

## **Shevington Parish Council**

### **Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 31 March 2021**

#### **March Newsletter & East Quarry**

The March edition of the newsletter has been circulated parish-wide.

The article by the East Quarry campaign group has caused some controversy. Appley Bridge Community Association have been on the receiving end of a great deal of criticism from residents of Appley Bridge who have been asking them why they are not dealing with this. Many residents appear not to be aware that the role of a Community Association is to organise events of a social nature – not to get involved in lobbying. Some residents of Appley Bridge support the proposals for the quarry and wish this to be known. East Quarry issues will be on the agenda of the next Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting in April.

I have let the campaign group know the position with regard making a complaint to the Parliamentary Ombudsman. In their reply they have suggested that, perhaps when meetings are open again, they might be able to have a public meeting at which they could explain the position to the general public and clarify a few issues.

#### **Shevington Fete 2021**

The Fete Committee are excited to announce that they have set the date for Shevington Fete 2021 – it is Saturday, 7 August. They will have their first zoom meeting, in which they will start the planning, on Tuesday, 20 April at 7pm. More information will follow regarding bookings after their meeting. For further details about joining the meeting please get in touch via [shevingtonfete@outlook.com](mailto:shevingtonfete@outlook.com).

We booked a stall and paid the fee in early 2020. As the Fete did not take place, we were offered and took the option to roll our booking over, which the Committee will, hopefully, have on record and honour.

#### **Horses Using Footpaths**

I have received a report that horses are going down the public footpath from Vicarage Lane to Crooke Village and from that footpath into the one to Church Lane. This activity is ruining the footpath. Horses are also going along the path into Otters Croft Wood (see photo). The resident has suggested that a sign is needed at the beginning of this path to say 'No Horses'.



### **Public Footpath from Broadriding Road the The Nook**

The resident who some time ago brought the issues along this footpath to the attention of the Parish Council has written to thank the Council for its efforts in arranging for the new steps on the public footpath. He would specifically like to thank Cllr Chris Horridge and “the responsible person at Wigan Council”. In his view, due to everyone’s diligence, the footpath is now a much safer structure.

### **Our Town Awards**

Lucy Murphy of Wigan Council has sent a reminder that nominations for the ‘Our Town’ awards are still invited – the closing date is 25 April.

Here’s the list of categories:

#### Neighbourhood Hero

From bringing in your bin unprompted, tidying up your garden or popping to the shops. This is the category for that generous, friendly neighbour who always goes out of their way to help people.

#### Community Hero

Do you know someone who rolls up their sleeves and takes the initiative to bring your local community together? They might organise the troops to put on a special event, or co-ordinate getting donations to those who need them most in the local area.

#### Environmental Hero

We all know we should do something to be good to our environment, but there are a few special individuals who make the effort to create a better place to live for everyone. They might organise a litter pick or spend time creating a special green space for the whole community to enjoy.

#### COVID-19 Superheroes

The last few months have been a testing time for all of us, but there are a few extra special people in our communities who have risen to the challenge and stepped up to help out others before themselves.

#### Extraordinary Acts of Kindness

This category is for those extra special stars who selflessly put others before themselves to really make a positive difference to someone’s life.

### **Shevington ‘War Zone’**

There have been numerous reports recently (especially on Facebook) of the number of young adults congregating around the shops during the evenings. Earlier this month a resident wrote to say that he had walked through the Park, the Memorial Garden and the Recreation Ground that Sunday morning and had discovered a scene that looked like the morning after a pop concert. The volume of discarded cans/bottles/fast food trays etc spread over all the areas was breathtaking. He picked up all the litter (approx 5 -7 bags full) but he says:

*“.....this cannot be allowed to become a weekly occurrence as the summer approaches. I would be most grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the Councillors during the next meeting so an action plan can be formed, whether that is greater Police intervention or provision of some private security patrols. Allowing this to continue without action now, will result in it becoming more difficult to control later on.”*

I have written to thank him for bringing this to our attention and for collecting the litter.

### **Citizens Advice Bureau**

Lisa Kidston - the Chief Officer of Citizens Advice Wigan Borough has written:

*“If you're not familiar with us, we are a registered Charity and have had a presence within the areas around Wigan / Leigh / Makerfield since 1939.*

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*Our service offers free, confidential and impartial advice to all residents within the area, regardless of who they are. Our advice covers the full range of social welfare law matters at a generalist advice level, and provides specialist advice in Debt and Welfare Benefits. We also deliver the Universal Credit Help to Claim service and pensions guidance via Pension Wise.*

*If you would like to know more about these services please do get in touch with us. Attached to this email, you will find an overview of the clients and issues we have dealt with from 1st October - 31st December 2020. The information relates to residents within your ward and I hope that you find it useful. We aim to send this on a quarterly basis to you but if you would like information any sooner, please do let me know.*

*Also, for your information, residents can now use our self referral tool which is on our website - [cawb.org.uk](http://cawb.org.uk). You can also refer residents directly into our services yourself. If you would like further information about this, please respond to this email and our staff will be in touch with you.*

*I would also like to draw your attention to our new video advice service - Attend Anywhere. This is a secure service which enables residents to get face to face advice via a video platform with the adviser. I have attached a poster and would be grateful if you could pass the details on to residents and groups within your communities. We are aware that not all people have access to the internet or a device capable of accessing via the internet and are looking at ways in which we can meet their needs. Many thanks for taking the time to read this and I would be happy to arrange to meet (via video), with yourself and your colleagues to discuss how we can support your residents further."*

**K.M.P. 29.03.21**