



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. Or on the website www.wisbechtowncouncil.org.uk.

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 will be entered in The National Britain in Bloom Competition. 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 made to 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, and on the notice board at 1 North Brink, Wisbech.

Wisbech Town Council is committed to supporting local voluntary and community organisations and Members agreed to provide grant support to the following groups for the tax year 2009/2010 (in £'s):

Wisbech Town Library (Museum)	500	Fenland (West Anglia) Crossroads	100
Museum	3,500	Volunteer Service Fenland	100
Wisbech Area Regeneration & Dvpt	300	Wisbech & District Talking Newspaper	100
Fenland Citizens Advice Bureau	1,000	Wisbech Old Peoples Welfare Assoc	100
Fenland Arts	1,000	Cambs Learning Disability	100
St John Ambulance	250	St Augustine's Day Centre (Happy Days)	100
Wisbech in Bloom	1,600	Friends of Victoria Lodge	100
Rose Fair Forum	500	Friends of St Peter and St Pauls	100
Angles Theatre	1,000	PHAB (Physical Handicapped & Able Bodied)	100
Wisbech Amateur Operatic and Dramatic	100	Fenvision	100
Wisbech Music Society	100	Mencap Befrienders	100
Wisbech Players	100	St Raphael	100
Arles Twinning	100	Home Start	100
Interfaith Forum	50	Riding for the Disabled	100

The grants for the Museum in Wisbech, and for them to upkeep the Wisbech Town Council Library, form part of the Council's commitment to jointly funded projects, separate to the grants process. The grant process requires that each year grant applications are encouraged from community and voluntary organisations and a budget set aside. There are two categories of application: **below £500 OR £500 to £2,000**

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.

The closing date for applications is 31 October each year. 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 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 wisbechtc@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.

Objectives	Action	Start Date	Completion	WTC Budget	Partners
Achieve and maintain Quality Council Standards	<p>Application for Quality Town Council</p> <p>Clerk and Deputy Clerk to achieve CiLCA qualification.</p> <p>New Clerk to achieve CiLCA.</p> <p>Review of organisation/procedures/and the operation of the Council.</p> <p>Monitoring and ongoing reviews.</p>	<p>Jan 2007</p> <p>Jan 2007</p> <p>Nov 2007</p> <p>Jan 2007</p> <p>Jan 2010</p>	<p>Dec 2007</p> <p>Dec 2007 April 2008</p> <p>May 2008</p> <p>Jan 2010</p> <p>March 2014</p>		<p>CALC SLCC FDC CCC Other Parish and Town Councils</p>
Support initiatives that promote the economic and social development of Wisbech	<p>Provide expertise (councillor and officer representation on management boards etc).</p> <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>		Ongoing		As listed in action column
Support voluntary groups and community organisations in Wisbech, and for services and events dedicated to Wisbech.	Provide grant support (refer to list on page 3 of this document).	1 Apr 2008	Ongoing	£11,600	As listed on page 3 of Town Plan.

<p>Support Civic Duty</p>	<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> <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.</p>		Ongoing	£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 Rose Fair Apple Day Prize givings Assemblies Events Festivals Distribution Fund raising</p>
<p>Reduce the incidence of crime and disorder in Wisbech.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase contribution to CCTV costs • Support Neighbourhood Management teams <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>	To be renegotiated	<p>£12,500 £19,000 £25,000</p>	<p>FDC</p> <p>Police, Community groups, FDC</p>
<p>Improve the port area of Wisbech</p>	<p>Support the Nene Waterfront project to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoroughly clean and clear the site, which had been heavily contaminated and an eyesore. • Increase capacity of yacht harbour to 128 	2007	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>		<p>Nene Development –</p> <p>FDC committed £1.3 million to lever in £50</p>

	<p>berth holders in Wisbech.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the capacity of the boat lift. • Improve the slipway so that it can facilitate 120 tonnes. • 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. • 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. • The Boathouse to provide premises for 120 business people. <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>Ongoing</p> <p>To Be Advised (TBA)</p> <p>Oct 2008</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>		<p>million regeneration funds of which £40 million was private sector investment.</p> <p>The Boathouse cost £4.2 million of the total cost</p>
<p>Make available for public use, derelict and underused large public and private buildings in Wisbech</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</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>		<p>FDC Heritage Lottery CCC Private individuals</p>

	derelict buildings in the High Street.				
Create more and better library facilities for Wisbech	<p>Consider planning applications and give a considered view to facilitate improvements to the library service in Wisbech.</p> <p>Invite 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 to serve on the Community Management Board for the library development (our from WTC in place – the Clerk, the Leader, one as FDC cllr, and another as CCC cllr.</p> <p>Clerk to serve on the design workshop.</p> <p>Senior member plus Town Clerk to serve on the Community Management Board for the new library.</p>		Ongoing		<p>Big Lottery</p> <p>CCC</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Library service</p> <p>Community Management Board</p>
Encourage Tourism/promote the heritage of Wisbech Town	<p>Produce a 32 to 48 page Town Guide (15,000 copies). Size and number of copies is dependant on advertising sales.</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,</p>		<p>Spring 2009</p> <p>Minimum – one every two years</p>		<p>FDC, CCC, Peckover, Octavia Hill, Oasis, Rosmini, Centre 4, Museum, Castle, Boathouse etc.</p>
Safeguard and promote the heritage of the Council Chamber and its treasures.	<p>Wisbech Town Guide (produce) – to promote the heritage of the town.</p>	April 2009	Ongoing		<p>Public Catalogue Foundation</p>

	<p>Public Catalogue Foundation (make use of) – to publish photos and info about paintings in the Town Council Chamber.</p> <p>Heritage Weekend – Open the Chamber up for the public to enjoy.</p> <p>Arles Twinning – logo on WTC letterhead – free use of chamber for meetings – officer support</p> <p>Alderman Frederick John Hobourn Acquisition of a photographic portrait of this former Mayor of Wisbech, and one of his consort, together with an illuminated scroll in a Wisbech Town presentation box.</p> <p>Thomas Steed Watson Acquisition of the portrait of the above former Mayor on permanent loan to Wisbech Town Council for as long as the Council is able to display it, together with a brief history.</p> <p>Acquisition of other artefacts</p> <p>Renovation of furniture and paintings and repairs to artefacts.</p>	<p>April 2008</p> <p>Sept 2008</p> <p>June 2008</p> <p>July 2008</p> <p>April 2008</p> <p>April 2008</p>	<p>Annual</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>£100</p>	<p>Arles Twinning group</p> <p>Descendants</p> <p>Descendants</p> <p>Specialists – Graham Brown, Kiffy Steiner</p>
Improve traffic flow in usage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTC participates in identifying and then part funding Jointly Funded Minor works to improve the Highways in Wisbech. 	Apr 2008	Ongoing	Up to £10,000 p.a.	CCC
Provide a rail link between Wisbech and March	<p>WTC invites pressure groups to speak with Council</p> <p>Bramley Line</p>	June 2008	Ongoing		Bramley Line

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTC have pledged support to Brian Baylis who described the progress of the Wisbech & March Bramley Line for Member's information 				
Keep abreast of developments that may affect the citizens of Wisbech	<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"> Peterborough Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) – Preferred Options stage Consultation. Clerks and Councils Direct FCVS Newsletter Fenland Mencap briefing Bowthorpe Centre new ownership note Advice and solutions – sales pitch on monitoring the council's procedures. Newsletter for Queen Elizabeth Hospital Trust. War Memorials Trust bulletin. CPALC Inside Housing CAB Fenland Links Fenland Arts WCDT Strategic plans and strategies from CCC, FDC, Environment agency, Health services etc. 				
Market Place 'Wisbech Town Council have	The central area of the market place is the land being considered for transfer. The roadway (Cams County Highways) and the perimeter		March 2014		FDC

<p>agreed in principle to enter into discussion with Fenland District Council on the subject of the future ownership of the Market Place.'</p>	<p>shops were not. The ownership of the land and the operating of the markets etc. were legally separate considerations, although they may be considered together in any negotiations. Simple transfer, either as freehold or leasehold, would be a cost/value agreement – perhaps the same arrangements as the Council Chamber. Operating the markets, and any other uses would have staffing and resource implications. Income: The Income from Wisbech Town centre markets was £63,000 in 2007/08, which equals 54% of the total income from the four market towns in Fenland District. Apportionment: Therefore in any discussions 54% could be used as an apportionment of total costs for Fenland District. No change: Anything to do with Highways would remain the responsibility of the County Council, and anything to do with the Police would remain their responsibility. Central area only: The discussions with FDC can only consider the central area of the Market Place, where the markets etc. are held. The old market: This is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council, and would form part of different negotiations. Freehold transfer: This would be the cleanest option, as The Town Council could expect to have total control with no strings. Underground toilets etc: Officers confirmed that so far as they are aware these were filled in completely and correctly. Right to market & freehold ownership are two</p>				
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	<p>separate things: There has been no discussion, however, about them being separated in reality. For simplicity they could remain linked.</p> <p>The transfer agreements (due diligence) would detail whether the market would continue, and rights to hold fairs etc.</p>				
<p>To acquire and manage allotments for the use of the people of Wisbech.</p>	Review and standardise allotment rents for Wisbech Town Council allotment tenants, and notify tenants.	Apr 2008	Oct 2008		FDC National Society for allotment & Leisure Gardens (NSALG)
	New charging regime implemented	Oct 2009	Ongoing		
	Investigate the ownership of allotment land 'transferred' to FDC by the Borough of Wisbech in 1974.	Oct 2008	Jan 2009		Bowser, Ollard and Bentley. Land Registry
	Follow legal advice to revert ownership to WTC.	Jan 2009	Ongoing		
<p>To work with adolescents and teenagers to enable them to achieve their aspirations for Wisbech</p>	Set up Youth council.	Sept 2008	Ongoing	Up to £16,000	Centre 4 FDC CCC Cadet groups Schools KLFM COWA
	Produce a magazine for young people	June 2009	Annually		
	Organise a music event in the park for young people	Aug 2009	Annually		
	Organise a multi-cultural event in the park involving young people	Aug 2009	Annually		
	Support Wisbech Youth Extravaganza	Aug 2010	Annually		
	Liaise with other organisations to improve play facilities in Wisbech.	Apr 2008	Ongoing		
Seek to provide a skatepark					

<p>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.</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>	<p>Aug 2008</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>		<p>FDC CCC COWA Tribal Community reps.</p>
<p>Support Bridge Improvements</p>	<p>Design, build and fit new railings</p>	<p>Apr 2007</p>	<p>Oct 2008</p>	<p>£5,000</p>	<p>CCC £15,000</p>
<p>Support provision of new facilities for children's recreation.</p>	<p>New recreation area being developed on site in Waterlees ward</p>	<p>Apr 2009</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>		<p>CCC £850,000</p>
<p>Use Council Chamber as a venue for marriages and receptions</p>	<p>Arrange for assessment by registrar and apply for licence</p> <p>Obtain premises licence</p>	<p>Feb 2009</p> <p>Feb 2009</p>		<p>£1,500</p> <p>£190</p>	<p>Cambs registrars FDC</p>

Use Council Chamber for events to a maximum of 60 persons	Obtain premises licence	Feb 2009		£190	FDC
	Arrange Fire officers inspection, and implement all recommendations	Aug 2008	Feb 2009		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	Ongoing		IOSH
Make provision for the emerging needs of migrant communities and enable access to mainstream services	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	Ongoing		Roddens Police CCC FDC Rosmini Centre Oasis PCT Jobcentre+
	Organise a multicultural festival to bring together individuals and organisations involved with communities	Aug 2009		£6,000	
Support the provision of Cycle paths	More cycle routes needed in Wisbech				CCC FDC Voluntary and community organisations
Support adult education/training	Increase number of adult education classes across the Wisbech				COWA Other IT tutors Learn Direct Fenland Links
	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				Care Network ACRE OASIS
Support Children’s Education	Participate as School governors Work with voluntary organisations and charities	Ongoing Ongoing	Ongoing Ongoing		<i>Work with schools as part of “Extended Schools” initiative.</i> Local schools LEA Young people
Support the provision of affordable housing, ensuring adequate and appropriate infrastructure i.e. schools, GPs, roads.	Nominate sites for feasibility studies Advise planning authority of wishes and concerns of townfolk, through fortnightly planning committee meetings. Work with and Support Roddens Housing Association Work with other developers	Ongoing Ongoing Mar 2009 Ongoing	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing		Roddons FDC CCC Planning ACRE