

## **Shevington Parish Council** **Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 22 March 2018**

### **Drainage Remediation Works in Memorial Park**

The French drain referred to in last month's report has been introduced. It runs from the beginning of the small copse of trees along the boundary with Church Lane and empties into the new facility created at the exit of the trimtrail.

### **Felling of Trees in Memorial Park**

The four trees ear-marked for felling are scheduled to be removed during the second half of April.

### **Over-grown Shrubs at Vicarage Lane Fields**

I have received a request from a resident of St Anne's Drive that the Parish Council consider making arrangements for the pruning of over-grown hedgerow in Vicarage Lane Fields. The hedgerow in question is on the Parish Council's side of the fence at the bottom of her garden. I am trying to arrange a site visit on Saturday.

### **Care Home Issues in Shevington**

In reply to correspondence received from the Parish Council, the Service Delivery Footprint Manager (North Wigan) has written that she has escalated the concerns expressed to the senior managers within Children's Services and is waiting for feedback. She will make contact again once she has heard something.

### **Southport to Manchester Rail Service**

OPSTA have written:

*Northern now says it will give us the detail on **March 8<sup>th</sup>**.*

*What follows is the latest evidence based view of the situation but it is not definitive. In short Northern, as a consequence of delays in electrification, claims it has ripped up its previous timetable bid and started again but the indicators are that it is trying to stick with that original plan, which means:*

#### ***Preston - Ormskirk***

*We are cautiously optimistic that we will get the hourly service.*

#### ***Southport – Manchester***

*You know OPSTA's stated position:*

***'Without electrification or bi mode trains in 2018 all services between Wigan/ Bolton and Piccadilly will use diesel traction which means there is no reason to withdraw our services this year.'***

*But the evidence we have indicates our Southport – Airport service is most likely to be replaced with a Stalybridge – Wigan – Alderley Edge service pattern that at best would have just two morning services from Southport to Alderley Edge via Piccadilly and two return services in the evening.*

*We cannot be more definite because Northern will not engage in discussions and will not make a simple and clear statement of its intentions for our services from May. When put to them directly Northern would not deny it is pursuing the above service change and has dismissed any talk of other options being considered as impractical or unfounded.*

*Northern's latest formal statement says it expects to have the detail by March 8<sup>th</sup> and will brief but not consult us at that point.*

***I have informed Northern that would be a fait accompli and we are not prepared to accept this situation*** and by 'we' I don't just mean the campaign group.

*Our MPs seem prepared to take action and we anticipate they will shortly decide on what that should be, but will hopefully be a cross party deputation to the Secretary of State.*

*The campaign team is also taking action which includes sending a letter directly to the CEO of Deutsche Bahn, the owners of Arriva Rail North (Northern).*

*We are also considering a number of other courses of action. If you have suggestions, comments or other feedback please let us know.*

### **CCTV Equipment**

Wigan Council have written to say that the equipment has arrived and arrangements will be made to have it installed very soon.

### **Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**

The Treasurer/Secretary has written to thank the Parish Council for their generosity in awarding the grounds maintenance grant applied for in full.

### **March Newsletter**

The March edition of the newsletter is now in the process of being delivered.

### **LALC/LCTP**

Information about and booking forms relating to a Planning Workshop and LALC's Spring Conference are attached.

### **Memorial Park Deeds**

These have now been retrieved from the Bank's Safe Deposit and arrangements to register the park are in progress.

### **Memorial Park Play Areas**

Following my meeting with the new Street Scene Officer, the sand in the play areas has been rotovated and the grass and weeds, etc have been removed. The team responsible have been made aware that they are expected to maintain the same high standard of rotovation from now on. We will also be sent the outcomes of the weekly playground inspections from now on, as well as the RoSPA Report once it has been carried out. Arrangements for this to take place are currently being made.

### **Shevington in Bloom**

SinB have confirmed that they will be entering the North West in Bloom competition this year.

### **WW1 Display Cabinet**

The WW1 display cabinet is due to be delivered to Shevington Library before Easter. I have told the Library staff and they will very kindly make arrangements for it to be placed in the location agreed with successive Library managers.

### **Abandoned Car**

A resident of Netherwood Court has reported that there has been a car parked in the Parish Council car park for several weeks – it appears to have been abandoned. As it has not been reported as stolen, the Police cannot do anything about it. At present it is still taxed until the end of March. In the light of this, neither can Wigan Council. The situation will need to be monitored. Once the car is no longer taxed, Wigan Council will be able to consider it as being abandoned and can begin the process of trying to establish the ownership of the car.

### **Water Switch-on at Forest Fold**

The water was switched on at Forest Fold just over a week ago. Unfortunately, the standpipe in the raised bed areas was found to have developed a leak and the services of a plumber were required.

**K.M.P. 21.03.18**