

Shevington Parish Council
Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 27 October 2016

The Wigan Borough (Decriminalisation of Parking) (Various Roads in Wigan Borough) (Traffic Regulation Consolidation) Order 2004 (Amendment No.347) Order 2015

Wigan Council's Legal Department have written to confirm that our objection to the above Order has now been considered by the Assistant Director of Economy and Environment, Places Directorate:

“The Director recommendeds that the proposed parking restrictions be abandoned.

The decision to abandon the restrictions is due to a number of factors. In the first instance a number of the objection letters requested that we amend the restrictions by extending them or reverting them to what was on the incorrect plan that was placed on deposit. Unfortunately the confines of the legal process meant that we could not amend the restrictions as some of the objectors request.

The future of the school was also a factor which prompted us to abandon the current proposal. As the school is currently part of the consultation about school provision in Shevington, it was decided that no further action should be taken on introducing further restrictions in this area until a decision on the future of the schools is made. Should parking remain a problem in this area in future, parking restrictions can again be considered at that time, should they be required.”

Members may recall discussion about the above. It was assumed that the restriction of parking order referred to the stretch of Miles Lane outside the school – one that the Parish Council supported. It actually referred to the stretch of Elmfield outside Millbrook School – one that the Parish Council objected to. Consequently, I have not written to the LA.

Annual Parish Walk

We have received a letter from Wigan & Leigh Hospice thanking us for our donation.

Illuminated Sign Issues

The lack of illumination of several signs in the vicinity of the mini-roundabout outside the Co-op was reported to the LA. I was subsequently sent plans of the area on which the signs were marked and asked to identify the signs which were not lit. This has been expedited.

Holes in Mini-Roundabout

The holes in the mini-roundabout carriageway were also reported to Highways, who have asked their inspector to check the surface condition. If there are any reportable defects (deeper than 40mm) he will arrange for the necessary repairs to be carried out.

Ground Rent

The Secretary to the Recreation Ground Trustees has written to thank us for paying our ground rent for the car park.

Christmas Illuminations

I have received brochures from an Austrian company which has a branch in the UK. Once we have received the proposal from their competitors it will be possible to seek a similar proposal from this company.

Achievement Awards

Our four nominations were sent to the Community Association before the deadline. The winners will be announced on Lancashire Night.

LALC Accounts

Attached are the LALC Accounts to the y/e 31 March 2016. They will be presented to the AGM next month.

Councillors' Training Session

Attached are several documents sent by the LA. These were requested by members attending the training session provided by the LA. As one of them is 78 pages long, I have attached only its index. The document will be emailed to those of you who are on email. If you are not on email, please let me know and I will print off any pages that you wish.

Anti-Social Behaviour Against Bus Service 635

TfGM have written the following:

“Unfortunately, the operator of the evening bus service 635 has, once again, been experiencing incidents of missile throwing at the buses, resulting in a number of broken windows.

You will appreciate that such incidents are potentially dangerous to the driver and to passengers on the bus and result in the bus having to be taken out of service, resulting in the loss of the service to the local area. The time the vehicle is off the road and the cost of replacing the windows also results in additional expenditure to the operator.

The recent incidents have, once again, occurred in the Miles Lane/Plough & Harrow area and have been reported to the Travelsafe team, who are monitoring the service. The recent incidents have generally taken place on Friday and Saturday evenings.

*However, in the interests of passenger safety, we have taken the decision that on **Friday October 21st and Saturday October 22nd 2016**, the same diversion which was operated during February and March this year will be implemented, on a trial basis. This will affect the 20:00, 21:00 and 22:00 departures from Wigan, and the 20:29, 21:29 and 22:29 departures from Wrightington, which will not serve the centre of Shevington. The journeys at 19:00 and 23:00 from Wigan will operate unchanged. The service will resume the normal route on Sunday October 23rd although any further incidents could result in a longer term diversion to avoid the hotspot(s).*

I would stress that any decision to divert a bus service, as a result of anti-social behaviour, is not taken lightly, and we recognise that it will cause inconvenience to some passengers. However, our priority must be to protect the safety of drivers and passengers.

Your support in communicating the message that throwing stones at buses will not be tolerated, and any support you are able to offer to address this issue would be greatly appreciated.”

Greater Manchester 2040 transport Strategy Consultation

Our response to this consultation has been acknowledged.

Tent in Memorial Park

On Tuesday evening of this week it was reported to me that a tent had been pitched in the woodland area of the park. This was a large tent and there were things inside it. The matter was reported to the Police and the tent has now disappeared.

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The item below was sent by Mr B King:

Greater Manchester Draft Spatial Framework

The Greater Manchester Draft Spatial Framework has been published and will go on consultation from 31st October to December 23rd. The combined authority have carried out a review of the Green Belt and a number of sites have been removed for residential or employment development.

The Nearest ones to Shevington are:

- The Bell at Orrell for Employment (a new road for Heinz and a further modification of junction 26 of the M6).
- An area to the north and south of junction 25 of the M6 for employment (junction to be rebuilt-all ways).
- Alexandra Colliery New Springs for residential (site lies behind Canon Sharples School and extends to the boundary of Haigh Hall Country Park)

On the more positive side an area at Rectory Lane in Standish has been added to the Green Belt.

Full details of this are in this week's Wigan Observer. What does this leave for Wigan's Allocations and Development Management Local Plan to do? This has already started a rush of people who want sites removed from the Green Belt. I was approached last night by somebody who owns land in Standish as to whether his site could be removed from the Green Belt.

K.M.P. 26.10.16