

Shevington Parish Council
Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 27 April 2017

Grants and Donations

We have received letters from Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees and from Wigan & Leigh Hospice thanking the Parish Council for their grants / donations.

Bench IMO Eddie Evans

The family of the Late Eddie Evans have selected a location in Memorial Park where they would like the bench to be installed. I am meeting them in the park this week so that they can tell me where it is and discuss matters in greater detail.

Map of Locations of Wigan Council Bins in the Parish

The possibility of providing a map of the locations of Wigan Council's bins in the Parish is still being looked into by one of Wigan Council's officers.

Station Adoption

I was recently contacted by Roger Bell (Vice Chair of OPSTA and parish councillor on Burscough Parish Council) about the Parish Council's status as the adopter of Appley Bridge and Gathurst Station. It seems that there is some confusion at Arriva as they do not really have a good understanding of the role of station adopters. This has been exacerbated by the fact that the record keeping of their predecessors in relation to this function was not very precise, so it has taken some time for Arriva personnel to unravel things. Roger Bell has been trying to help with the unravelling, taking one adopted station along the Southport to Manchester route at a time. I understand from Roger that the position with respect to Appley Bridge Station has now been sorted out. He is still working on Gathurst Station.

Drainage Issues in the Vicinity of Shevington Scout Hut

I met with David Huxley of Shevington Scouts and the owner of the adjacent property last week and we discussed the issues. David Huxley has observed that when Wigan Council's refuse / re-cycling teams come to empty the bins of the properties at the top of Forest Fold the operatives do not walk from Miles Lane to collect the bins. Instead their vehicles are driven along Forest Fold to the residential properties. There is nowhere at the top of Forest Fold for their vehicles to turn around, so their only way out is to reverse slowly back down the road. Forest Fold is a single track road and, if the refuse trucks meet another vehicle travelling in the opposite direction, they have to move out of the way to let the other vehicle pass. They usually do this by moving into the small Scout Hut car park.

There are suspicions that the refuse trucks have damaged the kerb stones at the edge of the Scout Hut car park when driving over them. They are now loose because the damaged asphalt in the road is no longer holding them in place. When it rains heavily water flows downhill from the bowling green car park into the road, where there is a drain, which is currently blocked. The kerb stones are raised and, if they were not damaged, would prevent this water flowing into the car park and channel it into the drain in the road. As it is, the water is percolating through the cracks in the kerb stones into the car park, heading towards the back of the garage of the neighbouring property and seeping into the garage.

As water is also coming down towards the garage from the property owned / leased by the scouts, the scouts plan to create some land drainage which will deflect water seeping from their property away from the rear of the garage towards a drain providing a facility for garage roof water. Mr Huxley was also intending to film the activities of the refuse trucks with a view to providing Wigan Council with the evidence of their liability in relation to the damage to the kerb stones. It was also suggested that the damage to the Parish Council's wall to could have been caused by the refuse trucks. There is ample space there for any cars parked in the car park to reverse out without hitting the wall.

On inspection, the drain in the road was found to be blocked by stones and grit. It was suggested that the water travelling down from the bowling green car park brought rawl planings with it and was the cause of the blockage. We now await the outcome of Mr Huxley's filming and his next approach to Wigan Council.

Pedestrian Crossing in the Old Lane Area

A few weeks ago I was copied into a letter sent by a resident to the Highways Engineer for the area asking whether it would be possible for a pedestrian crossing to be introduced to the Old Lane area so that children walking along Shevington Lane to Memorial Park could cross safely. She has received the following reply:

"I refer to your recent enquiry regarding concerns you have about the lack of a crossing facility in the Old Lane area. We are aware of the desire for a pedestrian crossing on Old Lane as residents have approached us and the local Councillors regarding this previously.

Approximately 12 months ago we undertook a survey in the area to determine whether the site met the required criteria for a crossing. The survey showed that there were very few pedestrians crossing Old Lane throughout the day. The busiest crossing times were during the morning and afternoon school drop off / pick up periods and these pedestrians utilised the school crossing patrol.

Unfortunately although the survey showed that there are pedestrians crossing the road in this area, the number of pedestrians crossing was too low to justify either puffin or a zebra crossing on Old Lane at the current time. We have measured the road width to see if a pedestrian refuge island can be accommodated as an alternative crossing facility but unfortunately the road is too narrow.

Funding for crossings has to be allocated to areas where there is the highest demand as we have very limited funding to introduce new crossings and unfortunately Old Lane does not fall into this category at present. We will however include the site on our list of crossing requests should funding become available in future as we appreciate your concerns. I appreciate that this may not be the response you were hoping for and I apologise I am unable to be of further assistance at the present time."

Fire at Shevington Memorial Park

When driving past Memorial Park during the Easter holidays, I noticed a fire engine parked in Church Lane and fire officers heading towards the copse at the centre of the park. It seems that they had been called out because a resident had spotted smoke coming out of one of the two / three trees which have an opening at ground level. The fire officers were in the process of dealing with the smouldering embers by the time I reached them and were successful. The team had come from Horwich because Wigan officers were all busy. After a conversation with me the Crew Manager sent an email to Wigan Fire Station asking them to pass on the message that Shevington needed more Police patrols. Since then the Caretaker has reported the aroma of smoke several times in certain areas of the park recently.

Metal Detecting Permission

One of the people who have permission to undertake metal detecting on some the Council properties has recently written:

"Thank you very much for giving me the permissions in Shevington to detect. They have produced some interesting finds especially a purse spill from the 50/60s. The oldest coin I found was opposite St. Anne's Church on the memorial park, a 1702 George III cartwheel penny. You wouldn't want many of these in your pocket, they weigh a ton.

The hardest part of my hobby is gaining new permissions. I have visited local farmers and landowners with limited luck. Would you please, therefore, consider me if any future land becomes available or if indeed you have any contacts that would help me in gaining new permissions? I'm pretty sure Shevington has a lot more history undiscovered and would love to be the one who unearthes a local gem, If you'll pardon the pun."

LCTP Planning Workshop

In response to demand LCTP have arranged a second workshop on Planning. It will be on Thursday, 11 May. If anyone is interested in attending, please let me know. There are still a few places left.

Appley Bridge Forest Fold Project

Mrs Longmore has sent the plan for the project at Forest Fold. It is attached for your information.

K.M.P. 26.04.17