

Shevington Parish Council

Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 30 September 2020

Memorial Park Play Area

The dog grid has now been removed, additional sand has been added and the sand has recently been raked. The play areas were weeded prior to their being re-opened and they have been weeded again recently. The photo was taken on 17 September.



Meeting with Wigan Council Officers

The Council's first meeting with senior Council Officers will be on Tuesday, 20 October at 4pm. (It has been re-scheduled from 3pm.) The meeting will be a virtual one via Microsoft Teams. This will be an agenda item for the Policy & General Purposes Committee, when members will be invited to agree areas for discussion with the officers.

Football Foundation Signage

The external Football Foundation signage has been installed on the gable of the community building and near the entrance.



Consultation on Greater Manchester Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment

GREATER Manchester leaders are set to agree the updated timetable for the final stage of public consultation on the wide-ranging Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment – the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

The first draft of the Spatial Framework, published in 2016, saw more than 27,000 residents in Greater Manchester provide feedback. The plans underwent significant review, reducing the impact of development on green belt land. When a revised draft was shared in 2019, leaders listened to the views of more than 17,000 residents, businesses and community groups who commented on the new plans, and further changes have been made. The final stage of consultation was due to take place earlier this year, but was postponed as a result of the pandemic.

Earlier this month Greater Manchester leaders were due to lay out a new timeline at a special meeting of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities. Following approval by all council leaders, elected representatives from all 10 Greater Manchester local authorities were to be asked to consider and approve the plan throughout October.

If all 10 councils agree, the plan will then be brought forward for eight weeks of public consultation from early November 2020. This stage will give all residents and stakeholders a chance to see how the plan has evolved in response to issues previously raised, and to submit any formal representations. The

evidence base for the plan will be published around four weeks ahead of the formal consultation period, allowing people to view and familiarise themselves with the content.

At the end of the final consultation phase, the plan will be prepared for submission to Government next year. Following a public examination and approval by the Secretary of State, the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework would be ready for adoption by 2022.

This timetable sets out a clear path for the final phase of Greater Manchester's plan for homes, jobs and the environment – the Spatial Framework. The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework will create the space for Greater Manchester to deliver its ambitious growth plans over the next two decades – space for thousands of new jobs and the right homes in the right places, so that everyone can live in well-connected and environmentally sustainable villages, towns and cities.

The plan – which has already been shaped by two extensive rounds of public consultation – will now be scrutinised by elected members from all 10 boroughs. If approved, residents across Greater Manchester will be able to assess the evidence and decide whether the plan is ready for submission to Government. In light of the pandemic and to ensure the highest safety standards, work is ongoing to facilitate a range of engagement methods to allow residents to view all consultation documents and offer their responses. These could include virtual exhibitions, digital consultations, video meetings and social media or online chat facilities. Alongside this, work is also underway to ensure people who do not have internet access are able to engage with the consultation through alternative means.

As well as the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, Greater Manchester residents will also have the chance this year to input into key elements of the city-region's Clean Air Plan, and the plan to set minimum licensing standards for taxis and private hire vehicles. Together, the three consultations support a clear vision to accelerate Greater Manchester's net-zero carbon ambitions for 2038 and build back cleaner and greener.

Shevington Library

Shevington Library opened as a library on 14 September. I visited later that week to give the staff the framed certificate they should have received in March, but could not be presented with at the time because there had been a fault with the frame. I was very impressed with the Covid-secure system they were operating. The number of visitors at any one time and the time they spent in the library was restricted, names and contact details were taken on the door, social distancing signage was in place, doors and windows were open to ensure good ventilation, there was a sanitiser dispenser at the entrance to which I was directed and all staff were wearing masks and/or visors. The toilets and all furniture, apart from the bookshelves and that associated with the computers, had been decommissioned as far as use by the public was concerned. The computers could only be used if pre-booked and their use was restricted to half an hour.

Overgrown Trees at Vicarage Lane Fields

Earlier this month I received a complaint from the owners of adjacent properties in St Anne's Drive about the trees growing behind their properties in Vicarage Lane Fields. I have been down to the site and have established that the trees are overhanging their properties. Maintenance of the trees will be a future agenda item.

September Newsletter

The newsletter has been printed and delivered to Local Life for distribution, which will begin on 30 September.

Parking Along Vicarage Lane

Issues with this are continuing and the resident who keeps raising them has been advised to contact the sports clubs directly in future.

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Unadopted Road Behind the Parade of Shops in Gathurst Lane

Letters with reply slips were sent to the owners of the units. In the letters they were asked to make a firm commitment to making a contribution towards the cost of resurfacing the road and installing drainage. They were also asked to return the reply slip if they were willing to do this and if they were not willing. Stamped, addressed envelopes were included with the letter for the reply slips. They were given until mid-September to reply. No one has replied.

I made some in person enquiries to find out whether they had received the letters in case they had got lost in the post. The owners I spoke to confirmed that they had received the letters, but were not going to reply, as they were already making contributions to the temporary re-surfacing with road planings. They were also of the view that the owners of the houses in Inward Drive that backed onto the road should also be invited to make a contribution.

Vehicles Mounting Pavements in Broad O'th Lane

Congratulations to Dist Cllr J Brown, who has succeeded in persuading Wigan Council to agree to install bollards in strategic locations at Broad O'th Lane. The resident who had raised concerns is very pleased.

Annual Inspection of Property

Proposals for division of labour in relation to the inspection will be discussed by the Policy & General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 7 October.

Consultation on the Changes to the Current Planning System

Responses to this were forwarded to NALC by the deadline and will be circulated to the Policy & General Purposes Committee for retrospective approval on 7 October.

K.M.P. 25.09.20