

Shevington Parish Council
Annual Property Inspection Report
Thursday 3 August 2017 – 6:00 pm

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. One in particular required attention as a matter of urgency. 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 meant to be rotovated and replenished from time to time, but there was no evidence of this having happened. For the first time weeds were seen to be growing in the sand in the play area. Since care of the play area had passed from WLCT to Wigan Council the service being provided did not appear to be of as good a standard. One of the items of play equipment had a rope missing. 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 caretaker is also involved in this process on three occasions a week.
- The footpaths were largely clear of grass and weeds. The hedges had yet to be pruned – the Council had altered the timing of this function in the specification for the contract.
- The two new beech trees planted in the Memorial Garden in November 2016 were thriving. The original oak tree planted by the WI had also died and been replaced. The new tree was also thriving.
- The young willow tree in the vicinity of the aerial runway had been broken by vandals. The stump and supports would need to be removed. The trunk and branches were found lying further into the park.
- The bin near the bench opposite St Anne's Parish Centre was rusty and would need to be replaced.
- An application had been submitted for permission to prune trees in the vicinity of No.35 Shevington Lane. Once that had been received quotations for this and other treeworks in connection with dead trees and branches would be sought.

Vicarage Lane Fields

- The work on drainage for the sports fields was still in progress, but nearing completion.
- Work on the car park had begun. The Clerk was due to meet with the project manager on site to discuss the provision of fencing.

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Raised Bed Allotments

- Weeds were largely under control.
- The raised beds had all been cultivated this year, but there were several bags of soil within the enclosure which, ideally, needed to be removed, as they were providing a home for weed growth.
- Repair of the palisade fencing was in hand.
- Top soil delivered for the 'Edible Appley Bridge' project that had been surplus to requirements was to be offered to raised bed tenants for use on their plots.
- The new 'Edible Appley Bridge' raised beds were admired.
- The boundary wall was in greater need of repair, having been damaged when the soil was delivered.

Forest Fold Bowling Green Site

- The quality of the maintenance of the green was as good as it had been the previous year, but a heavy infestation of velvet like moss in the Spring had created issues. The need to remove this gradually had led to the appearance of small bare patches. The flowering moss that had been allowed to invade and spread in 2014 had been removed and other unwanted growths were being kept under control. The green had undergone Autumn renovation in 2016 and preparation in the Spring of 2017. Applications of wetting agent had helped to prevent dry patch and there were no large bare areas visible. The broad spectrum fungicide that had been applied prophylactically in 2016 to try to prevent invasion by several fungi that had affected the green in 2015 had not been manufactured this year and stocks were not available anywhere. Consequently, fairy ring had returned. However, the green keeper had recently identified another product which he intended to use.
- The interiors of the toilets had been refurbished in 2015 and 2016. The exterior had also been painted in 2016. The floors of both toilets needed to be re-covered.
- The peripheral areas were being maintained regularly and weeds were under control.
- The three old litter bins had recently been painted.

Shevington Allotments

- The allotments were largely in very good condition, but some were still not being used properly.
- 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 caretaker kept the entrance car park litter free.
- The new numbering system was in place.

Whiteacre Park

- The hedge had been cut, but the overall quality of grass cutting and weeding was poor.

Appendix A

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- The footpaths needed to be edged to help prevent grass from encroaching onto them. At present they were disappearing.
- The sand in the play areas was not being as well maintained as in past year – weeds were growing in it..

Crooke Village

- The Committee admired the pit tub that had been installed near the location of the former tippler. The tub had come from the former John Pit.
- The bin at the entrance to Crooke Park was very rusty and needed to be replaced.
- When asked, Mr Thomas reported that he was not aware of any abuse of the Parish Council's accessway to Otters Croft wood.