

Shevington Library Re-Opens and Then Closes

Shevington Library re-opened its doors as a library on Monday 14 September. The main library area, Art Exhibition, children's area and IT were all open to the public on five half days a week. A great deal of work went into making it Covid secure and it was very well run.

However, footfall reduced significantly compared to what it had been before lockdown. So, when, with the advent of the second wave, Wigan Council staff needed to be re-deployed to help with issues arising as a result of the increasing infection rates and moving into Tier 3, our library was closed once again. This happened with effect from Monday, 26 October – it had been open for precisely SIX weeks.

The library has once again become the base for the Shevington Community Hub, whose personnel are responsible for co-ordinating the local support networks for those residents who are self-isolating or shielding and need to be connected.



Have Pride in Your Parish
DON'T Fly Tip
Take it to THE Tip!

Developments in Elnup Wood

CLM Groundwork Trust, who own much of Elnup Wood, appointed a Greenspace Project Officer earlier this year and part of her role is to manage Elnup Wood. She was in the process of putting together a programme of works to address the issues on site when lockdown started and had intended to set up a volunteer group to help with looking after the woods. She still aims to do this once it is feasible.

Friends of Shevington Memorial Park (FSMP)

We are a group of residents, passionate about providing our children, young people, and adults with a quality play-space and good opportunities for exercise. We are working alongside the Parish Council. We have raised awareness of Park issues and fundraised in the village; successful funding bids to organisations such as Tesco, Asda and the Coop have helped us raise £7,000 since the beginning of 2019.

Thank you to all who have supported our efforts, attended and helped with fundraising or donated to collection boxes in our shops! Local businesses, too, have helped by sponsoring us via advertising. We are grateful for your support.

Our work continues despite Covid, but we need your help. Please do what you can to support us! Join us to raise funds for our park. You will find a lot of information on the FSMP page on Facebook.com/FriendsofSMP. There is also a crowd-funding site to which you can contribute. This has already raised over £300 despite being set up just one month ago. Thank you all for your support!

Victoria Galligan, Chair FSMP

FSMP crowdfunding link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/f-s-m-p>

Donate to Help to fund a new playground and improve Shevington Memorial Park. We're raising money to help to fund a new playground and improve Shevington Memorial Park. Support this JustGiving Crowdfunding Page.

Shevington Parish Council has small grants available for local community groups. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk for an application form or download one from our website.

New Community Building

The new community building at Vicarage Lane Fields has recently been handed over to Shevington Sharks ARLFC and Shevington FC. For more news and photos see the next edition.



Shevington Parish Council wish all of you
a Happy & Peaceful Christmas and the best
of Health & Prosperity in the New Year!

What's Happening at the Former Shevington Community School Site?

Wigan Council would like to update you on the considerable work that has already been undertaken by Ward Councillors, Council officers and local community groups, including the Parish Council and Shevington & District Community Association, on the future use of the site. Officers at Wigan Council are to progress the proposals for a new Extra Care development on the former school site. This will provide accommodation and care for older residents and people living with disabilities. It will include communal facilities and support services on site which will benefit the wider community.

No design work has begun yet, but it is anticipated that construction may start on site in 2022, subject to approvals. The new scheme would occupy the site of the existing school, with the remainder of the site being left in its current use as open space. If the plans are approved, the site will remain in the ownership of the Council and the scheme will provide homes for those who meet the eligibility criteria for housing with care accommodation and there will be no general needs housing provided as part of the proposal. It is proposed that the scheme will be jointly funded by Wigan Council and Homes England, subject to grant funding.

The Council will continue to work with Ward Councillors and the local community in developing the proposal for the site to ensure that it meets their needs. Consultation will be held during the design and planning process and further details regarding this will be shared at a later date.

We are keen to assure the community that, since the closure of Shevington Community School in 2017, the site has remained vacant and Wigan Council, along with Greater Manchester Police, have been monitoring the area to ensure it does not fall victim to anti-social behaviour.

In addition to regular contact with the local PCSO, CCTV and alarm monitoring is in place at the site. The council's property team also makes regular visits to ensure any potential access to the site is removed.

Funding for Memorial Park

Our Shevington Park is funded by the precept which we all pay to the Parish Council, which is seeking funding for drainage of the park. You probably know it is inaccessible after even a small amount of rain. In February we submitted a bid to the HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND.

Our aims are:

- (a) to drain and restore the park to the historic parkland it used to be as part of Shevington New Hall
- (b) to create a new modern play-park for our children
- (c) to create a local heritage time-line via a digital app.

That was February 2020! In March 2020 COVID hit! The Heritage Lottery Fund have now suspended all public bids until some 'unspecified date in the future'! Money goes to Defra and existing HLF projects.

WHAT TO DO?

The Parish Council do not want to wait 'until some unspecified date in the future'. This would mean further deterioration of the land, trees and pathways, and to the play park. Some of the equipment there is over 30 years old. This equipment and the play surface seriously need replacing. Therefore the Parish Council are looking at various options. In the near future we will be asking for your opinion and your support on these options. The project will be expensive.

Here are some estimated costs:

Drainage :£90,000

Children's play park with modern wetpour surface instead of sand.....£80,000

Renovated Pathways:£50,000

It may mean the Parish Council taking out a loan as we did to purchase land for the Vicarage Lane Fields sports and allotments projects. We will be in touch with you all soon!

Ira Whiteley, Chair Shevington PC

