

Shevington Parish Council
Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 26 February 2020

Parking Outside Wigan & Leigh Hospice Shop

I have spoken to someone from the Hospice Shop about the best way forward with respect to addressing the issue of cars being parked in front of the shop in such a way that there is sufficient room for buggies and wheelchairs to pass by on the footpath. We agreed that volunteers' cars would be parked as close as possible to the building and that consideration would be given to displaying signage asking people delivering and parking on the footpath to do so in such a way that pedestrians, etc were still able to use the footpath in comfort.

Memorial Park Sample Flag Re-Laying

The Policy & General Purposes Committee agreed to invite Fir Tree Fishery CIC to re-lay a small sample stretch of the flagged footpath in Memorial Park. The representative of the CIC has written to say that, since his meeting with Cllrs I and J Whiteley and me, when he had suggested this, a key member of the CIC's staff had secured a post elsewhere and had moved on. They have a management meeting next week, so he will only know after that when they will be able to do this.

Greater Manchester Walking Festival 2020

Paul Gallagher of Wigan Council will be attending the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting on 4 March to talk about this event, which will run throughout May in Greater Manchester and take in parts of Shevington on 29 May.

Vicarage Lane Fields Developments

I have been informed that the building contractor is now on site and has started the work related to the Community Building and Changing Rooms. The planning permission for the fence surrounding it has been approved.

A resident of St Anne's Drive who complained a couple of years ago that the new drainage system was causing a greater degree of flooding in his back garden has complained again. The lease-holders are investigating and monitoring the situation.

The sports clubs are seeking to secure grant funding for the recently-approved signage and three new litter bins for the playing fields.

West Lancashire Borough Council's 'Call for Sites'

WLBC have once again initiated a 'Call for Sites' in West Lancashire for potential development for housing, business, employment land, Gypsy / Traveller accommodation, retail, commercial uses, or for people to build their own homes. This is as part of the new Local Plan that the Authority has started preparing for 2023-28.

Elnup Woods

One of the residents of the Millbrook Estate who originally contacted me about the issues relating to Elnup Woods has been in touch to share information he has received about progress with regard to addressing them. The Executive Director of Groundwork CLM has confirmed that they have appointed a new woodland officer to support Elnup Woods, although this is not her only remit. Her name is Emma Halliwell and she is an experienced environmental conservation worker. She has only been with Groundwork CLM for a short period of time, and is still assessing and forming her initial priorities. She is keen to re-ignite an active volunteer group to help with the management of the woods.

The above contact was made on 4 February. Since then the woodland officer has been in contact with the resident to update him on what she is planning. She is putting together a programme of works to fix the issues on site and aims to set up a volunteer group to help with the management of the woods. She has organised a volunteer session for 20 February and aims to have fortnightly volunteer sessions afterwards. The resident has been invited to join these volunteer sessions or come along to chat with

her about Elnup Wood. She was planning to be there for a site visit on 17 February, when the resident was proposing to meet with her for further discussions.

Parbold Hill Landfill

The Stop Parbold Hill Landfill Campaign have sent an update:

‘To anyone who has been following the Stop Parbold Hill Landfill Campaign over the last seven months, it might seem that we went rather quiet there for a bit. Sorry!

We hold our hands up and while you might not have heard from us for a while, please be assured that we have been **fighting harder than ever against a new application that has been submitted.**

Thankfully we have made some serious headway. That is why we think now is a good time to **update you on the campaign’s progress.**

First off, as always, please do go to our [WEBSITE](#) where links to the most up to date information can be found, but here are the bullet points:

- A new amendment to the application for tipping on Parbold Hill was submitted on December 15th.
- The amount of waste that is being proposed for tipping under the new application has been reduced to 125,000 tonnes.
- Despite this reduction, we still believe **it is wholly unnecessary, the applicant fails to demonstrate ‘special circumstances’** and the work proposed in this application **will still desecrate a local beauty spot** in the green belt.
- What’s more not only will the proposal not solve any perceived problems to the existing location, **the waste would be tipped on an unstable base causing potentially dangerous land slippage.**
- The new application **would still require an estimated 12,000 truck movements**, significant road closure and lead to **dust and noise pollution** - an extra 80 lorry movements a day along Hall Lane!
- Increased traffic movements along Hall Lane/A5209 from J27 M6.
- The applicant has revised the planned access for the site making access to visit the Parbold Bottle monument from the layby **dangerous and difficult.**

Does this mean my objection does not count anymore?

This is where we want to first **say a massive THANK YOU to everyone who has diligently lodged their objections to the initial proposal**, which includes over 1,000 private citizens, Rosie Cooper MP, 7 Parish Councils and West Lancs Borough Council.

The anger and backlash to this planned destruction of a site of public interest and beauty have been overwhelming, so thank you to everyone who has objected.

So in the answer to the question... yes, your objection to the original application does still stand.

BUT... In order to really hammer home your opposition, **once you have reviewed the new application it would not hurt to send a short email to devcon@lancashire.gov.uk** stating that not only do you renew your original objection to application LCC/2019/0028 but you also object to the new amendment **based on specific evidence-based grounds.**

This doesn’t mean that the job is done! The application can only be defeated by evidence-supported expert opinions which are provided by specialist consultants.

And you're in very good company...

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Lancashire County Council Highways have objected to the new proposed access because it is on the brow of the hill and even more dangerous than the previous application!

Here are a few key points that we want to highlight which demonstrate how dangerous this proposal could be:

“there is a fundamental flaw with the proposed access in that it is located on a slope with haulage vehicles required to stop on an incline before turning right into the site and also starting on an incline when turning right to the east.”

“The application submission does not address the footway, and I would not be in favour of the introduction of any steps to maintain the footway route.”

“As submitted the applicant has failed to demonstrate a safe and suitable means of access, and the proposals would have a severe safety impact on existing highway users.”

The LCC Highways dept was joined in quick succession last week by **West Lancashire Borough Council which said:**

“The Council consider that the applicant has not demonstrated that the development will not adversely affect the amenities on the nearest residents on Parbold Hill...”

“It is not considered that the substantial green belt harm is outweighed by any very special circumstances put forward by the applicant.”

You might choose to **cite either of these authorities’ objections** in your email restating your opposition.

Memorial Park Play Area Pic-Nic Bench

Last weekend the pic-nic bench was set on fire by young people indulging in anti-social behaviour. Several photos of the event and its aftermath were received by parish councilors and were forwarded to me. The information was passed on to Wigan Council’s Playspaces section, who are investigating and expediting repairs.

Precept 2020

The formal precept request was submitted to Wigan Council before the end of January, as required.

Forest Fold Allotments Tenants’ Association

Cllr J Whiteley and I recently met with a group of tenants of Forest Fold Allotments to discuss their proposals for the setting up of a Tenants’ Association. This will be an item on the agenda for the next Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting.

Christmas Shop-Front Competition

We have received letters of thanks from Joining Jack, Wigan & Leigh Hospice and Appley Bridge Community Association for our donations in relation to the awards made in the competition.

‘Thank You’

We have received a letter of thanks from Jim Maloney for the bouquet of flowers which he and Veronica recently received from the Parish Council.

K.M.P. 21.02.20