

District Councillors' Reports to the Parish Council: 27 November 2019

Dist Cllr M Whitham reported the following:

Flooding in Back Lane and Gathurst Lane

Wigan Council's Infrastructure Maintenance Group had been busy solving the flooding in Back Lane and Gathurst Lane. The Group had completed works on the blockage at a private residence on Gathurst Lane. The highway drainage within the area was now working at optimum capacity and water should drain much more freely to the canal.

With regard to the ongoing issues at Back Lane in Appley Bridge: the Group had investigated the area thoroughly to identify if any Highways and Council owned assets were blocked and therefore causing an issue – their investigations had shown that there was no issue in the drainage system. The flooding was primarily caused by the gullies (drains) constantly becoming blocked with leaves which were a real issue during this time of the year. The Council's Highways Asset Manager Mr John Williams had arranged for the Infrastructure Maintenance Group to install larger gully frames in the worst hit area to help prevent further issues. Mr Williams had also liaised with our Streetscene department to determine if the sweeping of this road in Autumn and Winter could be prioritised.

Wigan Council staff were investigating and working on a solution to help resolve the issue as soon as possible. Unfortunately, the majority of water was natural surface water flowing from farmers' fields in the area and therefore, as a Council, they were only able to investigate and subsequently work on Council owned land and assets.

Wigan Council officers were fully aware of the flooding that occurred during or immediately after heavy rainfall at Back Lane. They received daily forecasts from the Met Office and when a red or yellow flood warning was initiated, the Flood Risk team ensured that all parties including Highways, the Infrastructure Maintenance Group and the Council's on-call team and Civil Contingencies were aware of the Borough's flooding hotspots and priority was given to these locations if calls started to come in – Back Lane was one such hotspot.

Traffic Issues

The ward councillors had discussed all traffic issues with Traffic Management staff and were meeting with them on the coming Friday for further discussion.

ASB in the Centre of Shevington Village

There had been regular issues with Anti-Social Behaviour in the Gathurst Lane area in recent weeks. The ward councillors were due to meet with the Police to discuss this matter.

Dist Cllr J Brown reported the following:

Franchising Buses

There was a long-needed plan by GM to improve our bus services. By franchising GM's bus services, it aimed to create a planned, integrated network, which linked with other modes of transport, and which was consistent in quality and value across Greater Manchester. This would include a simple, fair ticketing system and would contribute towards a decrease in pollution. School bus services would also be revised.

There was a public consultation underway at present and information/questionnaires could be obtained online and in public buildings/libraries. This consultation would end early January.

Appendix A

Any form of response was welcome: there were short or long questionnaires and it was not necessary to answer every question. Views could be posted or emailed. On Friday, 29 November there would be a drop-in session at Shevington Library between 1 and 4 pm.

This plan would have a transitional phase and Wigan would be in the first phase. The cost would be covered by government funding and a slight increase in the Mayoral precept, but it was hoped that franchising would give us value for money and any surplus would be re-invested in the service.

People could take part in this consultation by going to gmconsult.org; you may email your questionnaire or views to gmbusconsultation@ipsos-more.com; or send it to FREEPOST GM BUS CONSULTATION.
