

District Councillors' Reports to the Parish Council: 26 August 2020

Dist Cllr J Brown reported:

Road Behind the Parade of Shops in Shevington

The owner of one of the shops had been instrumental in gathering a group of the business owners together to carry out some work on the road. Between them they hired a machine and scraped back the surface. Dist Cllr Brown had obtained 40 tons of planings from Wigan Council for the team, who were going to distribute them along the surface. The team had access to a roller and would be rolling the planings. Unfortunately, the effects of this work would not be permanent, as the road needed to be tarmacked and drainage needed to be installed. In the light of this the Clerk had sent a letter to each property owner to ask them if they would contribute to this more permanent project and to confirm it in writing. For it to work all of the owners had to agree to contribute.

Millbank Flood Action Group

There were four culverts in total in the Millbank area, none of which were being maintained. Wigan Council and West Lancashire were currently in dispute with the Environment Agency and no one seemed to be taking any responsibility for the culverts. There were blockages which could lead to flooding in the area. During the recent rains members of the Action Group had alerted Central Watch, but no one had come out to alleviate the situation that was developing. In view of this they themselves had gone down and had cleared the stream, thereby preventing a more serious situation from developing. Dist Cllr Brown suggested that the Parish Council should support the Action Group in this on-going situation.

The Environment Agency were not responsible for streams and brooks, only rivers. The Clerk would write to Wigan Council's and West Lancashire Borough Council's drainage engineers to express the Parish Council's support for the group and to establish whether it was Wigan Council's or West Lancashire Borough Council's responsibility to maintain the culverts, as the situation needed to be resolved.

Dist Cllr P Collins reported:

Email Updates

Dist Cllr Collins had kept residents on his emailing list informed of developments during the Covid-19 crisis by circulating regular emails. A recent issue with Microsoft had resulted in some residents not receiving the email updates, but the IT Department at Wigan Council were working on it.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Dist Cllr Collins had met with the two PCSOs to discuss the increase in motor bikes at John Pit and stones appearing in gardens in Appley Bridge. The use of catapults was suspected in the case of the latter. A leaflet was being put together and would be posted through letterboxes in the area to warn people about it.

Height of Railings on the Motorway Bridge at J27

A resident had recently prevented a potential suicide from the bridge. This had brought attention to the fact that the height of the railings needed to be raised, as anyone falling or throwing something from the bridge could cause an accident on the motorway. When Cllr Collins had contacted Highways England about raising the height of the railings for the first time a few years ago. His suggestion had been turned down at the time. When he had put forward the suggestion for a second time – this time with the support of the Highways

Appendix A

Department – the matter had been raised to a higher priority, but not high enough for the work to be carried out.

Police Chase Through Crooke Village

During a Police Chase through Crooke Village a car had smashed into a salt bin and damaged it. A Brighter Borough grant had been awarded to replace the bin, fill it up and supply a shovel. Once empty, the residents would have to fill it up themselves.

Help for Local Sports Clubs

Cllr Collins had invited Shevington Football Club to apply for a Brighter Borough grant if they needed financial help to function in a Covid-secure way. This also applied to all other volunteer groups and sports clubs.

Dist Cllr M Whitham had sent a report, which was tabled:

Defibrillator update.

The defibrillator situated outside Shevington Methodists Church was accessed to help in an emergency situation earlier in the month. In liaison with North West Ambulance and using Wigan Council's Brighter Borough funding where necessary, Cllr Whitham was checking the condition of all the public access defibrillators in the area and ensuring that information about 'guardians' was up to date.

Public access defibrillators were situated at

- Shevington Methodist Church
- The Foresters in Shevington Moor,
- Crooke Hall Inn,
- and Woodnook Pharmacy in Appley Bridge

Cllr Whitham was also working towards other defibrillators in the Ward being registered with North West Ambulance. Most (possibly all) of the schools had defibrillators on site, the sports teams had them and, of course, the GP's Surgery.

In emergency situations the 999 service could direct a caller to the nearest defibrillator and instructions for use were given.

Tech Mates

Cllr Whitham was keen to promote Tech Mates locally and had been liaising with the Council officer managing the project. Volunteers were needed and advertisements had been circulated via social media.

Wilton Road

As requested by the Parish Council, Cllr Whitham had asked for Wigan Council's traffic management to look again at the situation in Wilton Road. There were already double yellow lines at the Shevington Lane / Wilton Road junction – she had asked if additional yellow line could be considered and was reminded that the policy is to avoid introducing double yellow lines in residential areas, partly because vehicles parking in a certain location would not just disappear, but would simply move on to the next available space where parking was permitted, creating similar and often greater problems there. If parking restrictions were being flouted, some enforcement action could be requested.
