

## **New Whittlesey Town Council Offices**

In summer 2017 Cambridgeshire Constabulary decided to relocate to March Police Station and close down their premises in Queen Street, Whittlesey.

Whittlesey Town Council saw the vacant police station as a potentially attractive site for their operations with the lease on their own building in Grosvenor Road due to expire in 2020. Community use was also seen as an asset for the building due to its central location in town.

Negotiations then took place between Whittlesey Town Council and the Police Authority, resulting in a freehold purchase at a very advantageous price.

In October 2017 Swann Edwards (Architects) were engaged to design council offices, commercial offices to let, the construction of a new Council Chamber and conversion of former interview rooms into two three bedroom flats.

After a tendering process involving local builders, NB Construction were chosen as preferred contractors. Work commenced on the building in May 2019 with the emphasis on local tradesmen being involved in the supply chain.

A new gas system was commissioned for heating purposes and a redundant oil fired generator was donated to Whittlesey Junior Football Club. Solar panels will be erected to supply electricity for the building and vehicle charging points.

The two flats have been rented out to the Peterborough Asylum and Refugee Community Association ensuring a guaranteed income from Central Government for five years. Three offices are available for rent and an official opening of the premises is anticipated in the autumn of 2019.

All refurbishment and rebuilding of the premises has been carried out without the need to increase council tax for local residents. Finance for the project has been obtained by means of Public Works loans which are anticipated to be repaid from generated revenue from the building.

It is to be hoped that the Whittlesey community will make full use of the premises.

Cllr David K M Mason  
Deputy Mayor