

Whittlesey police station will be transformed into town council offices and two flats for Syrian refugees

PUBLISHED: 16:29 06 August 2018 | UPDATED: 14:32 07 August 2018 Kath Sansom

Mayor of Whittlesey, Alex Miscandlon, met with Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite, to discuss the future of the Whittlesey Police Station building PHOTO: PCC

Two flats are being prepared for Syrian refugees as part of renovation work to turn the former police station into a new hub for Whittlesey town council.



The former police station at Whittlesey that will become new headquarters for Whittlesey Town Council .

The council will earn a guaranteed £71,500 from the Government over five years for use of the flats.

The council, that bought the police station last year, will use the money on future projects.

Under the government scheme a managing agent would be provided at no cost to the town council to monitor the premises and be on hand for any emergency.”

Town clerk Sue Piergianni said: “The new building will have a ground floor council chamber with fully disabled facilities.

“The other side of the building will house the town clerk, a working area for councillors and a public reception.

"We plan to have solar panels, an electric vehicle charging point and other energy efficient measures to reduce consumption. The current offices are rented so the new building will become a community asset.

"Central Government are setting up the Syrian Vulnerable People's scheme which many councils are taking part in, with the aim of finding homes for 20,000 people who have fled war-torn Syria.

"Whittlesey Town Council agreed earlier this year to provide two flats to help rehouse Syrian refugee families.

"These were the vacant flats which were acquired as part of the purchase.

"When the council agreed to take part in the scheme, it was on the condition that it would be at no cost to Whittlesey council tax payers.

"An external organisation will oversee their care and welfare as part of a five-year scheme.

"Whittlesey Christian Church will be assisting this initiative and has received many donations towards this."

Following a tender process Swann Edwards were appointed project managers for the site.

Local trades will be asked to tender for the works.

It is hoped the building will be ready for use at the start of 2019.

The flats were used for police officer accommodation but in around 2009 were turned into interview suites. They are now to be converted back to flats.

Whittlesey police station closed in August 2016 as part of a restructure.

Since then, the local policing team start their day from March, allowing them to receive a pre-shift briefing from a sergeant face to face, before going out into the community.

The police station opened in the town in October 1968.

NEWS

'Slow down, no one is invincible' - warns concerned driver after crash

SARAH MARSDEN
Cambs writer

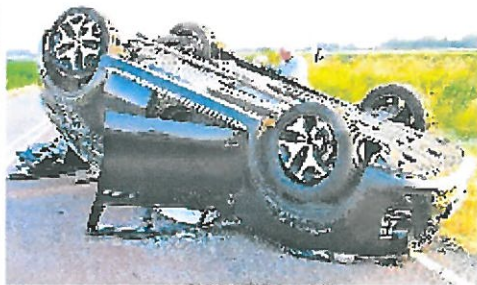
This is a picture of the car which was t-boned at Boots Bridge on Thursday evening.

It's okay, I'm not a fan-bank chum. I'm posting this because it was my car, just with the message: PLEASE SLOW DOWN everyone.

I took my family and the friends in the car which hit us were fortunate enough to be in fairly new, well-built vehicles, but I have just been to take the personal possessions from my vehicle in the recovery yard, and it is parked next to an older car which had also received side impact to which three people apparently died.

No one had removed the personal items from that car, a lot of it was badly related paraphernalia, and I think it's the saddest thing I've ever seen.

Fortunately my family and I are not seriously injured, we have broken ribs, whiplash, bruised eyes



This is a picture of the car which was t-boned at Boots Bridge.

By Sarah Marsden

and bruises and all the associated pain, but we didn't go into the crime and we're alive, but we are LUCKY.

The gentleman who hit us certainly didn't do so maliciously it must have been awful for him to watch what was happening, he was just a young man who made a

mistake. But that's just the point, we can ALL make mistakes and the faster you're travelling, the less time you or your vehicle have to react to them, so don't be invincible.

Indeed, several cars had raced past me at the 60MPH speed limit



in the minutes before this happened.

I have read several comments about "Mancunians" and "poorly marked" junctions, so please, if you're not sure about the road, your only reason to drive with caution!

Please just look at this picture and think about it as you're about to ram your accelerator into the floor, let's all enjoy the summer and remember that life's got a race to see who can reach the end quickest!

Please, just drive with caution and SLOW DOWN.

news

Flats for refugees

Two flats are being prepared for Syrian refugees as part of renovation work to turn the former police station into a new hub for Whittlesey town council.

The council will claim a guaranteed £71,500 from the Government over five years for use of the flats.

The council, that bought the police station last year, will use the money on future projects.

Under the government scheme, a management team would be provided at no cost to the town council, to manage the premises and be on hand for any enquiries.

Town clerk Sue Freeman said: "The new building will have a ground floor council chamber with fully disabled facilities.

"The other side of the building will house the town clerk, a working area for councillors and a public reception.

"We plan to have solar panels, an electric vehicle charging point and other energy efficient measures to reduce consumption."

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