

**Shevington Parish Council
Annual Property Inspection Report
Thursday 2 August 2018 – 6:00 pm**

Shevington Memorial Park & Garden

- Replacement of the current surface of the trimtrail path continued to be a matter of urgency. The flags along the paved footpaths also needed re-laying and edging to prevent movement – the extremes of weather experienced over the past year had led to further deterioration. The base of the trimtrail was sound, but the edging needed to be reinstated and the surface needed to be replaced. The pathways at the lower end of the park would need to be raised, as following periods of heavy rain they were often flooded and impassable. The park had severe drainage problems and investigations into a remedy were on-going.
- Quite a few of the flags in the Memorial Garden were loose and needed re-laying.
- In general, the litter situation was under control. The play area is checked (and cleared, if necessary) by the contractor, who also inspects the play equipment once a week and arranges for statutory inspections to be carried out and for repairs to be undertaken. The sand had been rotovated recently. Following a meeting with the Greenspaces manager responsible for play area maintenance earlier in the year, the weeds had been treated and had died down, but the dead weeds had not been removed. Since care of the play area had passed from WLCT to Wigan Council the service being provided did not appear to be of as good a standard. The railings were missing from the climbing board. The edging to the WetPour surface under the zip wire needed to be glued back. Some of the signs warning users to 'Beware of the Glass' displayed on the gates of the play area were missing. Other areas of the park are checked and tidied when the bins are emptied (twice a week) and when litter is picked. The caretaker is also involved in this process on three occasions a week.
- The footpaths were largely clear of grass and weeds. The hedges had been pruned in time for the 'In Bloom' competitions.
- The two new beech trees planted in the Memorial Garden in November 2016 had been affected by the drought and their status was being monitored. Several mature trees had also suffered from the drought conditions prevalent over the previous two months.
- The bin near the benches outside the play area was rusty and would need to be replaced. Four of the benches in the park needed attention. Three needed to be repainted and the fourth had three slats missing from its back.

Vicarage Lane Fields

- The work on drainage for the sports fields had been completed and the grass seed had been sown earlier in the year. The drought had delayed grass growth.
- Work on the car park had been completed.
- The allotments site had been fenced and was now in operation. 49 out of 50

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allotments had been taken up.

Raised Bed Allotments

- The palisade fencing had been replaced.
- No visit was made to the allotments within the enclosure, but the new 'Edible Appley Bridge' raised beds were admired.
- The boundary wall was in even greater need of repair.
- The roof of the shed needed re-felting.

Forest Fold Bowling Green Site

- The bowling green had suffered from the drought conditions experienced over the past couple of months and was largely brown. This had resulted in a very fast playing surface. Members were able to witness a match in progress. Following several recent showers the green was beginning to recover
- The interiors of the toilets had been refurbished in 2015 and 2016. The exterior had also been painted in 2016. The floors of both toilets had recently been very expertly reinstated and recovered.
- The peripheral areas were being maintained regularly and weeds were under control.
- Several new fence panels were needed for the boundary fence.

Shevington Allotments

- The allotments were largely in very good condition, but one or two were still not being used properly.
- The surfaces of both car parks were in the process of being renewed slowly.
- The grass along the centre of the road through the allotments was being strimmed regularly by the contractor and weeds in both car parks were being kept under control.

Stockley Park

- The overall quality of grounds maintenance, particularly grass cutting and weeding was poor.
- The footpaths needed to be edged to help prevent grass from encroaching onto them. At present they were disappearing.
- The sand in the play areas was not being as well maintained as in past years – weeds were growing in it.
- The Parish Council bin had been damaged and was rusty. It needed to be replaced as a matter of urgency.

Whiteacre Park

- The hedge had been cut earlier in the year, but the overall quality of grass cutting and weeding was poor.
- The footpaths needed to be edged to help prevent grass from encroaching onto them. At present they were disappearing.
- The maintenance of the sand in the play areas was better than last year – but

Appendix A

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there were still weeds growing in it.

Crooke Village

- The Committee admired the quality of the maintenance of the area around the pit tub.