

Shevington Parish Council
Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 27 June 2019

Repairs to Shevington Methodist Church Car Park

The Finance Committee asked me to establish the cost of repairs to be carried out on the car park at Shevington Methodist Church. The work is expected to cost approximately £7,000.

Upgrades at Forest Fold

The painting of the boundary fence panels around the bowling green has been completed. SVBC have painted the exterior of the Bowling Pavilion and will be painting the visitor shelters. They will also be repairing the roofing on the shelters – it was damaged during storms earlier this year.

The condition of the boundary wall at the entrance to the site and at the car park and also the uneven flags around the bowling green was discussed by the Policy & GP Committee. Cllr M Grimes and I met with a contractor to discuss the work required the next day. Quotations are in the process of being prepared. Three will need to be sought for each job, so it will be the end of August before this item appears on the agenda of a Council meeting.

Shevington Village Bowling Club News

Shevington Village Bowling Club will be holding their Open Day at Forest Fold Bowling Green on Sunday, 11 August. Members who are accredited trainers in crown green bowling have this season resumed the delivery of training sessions for small groups of older children from a local primary school. The children are accompanied and supervised by school staff. Both they and the SVBC trainers have DBS clearance.

Tree at Forest Fold Allotments

Last week a resident of a property in Broadriding Road raised concerns about a crack in the trunk of a tree located on the allotments. The tree is in a position where, if it fell, it would hit his shed, which has tongue and groove joints and would be expensive to replace. An inspection was carried out and photographs were sent to the Trees & Woodlands Officer at Wigan Council together with a request for advice and permission to carry out any work he recommended. There are no TPOs on trees at Forest Fold, but, under the terms of the Parish Council's lease with Wigan Council for the land, permission is needed from the LA to carry out work on trees on the property. The trees officer has replied that the Ash tree has developed an included union and co-dominant leaders. The crack is a sign that the union is beginning to fail. Consequently, he has no objections to the tree being felled.

Northwest in Bloom Entry

The portfolio for the Memorial Park entry in the North West in Bloom small parks competition, which is being prepared by Shevington in Bloom is almost ready. Contractors have arranged dates for visits to the park to get it ready in time for judging day, which is on Thursday, 4 July – next week.

Old Blue Van

There have been several reports of a light blue van, registration P46 RHJ, around the district. The occupants have been behaving suspiciously. The Police have been informed.

Training to be Provided by Wigan Council's Democratic Services

Democratic Services will be providing training on a Monday evening in September for those councillors who expressed an interest. The final date has still to be agreed.

Damage at Elnup Wood

PS Nick Forshaw has reported that his team have patrolled in Elnup Woods over the past two weeks. They have seen the den and the fallen trees and jumps. However, they think that the tracks at that location belong to bicycles as opposed to motorcycles. They appreciate that motorcycles do go into the woods, but at that location the tracks do not appear to belong to them. The Police will continue to monitor the area and will appreciate any further information that can be provided. They have asked that any ASB with motorbikes should be reported to them via 101.

Return Your Surplus Hospital Equipment

Sunday, 30 June is the date when Wigan Rotary Club and Leigh Rotary Club have arranged for the public to return any equipment which is surplus to their needs. Please bring any of the items listed below to either **Sunshine House, Wellington Street, Wigan WN1 3SA** between **9.30am. and 2.30pm.** or **Leigh Tesco, Derby St, Leigh, WN7 4BA** between **11am. and 4pm.**

Please only return - Clean Medical Mattress (which prevent pressure sores): Bed Levers (goes under the mattress): Over Bed Trays: Kitchen Trolleys: Shower stools or chairs: Free Standing Toilet Frames: Zimmer Frames: Crutches: Wheel Chairs (Not electric): Commode chairs.

Cycle Three Sisters 2019

This FREE fun event at Three Sisters is on 10 July 2019.

WLBC 'Call for Traveller Sites'

West Lancashire Borough Council is carrying out a 'Call for Sites' exercise. They are looking specifically for potential traveller sites. If anyone knows of any sites they think might be suitable for gypsies and travellers or for travelling show people then please contact them. They are required by national planning policy to ensure that enough sites in West Lancashire are made available to meet the identified needs of the travelling community. The lack of allocated sites means West Lancashire is more vulnerable to the establishment of illegal encampments and weakens the Council's ability to take quick and effective action to secure the removal of such encampments.

The Council is looking for three types of sites:

- Those which may be used for travellers to base themselves throughout most of the year.
- Those for travelling show people to live and store their equipment outside their touring season.
- Those to meet the short term transit needs of travellers who are passing through West Lancashire on their way to other destinations or who choose to occasionally visit the area for short periods.

They know the issue of sites for travellers can be emotive and controversial, but WLBC needs to comply with national policy, and so they are looking to find the best possible sites to meet the needs of the established travelling community in West Lancashire. They are asking landowners and / or the public to make them aware of any sites that they know about that could be suitable.

The Council will consider all appropriate sites suggested during this exercise with a view to the most suitable sites potentially being proposed for allocation in any future Local Plan. Sites submitted will not necessarily be supported – they need to consider sites against a range of criteria when assessing their suitability.

You don't need to own land to submit it, but WLBC would prefer that sites are submitted with the owner's knowledge and / or support, where possible. Details of potential sites should be received by the Council no later than Wednesday, 31 July 2019 and should be submitted on the official form. The form is available on the Council website at:

<https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/the-local-plan/the-local-plan-2012-2027/evidence-and-research/gypsy-and-traveller.aspx>

Forms can also be picked up from the Council offices, or can be requested by phoning 01695 585274 / 5284.

Achievement Awards

We have had an email from the President of Shevington WI. She thinks that giving awards for Achievement is a lovely idea and is fully supportive of awards being given to volunteers for hard work and commitment. She asked for more information about the awards process with a view to the WI having greater involvement. I have sent a reply, providing the relevant information.

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Vicarage Lane Gate

Cllr J Ball received an expression of concern from a resident about the space between the hedge and the gate at the Vicarage Lane Fields site. The resident was concerned that the fencing had been removed illicitly and that this could lead to activities which would have a negative impact on the site. Cllr C Horridge investigated and discovered that no fencing had been removed. The contractor who had installed the gate had left large, heavy plastic bollards behind in this space and had removed them. The gap will need to be closed in order to maintain the security of the site. The gap is on property that is not within any of the leases and, therefore, the responsibility for closing it lies with the Parish Council.

K.M.P. 25.06.19