

## Appendix B

### **Shevington Parish Council Chairperson's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 16 March 2017**

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting.

This account will be short.

There have been two main issues this year ..... The Vicarage Lane project and the School Closure. School Closure is an item on the agenda itself.

#### **The Vicarage Lane Project**

The long battle to sign off the Vicarage Lane leases between the clubs and the Parish Council has now been concluded. We are celebrating.

The struggle this year to obtain a simple document from Orica to clarify the terms of our purchase of the land has been puzzling .. That Orica a high powered company could be so slow to respond to a very simple request and then demand such a high price for their minimal services has been shocking to us. This could be something we can investigate at a later date!. However, it is now all systems go and the football and rugby clubs can push forward their important work. We hope it goes from strength to strength this year... Thanks to Steve Bates and Andy Williams and Steve Dillon for their commitment over many years to achieve this result!

The lease for the allotments project on the same site is now close to being settled. Hopefully they too will begin their work very soon. In the mean time Eileen and Andrew and the team have successfully bid for funding from Wigan Deal for important aspects of the work. Obtaining grant funding is long term hard work for volunteers. The time and effort involved shows the commitment of the group to the community. We appreciate their hard work to bring allotment provision to more people in Shevington.

Eileen has also obtained funding for an Incredible Edible project. So down at Appley Bridge , at the Forest Fold Allotments, there will soon be a community orchard. We really should thank Eileen and the Appley Bridge in Bloom group for their vision and hard work in this development.

Also this year Eileen and Andrew with myself and other Councillors have set up an Allotments Working Party . We have tried to ensure that our allotment rules and protocols comply with up to date requirements. A reference booklet will be issued later this year. This will be useful to both experienced and novice allotmenters.

The In Bloom groups have worked their magic again this year - all three groups achieving Gold or Platinum awards – enhancing the community environment with their vision and hard work. Congratulations and thanks to all the volunteers. Shevington in Bloom have had a new influx of volunteers this year which is really good news for them. Appley Bridge in Bloom missed Gold by just one point.

The struggle to improve the surface at the back of the shops is still on going ... This seems like a never ending uphill struggle. The Parish Council are close to despairing. It is not Parish Council Responsibility. The issue is one for local shop owners and tenants and also the WALH GROUP. The PC has tried to help. The Clerk has done a lot of research into the ownership and tenancy of the shops establishing their responsibility. The P C have tried to persuade WALH

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to take their share of the financial responsibility for the work. Recent conversations with WALH have so far received no reply.

The Youth Club will celebrate 50 years of the existence of the club with a Variety Show. We will be bringing together enthusiastic local talent of quality and some of no quality at all to create some singing and dancing fun on the Evening of the 16 th December 2017. We invite you all to sign up your act now. Dance the Can-Can, sing a duet, a barbershop quartet, a magic show ... Play an instrument ... Get everybody in the hall singing. Your talent is needed. Please let us know that you have that va va vooom!

The PC would like to congratulate the Community Association for its work done with dementia groups and the World War One Memorial tree Planting. The latest tree was planted in Shevington Moor in November. It coincided with the centenary of the battle of the Somme.. Thanks to Jim and Veronica Maloney for their organisation of a visionary project to commemorate this most searing event in our history. As on each of the tree planting occasions this was supported by groups of school children and their teachers. The planting was done by the Mayor of Wigan. Thanks to the Silver Tally Pub which gave refreshments free of charge afterwards.

The work of compiling of the Wartime Memorial booklet is still on going.

I would also like to thank Barry King .. Our guru in all things relating to those documents which cascade down from Wigan Council and from Government departments. We thank him for his insightful digest of their content and his advice. Barry has also worked tirelessly on the Parish Plan. He will talk more about that later.

Drainage of the Memorial play park ... Recently we feel we are moving forward on this . In order to do this with confidence, we need to know that you the residents support the initiative. A considerable grant sum is needed. We are therefore requesting all residents and groups to sign up to help us make this drainage project a reality. If bids are successful then costs will be absorbed into the grant funding. The Council hope therefore we will finally have a solution to this ongoing problem with no cost to residents. If bids are unsuccessful, we will have to think again. So please sign up to the project tonight . There is a clipboard chart you can sign this evening.

I would also like to thank the clerk for her considered advice and her unfailing support ... ..

Cllr Ira Whiteley  
Chair of Shevington Parish Council