

**Shevington Parish Council
Annual Property Inspection Report
Thursday 7 August 2019 – 6:00 pm**

Gathurst Lane Car Park

- In general the car park surface was in good condition, although there was a small area around the drain that was beginning to break up and could create a trip hazard.
- The rear of the salt bin was cracked and the bin was being used as a repository for litter. The bin needed to be removed.
- The areas around on the boundary of the car park were generally well-maintained, but the hedge was in need of a trim.

Shevington Recreation Ground

- The Parish Council's bins had been emptied recently.
- The wildflower planting along the northern boundary needed attention.
- There was a pothole of actionable depth in the Recreation Ground car park. This would be reported to the Trustees.

Shevington Memorial Park & Garden

- Replacement of the current surface of the trimtrail path continued to be a matter of urgency. The base of the trimtrail was sound, but the edging needed to be reinstated and the surface needed to be replaced. The flags along the paved footpaths also needed re-laying, with edging being introduced to prevent movement – the extremes of weather experienced during 2018 had led to further deterioration. The movement of the flags had resulted in the creation of trip hazards, but these were not of such a depth as to be actionable. 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 has severe drainage problems. Investigations into a solution have been carried out and designs for a new drainage system have been approved. A bid for funding for the project is being prepared.
- 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 early in July. Following several complaints made to Greenspaces managers responsible for play area maintenance earlier in the year, the weeds had been treated and had died down; the dead weeds had subsequently been removed by SinB volunteers and the contractor appointed to maintain the rest of the park at no extra cost. 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 still missing from the climbing board, although the edging to the WetPour surface under the zip wire had been replaced. All 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

**Shevington Parish Council
Annual Property Inspection Report
Thursday 7 August 2019 – 6:00 pm**

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.

- Quite a few of the flags in the Memorial Garden were also loose and needed re-laying.
- All footpaths were largely clear of grass and weeds. The hedges had been pruned in time for the 'In Bloom' competition.
- The two new beech trees planted in the Memorial Garden in November 2016 had been affected by the drought and had died. Several mature trees had also suffered from the drought conditions prevalent during 2018.
- The bin near the benches outside the play area was replaced in 2018. Three of the benches in the park need attention. Two need to be repainted and the third has three slats missing from its back. One bench has recently been varnished.
- There was a great deal of lichen, which is very difficult to keep under control, in the Memorial Garden.
- The grass in the Memorial Park and Garden had recently been cut.
- The surface of the footpath in the Memorial Garden is not wheelchair or pram friendly.
- It was noted that the owners of a neighbouring property along the Northern boundary had introduced a gate which provided them with a private entrance into the park.

Planters

All planters owned by the Parish Council are in good condition.

Vicarage Lane Fields

- The sports pitches would be ready for use in September and Shevington Football Club were preparing to start using them.
- A section of fence to the left of the gate at the entrance to the car park was missing. The Parish Council has agreed to replace this.
- The introduction of a notice board at the entrance to the allotments and other notices elsewhere on the site was raised.

Raised Bed Allotments

- 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.
- The woodchip surface between the raised beds was gradually being replaced by grass.

Forest Fold Bowling Green Site

- The bowling green surface had suffered initially from the severe cold, followed by the drought conditions experienced in 2018. Reinstatement work carried

**Shevington Parish Council
Annual Property Inspection Report
Thursday 7 August 2019 – 6:00 pm**

out by a contractor at the request of and funded by Shevington Village Bowling Club had resulted in a lumpy surface and much of the grass seed that he had sown had not germinated. The greenkeeper has consulted various sources and is preparing a reinstatement programme for this Autumn. Prior to that he will be treating sections of the green to get an early start.

- The peripheral areas were being maintained regularly and weeds were under control.
- New fence panels had been introduced along the boundary and had been painted.

Shevington Allotments

- The allotments were largely in very good condition, but several were not being used properly. The relevant tenants would soon be receiving letters.
- 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 and the tarmac was deteriorating.
- The sand in the play areas was poorly – weeds were growing in it.
- The Parish Council bin had been replaced in 2018.

Whiteacre Park

- The hedge had been pruned recently, 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 poor – there were weeds growing in it.

Crooke Village

- The play area was, on the whole, well-maintained. This was helped by the fact that it had a WetPour play surface, but grass was beginning to grow inwards.
- The hedges along the boundary of the park needed to be cut.
- The Committee were disappointed in the quality of the maintenance of the area around the pit tub. This had previously been very well maintained. Members observed that the members of the CVRA did not seem to be doing as much as they had in the past.