

District Councillor's Report
Shevington Parish Council Meeting – 25 August 2021

SPEED COMPLAINTS

Greater Manchester Police have implemented a new process for reporting and dealing with persistent speeding offences. This initiative operates with the co-operation of the Council, but the GMP have primary responsibility. Any speeding issues should be reported to the new email address: speedcomplaint@gmp.police.uk. Once issues are logged, the GMP will decide whether to take action or to refer to Highways, who, having reviewed the information, will make a decision about taking investigative action. The intention is to avoid duplication of effort.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERN REGARDING THE FLOOD DEFENCE SYSTEM ON CALICO BROOK NORTH, MILL LANE, APPELEY BRIDGE

Following an incident last week, I attended a site meeting at the Flood Defence System on Calico Brook North, arranged by West Lancs District Councillor, Katie Jukes. At this meeting, it was clarified by the Principal Engineer for West Lancs, Dave Owens, what the specific responsibilities of Wigan Council and West Lancs District Council are.

This meeting was arranged because of Katie Jukes being contacted by a concerned resident, who had captured on camera someone clearing debris away from the flood system on Sunday 8th August, following heavy rain. It seems that this resident (a victim of the 1987 flood) felt compelled to climb on to the metal grating and clear the blockages which were causing the water to rise past the trigger point. However, the Incident Duty Officer for the Environment Agency did not alert Wigan Central Watch as the debris did not reach the level required. This lack of perceived action has prompted similarly dangerous actions, prior to this incident, by other residents fearful of the area again being flooded.

As Wigan Council has ownership of the land either side of the brook and the responsibility for the flood defence equipment, these actions pose a serious health and safety issue, which needs to be urgently addressed. This concern has also been flagged up with West Lancs District Council by Katie Jukes.

EFFICACY OF FLOOD DEFENCE SYSTEM

During discussion at today's site meeting, it transpired that Dave Owens, Principal Engineer for West Lancs District Council, is in the process of promoting an asset management scheme which would improve the maintenance of such assets as the Flood Defence at Calico Brook North, Mill Lane, Appley Bridge. This would enable 24 hour and quicker call-out response times. Katie Jukes, District Councillor for West Lancs, has written to Heidi McDougall in support of this initiative.

In relation to Wigan Council's responsibility for the Flood Defence system, Dave Owens did question the efficacy of the padlocked spring-loaded gates with a central vertical bar. This has prompted me to make the request for the padlock to be removed temporarily from the gates to test whether, or not, larger items of debris could then be moved further up into the

system, thus reducing a build-up of smaller debris and therefore a rise in water level. I have asked Wigan Council officers to liaise with Dave Owens on this matter. It is in our joint interest for this system to work as efficiently as possible. By imbuing confidence in the system, it would be hoped that individual residents would not be compelled to engage in the dangerous activity of clearing the grating of debris.

FLY TIPPING ON LAND ADJACENT TO CALICO BROOK NORTH

During a site meeting with Dave Owens, Principal Engineer for West Lancs and Katie Jukes, District Councillor for the former, when an inspection of the Flood Defence System at Calico Brook North, near Mill Lane, Appley Bridge, was carried out, it was observed that the pipe used to empty water illegally from the East Quarry into Calico Brook, lay rusting on the bank, close by. When Peter O'Dowd had been forced to dismantle it, it was simply discarded there. This needs to be removed. Mr O'Dowd has been asked to do this by Laura Morrison, Wigan's Drainage Engineer, previously.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: PLACES FOR EVERYONE JOINT DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT – BOLTON, BURY, MANCHESTER, OLDHAM, ROCHDALE, SALFORD, TAMESIDE, TRAFFORD, WIGAN

The public consultation on the publication version of the Places for Everyone Plan is now open until **23:45pm on Sunday 3 October 2021**.

As you will be aware, the Places for Everyone Plan will be a long-term plan of the above nine districts for jobs, new homes, and sustainable growth and will help meet the city-region's needs up until 2037. It replaces the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework which is no longer being taken forward following the withdrawal of Stockport Council from the joint plan in December 2020.

Residents can view the plan and supporting documents and submit comments on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority website at www.gmconsult.org. Hard copies of the Plan can also be viewed at Wigan Library and Leigh Library.

Details on the 4 site allocations proposed in the borough at M6 Junction 25, North of Mosley Common, Pocket Nook in Lowton, and West of Gibfield, and details of the 6 proposed Green Belt additions in the borough can also be viewed at www.wigan.gov.uk/placesforeveryone.

COLLECTIONS FOR AFGHAN EVACUEES

At the present, Greater Manchester Armed Forces Covenant Programme is still trying to ascertain the specific needs of Afghan evacuees across GM. In terms of current requirements, we are seeing a demand for clothing (men/women/children) and for toys for children of all ages.

The only drop off point we currently have in Wigan Borough is: Leigh Spinners Mill
Donations are accepted from Tuesday to Thursday 1 pm-5 pm and Saturday 10.30-3 pm at Spinners Mill, Leigh WN7 2BL