

Ward Councillors Report to Parish Council 25 /11/2020

Matters arising from minutes

Cllr Whitham enquired of the North West Ambulance Association regarding a recognised award for the gentleman who helped Andrew Moakes through CPR. There is no routine /regular awarding process but rather, sometimes, exceptional stories are highlighted and promoted. My contact person passed my email to the PR team but they haven't come back to me. The appropriate way forward seems to be through the proposed PC award.

Noted: the request to improve the Newgate Avenue to Stockley Park path. *The use of Brighter Borough funding to create a scheme to address this will be discussed.*

Remembrance Sunday

Just to add to the Clerk's full account of how we marked Remembrance this year: Cllr Paul Collins laid wreaths at the cenotaphs in Appley Bridge and Shevington and at the Miners' memorial outside St Anne's, on behalf of the three ward Councillors later in the day on Remembrance Sunday.

Illumination of the Shevington Memorial.

As the Clerk has noted, Wigan Council funded the cenotaph light ups across the Borough. Working with Leisuretec, we are able to use Brighter Borough funding to enable this for one evening next year and perhaps in future years. We may also be able to request illumination of an additional cenotaph – funds and capacity allowing. *Democratic Services had advised that it would support this company, who are struggling because of the Pandemic, if we book the light show for next year's Remembrance event, presently. This could be extended to the other memorials in the Parish, where wreaths are laid. Again, we would sponsor this using Brighter Borough funds. Discussion as to appropriate sites would be welcome.*

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Digital Inclusion

We continue to work to support digital inclusion. When groups can meet again we will resume the classes that have run in Shevington Library for 2/3 years.

Currently we are working to raise the profile of what the Council's **TechMates** scheme is achieving and would appreciate your support. The scheme continues to recruit, train and support volunteers who can help those digitally excluded or work with those more computer literate want to increase their skills. We are likely to have access to funding to help a small number of people in our community 'get on line' by loaning or gifting equipment or arranging connectivity packages. The Councils Digital Business Manager, Tracey Boffey was able to attend last evening's Community Association meeting to describe some of the scheme's successes. There are already some very positive stories of successes in Shevington. Interestingly, volunteers will soon include John Rigby students. Digital support through the scheme could range from getting online for the first time to a practice on Zoom or Teams. *We have details of the website, and contacts, which can be accessed by residents who require support or who would like to be come a TechMate. Techmates can be anyone capable of fulfilling this role, aged 14 years (with parental consent) and upwards. They will receive induction training.*

Some of the funding we will have particular access to in Shevington is as a result of our Greater Manchester Age Friendly Community Status. Target recipients are low income, isolated older people. Please refer to Ward Councillors or directly to TechMates anyone interested who might fit the target.

Council Staff

Whilst we remain in 'Major Incident' mode, 650 Council employees are redeployed to help ensure, for example, support for vulnerable people, test and trace duties, compliance with regulations and as squads to support care homes.

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Community Hub (SDF)

Ward Councillors continue to work closely with Lynn Prescott and Lucy Murphy as do our many volunteers. The links that Lynn and colleagues have with our community police team, with social workers, with the Resilience Team, with Housing, Healthy Living Teams and our local health services are proving invaluable. We are fortunate that Shevington Library will remain as a base for Wigan North place based working for the foreseeable future.

The main **Council helpline** remains active and links people to our community hubs, to financial advice including small business help, and support and to other services including Mental Health and Well-being support and the Domestic Abuse services. Ward Councillors also have access to phone numbers for safeguarding enquiries. **Help line 01942 489018**

Ensuring key messages reach everyone.

We still have some publicity cards available for household delivery.

The Council's Information Van will be parked in Shevington on Saturday 28th November.

And of course the PC Newsletter should reach every household.

Fireworks

The PC has noted the many discussions on social Media around the noise / dangers of fireworks over an increasing number of days. Ward Councillors have received a number of communications from constituents who back lobbying by the RSPCA - see their website.

Environmental and Traffic Management

Enquiries continue and are being dealt with where possible.

PCSOs have recently spent some time outside schools at drop off time – their experience supports work we are doing and will continue to do around safety issues. *Amanda Birkett, a PCSO, together with a traffic PCSO, questioned why there was no crossing operative outside St Bernadette's. It was explained that we, ourselves, had been consulting Council officers about this issue. The reality is that as it is only a C category crossing, the operative can be transferred to another, higher category crossing when required. She also recognized the lack of parking in the area. If a 'walking zone' was established around all of our primary schools, the issues relating to parking and crossing outside the schools would be to some extent alleviated.*

GMSF

The final consultation on the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework will run from 1st December 2020 to 26th January 2021. Proposals relate to employment land development at M6 Junction 25, housing development at Mossley Common, and mixed land developments in Lowton and Atherton.

For Shevington, no changes except that the land between our dual carriageway at Junction 27 is being added to Greenbelt.

Miles Lane Site

Our officers continue to keep us informed. I look forward to the realisation of what I regard as a perfectly situated Extra care facility and its true integration with our community. *We have been reassured that Officers were willing to meet regularly with us, particularly at key moments in the development of plans and their implementation, so that we would be able to keep the Community fully aware of progress.*

Regular Covid Updates and Ward Issues

Councillor Paul Collins continues to share regular updates via his website and email networks. One of the most recent being that whilst Wigan borough's amount of new Covid-19 infections has decreased by around 30 per cent (figures up to 19th November) we must to continue to be very

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cautious. *A bus will be parked outside the Library on 28th November, to support 'how we can do our bit' in helping to reduce Covid transmission levels. Staff will be giving out packs, which include instructions and relevant items such as a mask and sanitizer.*

MW. PC. JB 25112020