Clerks and Councils Direct</li> <li>FCVS Newsletter</li> <li>Fenland Mencap briefing</li> <li>Bowthorpe Centre new ownership note</li> </ul>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice and solutions – sales pitch on monitoring the council’s procedures.</li> <li>• Newsletter for Queen Elizabeth Hospital Trust.</li> <li>• War Memorials Trust bulletin.</li> <li>• CPALC</li> <li>• Inside Housing</li> <li>• CAB</li> <li>• Fenland Links</li> <li>• Fenland Arts</li> <li>• WCDT</li> <li>• Strategic plans and strategies from CCC, FDC, Environment agency, Health services etc.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Market Place</b></p> <p><b>‘Wisbech Town Council have agreed in principle to enter into negotiation with Fenland District Council to take over the ownership and management of Wisbech Market Place.’</b></p>	<p>The <b>central area</b> of the market place is the land being considered for transfer. The roadway (Cambs County Highways) and the perimeter shops are not.</p> <p>The ownership of the land and the operating of the markets etc. are legally <b>separate considerations</b>, although they may be considered together in any negotiations.</p> <p><b>Simple transfer</b>, either as freehold or leasehold, would be a cost/value agreement – perhaps the same arrangements as the Council Chamber.</p> <p><b>Operating the markets</b>, and any other uses would have staffing and resource implications.</p> <p><b>Income:</b> The Income from Wisbech</p>			FDC

	<p>Town centre markets was £63,000 in 2007/08, which equals 54% of the total income from the four market towns in Fenland District.</p> <p><b><u>Apportionment:</u></b> Therefore in any discussions 54% could be used as an apportionment of total costs for Fenland District.</p> <p><b><u>No change:</u></b> Anything to do with Highways would remain the responsibility of the County Council, and anything to do with the Police would remain their responsibility.</p> <p><b><u>Central area only:</u></b> The discussions with FDC can only consider the central area of the Market Place, where the markets etc. are held.</p> <p><b><u>The old market:</u></b> This is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council, and would form part of different negotiations.</p> <p><b><u>Freehold transfer:</u></b> This would be the cleanest option, as The Town Council could expect to have total control with no strings.</p> <p><b><u>Underground toilets etc:</u></b> Officers confirmed that so far as they are aware these were filled in completely and correctly.</p> <p><b><u>Right to market &amp; freehold ownership are two separate things:</u></b> There has been no discussion, however, about them being separated in reality. For simplicity they could remain linked.</p> <p><b><u>The transfer agreements</u></b> (due diligence) would detail whether the</p>			
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	market would continue, and rights to hold fairs etc.			
<b>To acquire and manage allotments for the use of the people of Wisbech.</b>	Review and standardise allotment rents for Wisbech Town Council allotment tenants, and notify tenants.	Apr 2008		FDC National Society for allotment & Leisure Gardens (NSALG)
	New charging regime implemented	Oct 2009		
	Investigate the ownership of allotment land 'transferred' to FDC by the Borough of Wisbech in 1974.	Oct 2008		Bowser, Ollard and Bentley.  Land Registry
	Follow legal advice to revert ownership to WTC.	Jan 2009		
	<b>Take ownership</b>	March 2010		
<b>To work with adolescents and teenagers to enable them to achieve their aspirations for Wisbech</b>	Set up Youth Council.	Sept 2008	Up to £16,000	Centre 4 FDC
	Organise and run a Wisbech Music Festival over an August weekend at Thomas Clarkson Community College.	Aug 2009		CCC Cadet groups Schools KLFM COWA
	Produce a newsletter for the town including positive items on young people.	May 2010 Aug 2010		
	Organise Rock Festival in the park for young people	Aug 2010		
	Organise a multi-cultural event in the park involving young people	Aug 2010		
	Organise Mini Olympics for 12 – 18 year	Apr 2008		

	<p>olds in collaboration schools and colleges.</p> <p>Liaise with other organisations to improve play facilities in Wisbech.</p> <p>Seek to provide a skatepark</p>			
<p><b>To Ensure that adequate and appropriate infrastructure forms part of the development resulting in the closure of the College of West Anglia and the agricultural colleges in Wisbech.</b></p>	<p>The Planning Committee will carefully study plans for the new developments, and make appropriate suggestions as part of the planning process.</p> <p>The Chairman of WTC Planning Committee will make representation to FDC Planning Committee.</p> <p>Planning committee will keep all councillors fully informed of progress.</p> <p>The developers and COWA will be invited to make presentations and have consultations with WTC and its members.</p>	Aug 2008		<p>FDC CCC COWA Tribal Community reps.</p>
<p><b>Support Bridge Improvements</b></p>	<p>Design, build and fit new railings</p> <p>Strengthening of Bridge</p> <p>Flood defences + provide fitting for scaffolding poles for Christmas decorations.</p>	<p>Apr 2007</p> <p>August December 2010</p> <p>2010</p>	£5,000	<p>CCC £15,000</p> <p>CCC</p> <p>Environment agency</p>

<b>Support provision of new facilities for children's recreation.</b>	New recreation area being developed on site in Waterlees ward	Dec 2010		CCC £850,000
<b>Use Council Chamber as a venue for marriages and receptions</b>	Arrange for assessment by registrar and apply for licence	Feb 2009	£1,500	Cambs registrars FDC
	Obtain premises licence	Feb 2009	£190	
<b>Use Council Chamber for events to a maximum of 60 persons</b>	Obtain premises licence	Feb 2009	£190	FDC
	Arrange Fire officers inspection, and implement all recommendations	Aug 2008		Cambs Fire Service
	Clerk and deputy Clerk to do fire safety training	July 2008		
	Clerk to refresh qualification and become member of Institute of Occupational Health and safety	July 2008		IOSH
<b>Make provision for the emerging needs of migrant communities and enable access to mainstream services</b>	Meet with organisations that are working with the migrant communities and with other BME groups and individuals to identify the gaps in them being able to access mainstream services and support.	Apr 2008		Roddens Police CCC FDC Rosmini Centre
	Organise a multicultural festival to bring together individuals and organisations involved with communities	Aug 2009	£6,000	Oasis PCT Jobcentre+

<b>Support the provision of Cycle paths</b>	More cycle routes needed in Wisbech			CCC FDC Voluntary and community organisations
<b>Support adult education/training</b>	Increase number of adult education classes across the Wisbech  Set up IT training around access points and possible other courses –Provision of internet/library/ learning facilities  Set up advice and information centre around access points			COWA Other IT tutors Learn Direct Fenland Links Care Network ACRE OASIS
<b>Support Children’s Education</b>	Participate as School governors  Work with voluntary organisations and charities	Ongoing  Ongoing		<i>Work with schools as part of “Extended Schools” initiative.</i> Local schools LEA Young people
<b>Support the provision of affordable housing, ensuring adequate and appropriate infrastructure i.e. schools, GPs, roads.</b>	Nominate sites for feasibility studies  Advise planning authority of wishes and concerns of townsfolk, through fortnightly planning committee meetings.  Work with and Support Roddens Housing Association  Work with other developers	Ongoing  Ongoing  Mar 2009  Ongoing		Roddons FDC CCC Planning ACRE

