

## Local Council Elections

4 May 2023

Now is the time to ensure that your name is on the Electoral Register so that you can support your community and vote. A copy of the Electoral Register for the local area is kept at Shevington Library, so a quick check to make sure your name is there will take no time at all. If you find you are not registered, you can visit Wigan Council's website and register online. You must register by 13 April. Both Wigan Council and parish council elections are taking place this year. If you are planning to vote in person on the day, you will need to take your eligible Photo ID with you. You have a right to vote, so don't miss out!!

You may have also shown an interest in becoming a parish councillor. Nomination forms are available from the Clerk, or can be obtained by contacting the Elections Office at Wigan Town Hall.

Parish councils depend on local people taking an interest in what happens in their community. Whatever their background, local people serving as councillors can bring a wealth of knowledge and community understanding to the parish team.

If you are interested or know someone who might just need some encouragement, now is the time to act; get forms and send them off. You do not need to be part of a political party; you may just be interested in helping your community. Parish councils are not party political organisations and are not designed to be run on party political lines. Most parish councillors, who are volunteers, find that they make an active contribution by giving 3 hours per week.

Shevington Parish Council is determined to do all it can to help make the Parish a great place to live. We need you to help us deliver that vision by taking an active part. Help the Parish Council to meet your needs by supporting them, and remember: Take your Photo ID with you and VOTE!

## Precept 2023

This year we have set a precept of £84,615, which is £3,964 more than last year. This represents an increase of 5% compared to the current rate of inflation of over 10%. This increase was necessary to be able to maintain the valuable and much appreciated services we provide for the Parish, but in full recognition that any increase at the current time is difficult. For a Band A property it is an increase of £0.81 and for Band D it is £1.21 per year.

Much needed improvements, particularly to the Memorial Park, have been delayed for technical reasons beyond our control, despite the urgent need to protect this valuable asset. This will disappoint many, but we recognised that a bigger increase this year would not be welcomed. We will continue to look at other funding options, as well as continuing to make savings in our budget where possible. Wigan Council are continuing to give us a grant for repaying the loan on Vicarage Lane Fields - that is very welcome.

For more information,  
to book a stall, or offer  
volunteer help, Google  
'Shevington Fete 2023'.

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.

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

## Memorial Park Upgrades

Where are we up to?

We are pleased to be able to tell you that some of the technical issues that have caused delays with the upgrade to the park have been resolved and we are currently reviewing the future costs of the drainage installation. Discussions with regard to new play equipment are ongoing.

## What Does Your Parish Council Do for You?

Each year Shevington Parish Council sets a precept, which is collected on its behalf by Wigan Council. Together with the Council Tax Support grant from central government the precept provides the Parish Council with a budget, which it uses to:

- Ensure that the grounds at Shevington Memorial Park & Garden are maintained, the litter is collected, the children's playground is cleaned and the equipment is inspected and regularly checked for safety.
- Provide and maintain the car park opposite the Plough & Harrow pub in Gathurst Lane for use by both residents and visitors.
- Administer and maintain the allotments and Bowling Green in Forest Fold at Whitehall. It does this with the help of the Forest Fold Tenants Association and Shevington Village Bowling Club.
- Help make the streets and open spaces of the parish brighter and safer by filling planters at Crooke Village, Shevington Moor, Shevington Vale, Appley Bridge, Gathurst and in the centre of Shevington with flowering plants and maintaining them throughout the year.
- Fund the maintenance of Shevington Recreation Ground.
- Make repayments on the loan secured from the Public Works Loans Board to purchase Otters Croft Wood and Vicarage Lane Fields, where Shevington FC and Shevington Sharks ARLFC provide playing fields and a community building, and the Vicarage Lane Allotments Society run allotments.
- Support the activities of the 'in Bloom' groups by providing them with greenhouse facilities at Forest Fold, where they grow and over-winter plants.
- Provide litter bins in all our public open spaces, some of the public rights of way and along the canal bank.
- Provide benches in Memorial Park & Garden and at other locations for people to sit on.
- Provide notice boards where we display community notices at six locations in the Parish.
- Provide and decorate 4 large display Christmas trees with lights at Shevington, Appley Bridge, Shevington Moor and Crooke Green, decorate lamp posts with garlands of light at Appley Bridge and Shevington Moor and light motifs in the centre of Shevington to brighten up the dismal days of Winter.
- Run the Christmas Shop-Front competition to encourage businesses to decorate their windows for the festive season and bring joy to residents' lives.
- Organise civic events, such as the parade and service on Remembrance Sunday.
- Present awards to residents for eligible community service.
- Award grants to community groups and Charities.
- Publish **THIS** newsletter six times a year and run two websites. - all carry community news.

Parish Councillors serve on committees such as Shevington Youth Club, Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees and Shevington Fete. Some regularly attend meetings of community groups such as Shevington & District Community Association and Crooke Village Residents' Association.

The Parish Council is committed to the encouragement of a continuous programme of repair and maintenance of the fourteen miles of footpath in the Parish by Wigan Council.

Full Council meetings take place eleven times a year, usually at the end of the month, with committees meeting at the beginning of the month. Wigan ward councillors often join the meetings to discuss matters of mutual interest. The activities resulting from a meeting include:

- a) Submitting enquiries on behalf of residents to Wigan Council and other agencies and acting as an intermediary;
- b) Lobbying on behalf of the Parish community;
- c) Monitoring the environment and reporting issues to the appropriate agencies with a view to ensuring that they are addressed;
- d) Responding to consultations;
- e) Making representations in relation to planning applications, as necessary;
- g) Supporting conservation activities in relation to local heritage sites;
- h) Supporting the activities of schools and community groups in the Parish.

More information can be found on our websites. The Council is committed to serving its residents and to providing best value at all times.

We only have a few volunteers who are doing their best to maintain our beds and planters.

Can you volunteer, giving as much time as you are able? We would be grateful for any help you can give us.

If you can help us to continue to make a difference to our village please email:  
[Shevingtoninbloom@yahoo.com](mailto:Shevingtoninbloom@yahoo.com)  
Or phone Sandra on:  
01257 401997



## SHEVINGTON in BLOOM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

