

**District Councillors Report to November 2017 Parish Council Meeting.**

**Resignation Statement from Councillor Damian Edwardson.**

As some of you may already know it is with great sadness that I am announcing my decision to resign as a Councillor.

My decision is mainly based on the mounting pressures of my full-time work and how this will restrict the time I have available to attend meetings and support my ward colleagues and those that I represent locally.

Being elected was (on both occasions) one of the greatest achievements in my life so far and I have for the most part enjoyed every minute of it. I am and will always be proud of the work on a variety of issues, especially leading and working with the officers on Heart of Wigan for nearly three years and the fantastic results it has made to the health of the borough. Without the support of Donna and the Officers it would simply not have happened, but there is still a long way to go and a lot to do and I hope that whoever is now responsible will continue to ensure it is driven at the same pace and urgency we did.

I would like to thank all those that helped me over the last 5+ years, and a special thanks to Mike and Paul who have been the best ward colleagues I could have wished for. Having a marginal ward means you cannot take anything for granted and the three of us have worked extremely hard to ensure people see the benefits of having a Labour team working together and emphasising Positive Politics. Hopefully this will continue.

I would also like to say a big thanks to Lisa who has been a pillar of strength through the last 5 years. Lisa always made time for the three of us and never shirked a difficult situation; I can't thank her enough for her support.

**Shevington Community Primary School.**

We welcome the support of the Parish Council, for ideas about the future use of the old school site.

As we reported previously we are unable to commence further discussions with officers until after the current Purdah period comes to an end, after Dec 14<sup>th</sup> following the By-Election. We will be discussing the possibility of a consultation with officers at the earliest opportunity where any feedback from the Parish Council and the wider community may be taken into account as part of the wider consultation covering the whole ward.

**CCTV Provision.**

We attended a meeting at Central watch with council colleagues yesterday to discuss the possible provision of a permanent CCTV camera for use in our Ward. This would mean 24/7 coverage and monitoring of CCTV protection for our Ward instead of the temporary use of a re-deployable CCTV camera. The camera would only be used in our ward.

The total cost to supply the camera and sockets is likely to be in excess of £7000, which is something we may be able to fund.

However we are unable to provide funding for ongoing maintenance and running costs.

The annual cost to pay for 4g connectivity and ongoing maintenance would be in the region of £800 to £1000.

Would the Parish Council be able to fund the ongoing running costs?

**Christmas Lights in the ward.**

We have been approached by angry residents concerned about false claims made in election materials that we do not support the provision of the Christmas lights in the Ward.

For clarification, we did support the proposal with a grant of £1500 from our Brighter Borough allowances to fund them but unfortunately the Parish Council decided not to proceed with them this year. This is quite clear in Parish Council minutes from 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017; minute number 696 refers to the issue in detail.

We would like to reassure residents that we will always support improvements within the ward wherever possible and whenever we can.

**Complements of the season.**

We would like to wish all our friends on Shevington Parish Council a Happy Christmas. We look forward to working with you next year, as we have during the past year.

Regards,

Mike and Paul.