

**Shevington Parish Council**  
**Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 29 June 2017**

**Bench IMO Eddie Evans**

The Evans family have approved the design selected by the Parish Council for the bench, so this project is now being progressed. The lead time for these benches is between six weeks to a month.

**Shevington in Bloom Shed**

The shed has now been erected behind the toilet block.

**Shevington Community Primary School Open Evening**

Shevington Community Primary School are holding an Open Evening on Tuesday, 18 July 2017 from 5pm to 7pm. This is an opportunity for both past and present members of staff, pupils and community leaders to spend time in the school recalling happy times. The local archivist, Louise Wade, whose children went to Shevington Community Primary School during 2002 to 2010, will be putting on a display of artifacts from the past that she has been cherishing and recording for the future. Everyone is invited to come and have a look around and talk with old friends.

Since receiving the above information I have heard that the school will now be closing in July, instead of in October, as originally announced.

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

I have this week received the following email from a local resident who lives in the centre of the village:

"I'm writing to you with information about the scourge of this town. It's not just the park area that is being affected. Life here has become miserable due to the youths that gather outside.

Their main congregation point is the bench by Gathurst Lane car park. Between 10 - 30 plus youths regularly loiter here. They travel in from other areas. I see them getting off the buses and even being dropped off by parents.

Loud music. Screaming and swearing. Throwing stones and debris. Littering and damaging the trees. Vandalism of property. Trespassing on the roof of the dance school. Smoking cannabis in the bushes. Their behaviour is intimidating and shameful. At times it is dangerous. Throwing stones and kicking footballs at cars on the main road. Playing chicken with the traffic. I have phoned so often on 101 and 999.

Sadly, despite phoning the police, there is rarely any attendance by them. I get the distinct impression they just don't want to know.

On the occasion that they do show, the youths escape via the church car park on Church Lane. The police never make an attempt to pursue and 20 minutes later, the kids are back.

As they are main congregation points, can the benches be removed? They are regularly hit with rocks and sticks and being metal, make a more effective bell than that of the church.

Can nettles and or brambles be encouraged to grow within the bushes to discourage their loitering within them?

Maybe I'm grasping at straws, but I've had enough of both these kids and the disinterest of the police. I fear that, unless something *is* done, this village will deteriorate."

I have told the resident that I will put this before the Council for their consideration. I would welcome members' comments.

**Bins in Miles Lane, Appley Bridge**

The two bins ordered by the District Councillors for Miles Lane, Appley Bridge have now been fitted, but neither has been located outside the entrance to Forest Fold.

**Allotment Matters**

The number signs for the allotments have been delivered and are awaiting distribution. The chain and padlock for the gate are still a work in progress. The Parish Council's solicitor has chased the NAS solicitor over the outstanding lease for the Allotments Site at Vicarage Lane several times over the

past few weeks, but has had no response from her. Mrs Longmore has also chased her up several times – also with the same result.

A total of 36 out of 48 tenants have now paid their plot rents. Of these 7 have said they would like a Tenants' Association to be set up, 7 have said they would not like a Tenants' Association. The remaining 22 have either not made a selection on the tear-off slip or not returned it. There has been a good response to the request for telephone / email contact details.

### **Shevington Community Primary School Archives**

Louise Wade, who is dealing with Shevington Community Primary School's archives, has written to say that she would be happy to come along and speak to the Council, if that is what the Council would wish.

It was agreed some time ago that the school paper archives would be handed over to Wigan Archives on completion of her work. They will be kept with all other precious documents in the Wigan Borough Council Archives at Leigh Town Hall and available to the public with the usual restrictions on access to archive documents. In the meantime she intends to publish her research about the school, which will make information more accessible to all the local residents.

Mrs Wade has had conversations with the Headteacher and Shevington Library about the future of the school's Honours Board. The Library responded to her on Monday.

Mrs Wade says that, whilst the Headteacher is happy to donate it to the Library, who, although they have not yet said "no", have said that IF they take it, it would be housed on the back corridor on the way to the toilets and offices, rather than in a public space AND that they could not fund the removal costs of taking it off the wall at the school, transporting it to the library and fixing it there. Mrs Wade has asked whether the Parish Council might consider funding that. I have forwarded her an application form for a grant.

The Library also said that they needed to consult with the "Facilities Dept" at the Council and would come back to her with a definite yes or no in the next few days.

If it cannot be housed in Shevington Library Mrs Wade has suggested that perhaps it could be stored at the Museum of Wigan Life, who have an off-site large items store, but it would not be on public view, although it might be brought out for exhibitions occasionally. The only other publically used buildings locally are St Anne's Church Parish Room and the Methodist Church. She has also considered asking the Headteacher to display it in Shevington Vale School. Mrs Wade would welcome the Parish Council's views on these ideas.

### **Water Plus**

United Utilities have advised that in future they will be known as 'Water Plus'.

### **Financial Compensation Scheme**

The bank has advised that the amount of cover under the Financial Compensation scheme has been increased from £75,000 to £85,000.

**K.M.P. 26.06.17**  
**Updated 28.06.17**