

## **Shevington Parish Council**

### **Clerk's Report to the Meeting of the Council – 25 August 2021**

#### **New Planter for the Grass Verge Outside Whiteacre Park**

The metre-square planter was delivered in July and has been fitted, as agreed by the contractor. It is now ready for the volunteers from Shevington Moor, if they are still willing and available, to work on it.

#### **Annual Inspection of Property**

This took place on three evenings during the week beginning 2 August. Due to the fact that the Co-opted Committee member for Crooke Village was away, the inspection did not visit the village, but an alternative date will be arranged. A report will be submitted to the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting on 1 September.

#### **Healthy Routes**

Olena Woolfall, the Healthy Routes Advisor for Wigan North and Shevington area, is due to join the Policy & General Purposes meeting on 1 September to give a short presentation. Olena works out of Shevington Library when it is open. Healthy Routes provide a 1-2-1 behavioural support service delivered via Microsoft Teams, telephone and face to face for anyone aged 16 and over. They cover issues such as:

- Weight Management
- Stop Smoking Support (Including Harm Reduction) for anyone 12 and older
- Physical Activity
- Mental Wellbeing
- Alcohol Reduction

I am awaiting firm confirmation from Olena that she is still able to join us.

#### **'In Bloom' Competitions**

Judging of the 'In Bloom' entries took place during the first two weeks in August. Shevington in Bloom, Memorial Park, Millbrook School and Edible Appley Bridge (at Forest Fold) entries were visited on Tuesday, 3 August, with the judges having a packed lunch at Forest Fold Bowling Green. Appley Bridge in Bloom was judged last week. Cllrs Jessica Higham and Chris Horridge joined the judging party for the Shevington in Bloom and Memorial Park entries and Cllr Mike Grimes joined the judging party for Appley Bridge in Bloom, which included the entrance to Forest Fold. I was present for the judging of the Memorial Park and the Edible Appley Bridge entries.

Our grounds maintenance contractor provided extra staff over two additional days to bring both Memorial Park and Forest Fold up to standard for the RHS competition. The caretaking staff and Shevington in Bloom volunteers made sure that both sites were litter free and cleaned the street furniture. Wigan Council's Playscene staff also paid an extra visit to remove all dead weeds from the play enclosures.

The main focus of the RHS competitions were, as always, the floral displays, for which we have to thank Moss Bank Nurseries and, above all, the volunteer gardeners who devote so much time to give them the love and care that they need to enhance our Parish.

#### **Minor Maintenance Work**

The contractor hired to carry out the minor maintenance work at both Memorial Park and Forest Fold has completed all the work he was contracted to do. During the past few weeks, weather permitting, he has fitted the new planter outside Whiteacre Park and the replacement bin on the canal towpath outside the Baby Elephant, refurbished all of the benches in Memorial Park, repaired and painted the wooden benches at Forest Fold and carried out repairs to the flagged wall along the entrance to Forest Fold. This is in addition to the work he carried out earlier this year.

#### **Defibrillator for Forest Fold**

Earlier this month the Chairman and I were invited to attend an informal meeting of representatives of the clubs and associations that use the Forest Fold site. The meeting was called to discuss the

introduction of a defibrillator to the site. All present were of the view that it was a good idea and Andy Moakes, who is leading the project, has obtained promises of Brighter Borough funding from the District Councillors.

One of the first things to agree was a suitable location. The representatives of the Scouts agreed to explore the possibility of the defibrillator and its housing being fitted to the exterior of the Scout HQ building. They have written to their National Association, who own the building, to apply for permission to do this. This has been given subject to a document – stating that the scouts are not solely responsible for the defibrillator - being signed by all parties concerned. On this basis the representative will be approaching the local Committee in September to seek their approval.

### **Shevington Fete Stall**

Shevington Fete took place on 7 August. Cllrs Chris Horridge, Ira Whiteley, Mike Grimes and Bill McKnight took it in turns to cover the Parish Council's information stall. Cllr Jessica Higham popped in and out. Fortunately, the stall was located in the marquee. As we were blessed with inclement weather for most of the day, as many stalls as possible had to be housed under cover.

### **'Places for Everyone' Consultation**

The Nine Boroughs' consultation has opened and will close on 3 October. Cllr Mike Grimes is currently working on it and hopes to have a report ready for presentation to the Policy & General Purposes Committee on 1 September.

### **Shevington United Charities**

The Parish Council is responsible for appointing the three core Trustees of Shevington United Charities. The terms of office of the current incumbents end in January 2022.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour at Vicarage Lane Fields**

In July a resident of Dixon Avenue complained that every weekend approximately 50 teenagers were drinking, shouting, riding quad bikes and playing loud music from around 7pm to 11:30 pm in the field immediately behind the houses. Sometimes they have the whole field to themselves, but they choose to be near the boundary. This was creating a nuisance for the residents. The resident has complained via 101 on numerous occasions, but no one investigates. Since the beginning of the Summer holidays the resident has complained that this has been happening with greater frequency and taking place on week nights.

The matter has been reported to the local Police and discussed with the sports club representatives. The latter are aware of the situation and have tried to engage with the teenagers, who are leaving litter and broken glass behind at the site. Amongst the litter have been spent bus tickets for journeys starting in areas outside Shevington.

### **East Quarry**

The owner of Maybrook Investments Ltd (Peter O'Dowd) has asked if he could be given an opportunity to speak to the Parish Council. Members may wish to consider the best way forward in relation to this under Item 525 on the agenda.

### **Internal Auditor**

Heelis & Lodge have accepted their appointment as the Parish Council's auditors for 2021-22.

**K.M.P. 20.08.21**