

## District Councillor's Report

### Shevington Parish Council Meeting – 29 September 2021

#### **East Quarry**

Since reporting David Owen's (West Lancs Chief Drainage Engineer) concerns about the effectiveness of the design of the Flood Defence System at Calico Brook, our Drainage Engineer, Laura Morrison, has met with him to discuss the works required to improve the structure's efficiency. They are both awaiting confirmation from their respective legal teams before they can move this forward. The issue of the discarded pipe and grating by the side of Calico Brook is being dealt with by Laura Morrison, who has asked Peter O'Dowd to remove it.

#### **Baby Elephant Car Park**

The dumped asbestos at the Baby Elephant car park is being dealt with by the Environmental Enforcement team who have requested that the landowner to arrange its removal.

#### **Brighter Borough Funding Support**

The Ward Councillors have agreed to use Brighter Borough Funding to support the installation of a defibrillator close to the bowling green at Forest Fold, and to subscribe to the lighting up of the Cenotaph for Remembrance once again.

#### **Streetscene Work Backlog**

In a meeting with the Places Directorate, we have been reassured that the backlog of work, caused by the Pandemic, (and still having implications for the workforce), is now to be addressed: Streetscene is to focus on dealing with issues such as weeding, potholes and generally making our environment tidy and attractive, but ask for our patience as this will obviously take time.

#### **The Britannia Hotel**

There have been many rumours/reports on social media relating to alleged incidents regarding the accommodation of asylum seekers at the hotel. As Ward Councillors, we have had weekly briefings to inform and reassure us that the Police and Wigan Council are working together to ensure this does not become a problem for the local community and the needs of the Asylum Seekers are catered for. Public Health have also been closely involved and especially in the prevention of any spread of Covid. A vaccination programme is underway. Council support teams are working with the Asylum Seekers to educate them in cultural 'do's' and 'don'ts' and in providing wrap-around support in terms of mental health, legal matters, benefit issues and clothes. People of this region have been incredibly generous in donating clothes, mobile phones, and other essentials. The police have maintained a close presence, checking with the Serco Security Guards two or three times a week and robustly investigating any reported issues. Solar lighting and cameras have been installed at the back of the hotel, covering part of the 'mineral line' footpath.

#### **Heritage Open Days at Haigh Hall**

These are occurring every weekend, including Fridays, between 11 am and 3 pm, until October 10<sup>th</sup>. Residents are invited to share their memories of Haigh Hall, accompanied by old memorabilia and photos, in an initiative which aims to capture a new archive of the Hall's past and present. Also, residents will be asked what their hopes and dreams are for the Hall's future.

#### **Memory Walk in Haigh Woodland Park**

Residents may join this walk on the 10<sup>th</sup> October for either a 1 mile walk or a more challenging 10 mile walk. Walkers, in this walk for a world without dementia, will be led by Phil Clarke, a Rugby League Legend and author, Alex Winstanley. The music of the *Happy Pluckers* will accompany the walk.

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#### ***The Streets for All GM Initiative***

The initiative promises streets that are welcoming, green and safe spaces for all, enabling more travel by walking, cycling and more efficient public transport. The buses are to be brought back under the control of Greater Manchester by April. However, at the moment, there are still issues with school buses, in particular: children needing to travel to St Peters' High School have to endure over a one hour's journey via Standish and Kitt Green, instead of the previous ten minute direct route. I have asked TfGM to investigate this.