

Shevington Parish Council
Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 30 June 2016

Bench Missing from Memorial Park

The new bench was delivered and fitted on 3 June.

Exercise of Electors' Rights

The period for the exercise of electors' rights began on 3 June and will finish on 14 July.

Request for Mirrors at Junction of Kilburn Drive and Stockley Mews with Shevington Lane

I forwarded the request from a resident for mirrors to be placed on Shevington Lane at the junctions with Kilburn Drive and Stockley Mews to the Highways Engineer responsible for this area. She has replied that, unfortunately, such traffic mirrors cannot be erected on the public highway. The main reasons why they are not allowed are as follows:

- Their effectiveness in all weathers is likely to be different;
- They can cause confusion for motorists by providing distorted information;
- They can create difficulties in judging speed and distance of reflected vehicles;
- They can cause problems of glare in strong sunlight;
- They are susceptible to vandalism;
- Considerable maintenance would be required to keep them completely clean.

She hoped that this information was of assistance and apologised that she could not progress the request any further.

Road Surface in Back Lane, Appley Bridge

An officer from Wigan Council's Assets Team has confirmed that there are plans to carry out re-surfacing work on a section of Back Lane between Golden Days Garden Centre and the pumping station. These works are currently out to tender and, because of this, no start date has been set as yet. However, the annual programme of highway maintenance is published on the LA website and is regularly updated with the proposed start and expected completion dates. I have asked him to let us know when he has any further news.

Gathurst Lane, Shevington

United Utilities will be undertaking works to replace a manhole cover and frame at the junction with Highfield Avenue on Sunday, 10 July 2016. To undertake these works safely temporary traffic signals will be in operation for the duration.

Play Area ROSPA Inspection

The play area was inspected on 10 June. We now await the report.

Japanese Knotweed

I have reported the Japanese knotweed growing on the Recreation Ground to the Trustees. I also contacted the Environment Agency, who confirmed the following:

- It is not illegal to have Japanese knotweed growing on a piece of land – it is illegal to plant, encourage or allow it to spread in the wild.
- Removal is the landlord's responsibility.
- Removal has to be carried out in a controlled manner and it must be disposed of at a licensed landfill site in a way that will not cause it to contaminate other land. Instructions can be found on the GOV.UK website.
- It only has to be reported to the Environment Agency if it is growing near a watercourse and the landowner intends to use a herbicide to remove it. The reason for

reporting it is to do with the possibility of the herbicide contaminating the watercourse.

Issues in Otters Croft and Crooke Woods

Sgt John Scott (the Neighbourhood Sergeant) has written in reply to a letter we sent in April about wildlife crime in the area. He has apologized for the length of time it has taken to respond. He has looked into the issues we raised and has provided the following update:

'No calls have been received in relation to issues raised in the specified areas since August 2015. Previous incidents were fully investigated and insufficient evidence was found to record any offences. The post of Wildlife Officer was dissolved some time ago with Police priorities being focused towards Threat, Risk and Harm.'

Current Police priorities dictate protecting victims of crime and our communities where we are pro-actively looking to provide protection against Child Sexual Exploitation, domestic abuse, hate crime, high risk missing from homes, serious sexual offences, critical anti-social behaviour, vulnerability protection, mental health incidents and significantly impactful crimes on victims such as Burglary Dwelling.

Therefore any consideration of resource allocation is made with these in mind of which the above case is not considered a policing priority.

Any information received regarding the above issues will be updated onto our intelligence systems but we will not initiate an investigation at this time.'

Damaged Guardrail

The issue of the damaged guardrail near the J27 roundabout was reported to the Highways Engineer at Wigan Council, as it is within the LA's boundary, not that of LCC or actually on the motorway, and therefore their responsibility. They have replied that they have issued an order to their contractor to repair it.

OPSTA

OPSTA have sent their June newsletter, which is attached.

Consultation to Reduce School Places in the Shevington Area

I have received confirmation from the LA that the Parish Council have been included in the list of official consultees.

No.635 Evening and Weekend Service

TfGM have replied to our request that they look into the possibility of changing the route of the No.635 bus service during evenings and at weekends. They are looking into the concerns raised and at the different options around the route and timings of the service. This is taking a little longer than their usual 5 working day turn around and they hope to provide us with an update soon.

'In Bloom' Judging Dates

It has been confirmed that Wigan's North West in Bloom's Judges will be in Shevington on the morning of 26 July and their Britain in Bloom counterparts will be in Shevington on the morning of 8 August.

K.M.P. 29.06.16