

**Shevington Parish Council
Annual Property Inspection Report
Thursday 4 August 2016 – 6:00 pm**

Forest Fold Bowling Green Site

- The quality of the maintenance of the green was such that the green looked in better condition than it had done for several years. The flowering moss that had been allowed to invade and spread in 2014 had been removed and was being kept under control, as were other unwanted growths. The green had undergone Autumn renovation in 2015 and preparation in the Spring of 2016. Applications of wetting agent had helped to prevent dry patch and there were no large bare areas visible. A broad spectrum fungicide had recently been used prophylactically to try to prevent invasion by several fungi that had affected the green last season and there were indicators (i.e. the lack of fairy ring) that it was working.
- The interior of the 'Ladies' in the toilet block had been refurbished and looked quite smart, as did the 'Gents', which had been refurbished in 2015. The exterior had been painted. The floors of both toilets needed to be recovered.
- The storage compound had been tidied up.
- The peripheral areas were being maintained regularly and weeds were under control.
- The condition of some the Leylandii trees forming the hedge in the car park was causing concern. Several had died due to old age and needed replacing. It was suggested that, as the existing dead trees still provided security for the site, that they should be maintained and that trailing plants such as honeysuckle or clematis should be planted and allowed to intertwine with them for cosmetic purposes.

Raised Bed Allotments

- Weeds were largely under control.
- Some of the raised beds had not been cultivated this year and looked very untidy. Mr S Boyle, who had earlier this year taken over the job of allocating allotments from Cllr C Horridge, explained that replacement tenants for some of the uncultivated allotments had only recently been identified. Issues relating to the allocation of raised bed allotments were discussed.

Shevington Allotments

- The allotments were largely in very good condition, but some were not being used properly. The role of Shevington Garden Club members in the management of the allotments was not clear. This needed to be discussed with a view to perhaps a written agreement being put in place.
- Members visited and admired the 'Best Kept Allotment'. The tenant of this allotment had inherited an eyesore eighteen months ago and had converted it into an outstanding plot during its first year and had improved on this in 2016.
- The surfaces of both car parks needed renewal.
- The grass along the centre of the road through the allotments was being strimmed regularly by the contractor and weeds in both car parks were being kept under control.
- The contract cleaner kept the entrance car park litter free.
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Randalls Corner

- All planters were well-maintained.

Stockley Park and Woodnook Open Space & Shopping Area

- The asphalt road through the park was even more overgrown with weeds than ever and badly needed maintenance. This lack of maintenance was causing the road surface to deteriorate. The general quality of maintenance in other areas had improved, but the use of a strimmer would further improve it.
- Additional bins were needed at the exits to the park.
- All planters in the area were well maintained.
- The new bench introduced by Appley Bridge in Bloom in Woodnook Open Space was admired.

Whiteacre Park

- The hedge was (yet again) badly in need of a cut and the overall quality of grass cutting and weeding was poor.
- The footpaths needed to be edged to help prevent grass from encroaching onto them.
- The sand in the play areas was clean, but was spilling over the paths. Fencing similar to that in Memorial Park would help keep this under control.

Crooke Village

- Crooke Village had entered North West in Bloom as usual.
- A new feature consisting of two logs, which were being used as planters, placed on either side of the old sign from Crooke School Study Centre had been installed at the entrance to the footpath leading to the tippler. The whole thing looked very impressive.
- The CVRA had plans for the development of a bluebell wood nearby.
- The remains of the tippler had been uncovered recently. There were plans to re-construct a small version of the tippler. As part of this project Network Rail had agreed to replace a missing sleeper.
- A defibrillator had been installed at the front of the Crooke Hall Inn.

Crooke & Otters Croft Woods

- The over-growth along the accessway to the woodlands needed to be cut back regularly. There was evidence that someone had been using a metal detector along it and had left piles of soil in the area. Permission had not been given for this activity in this location.
- Responsibilities for the maintenance of the accessway needed to be clarified.
- There was insufficient light and time to inspect the woodland.

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Parish Council Car Park in Gathurst Lane

- A notice saying 'No horses allowed on the Recreation Ground' was needed in this area.
- There was no sign of Japanese Knotweed in the area.

Shevington Memorial Park & Garden

- Replacement of the current surface of the trimtrail path continued to be a matter of urgency. The flags along the paved footpaths also needed relaying. The pathways at the lower end of the park would need to be raised, as at present they were often flooded and impassable. The park had severe drainage problems and investigations into a remedy were on-going.
- Quite a few of the flags in the Memorial Garden were loose and needed re-laying.
- In general, the litter situation was under control. The play area is checked (and cleared, if necessary) by the contractor, who also inspects the play equipment once a week. The sand is rotovated and replenished from time to time. Signs warning users to 'Beware of the Glass' are displayed on the gates of the play area. Other areas of the park are checked and tidied when the bins are emptied (twice a week) and when litter is picked. The new caretaker would also soon be involved in this process on three occasions a week.
- The footpaths were largely clear of grass and weeds. The grass, hedges and shrubberies were well maintained.
- The two new beech trees planted in November had died. One had already been removed, the other was due to be removed the following day. The oak tree planted by the WI had also died.

Street Furniture

- All planters were in good condition.
- Most of the Council's notice boards were now new and in good condition. However, the headers of two of the older ones were in need of renewal. The notice boards also needed to be cleaned.
- All of the bin stock had been replaced over several years and new bins had been added. Three vandalized bins had been replaced last year. However, one or two others had deteriorated and would need re-painting/re-placing.
- Benches were in good condition.