

Appendix A

Shevington Parish Council **Matters Raised by Members of the Public** **25 February 2016**

The Council engaged with members of the public in relation to the following:

Loss of Rail Service to Piccadilly and Manchester Airport

Alan Fenton of the Ormskirk, Preston and Southport Traveller Association raised the issue of a proposal by Arriva Rail North (who were taking over the rail franchise from 1 April) to withdraw the rail services from Southport to Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Airport. At present the destinations of trains on the line varied between Victoria and Manchester Airport via Piccadilly, but the intention was that in future all trains would be routed into Victoria only. This would create problems for passengers wishing to access the mainline station and Manchester Airport. Under the proposal people wishing to access the airport would have to change at Bolton.

Mr Fenton explained that OPSTA as an organisation had existed for thirty-five years and its purpose was to lobby for the best rail services possible for this part of the region.

The results of a consultation of local travellers had indicated that a majority needed to access Piccadilly, Oxford Road and Deansgate. In the light of this OPSTA had raised the issues with all three transport authorities, whose responses had been sympathetic. However, they were powerless. Apparently the time-tables would only be affected in the Autumn of 2017. OPSTA were now planning to speak to both Rail North and Arriva Rail North and to make contact with as many MPs as possible – they had already written to John Pugh, Rosie Cooper and Lisa Nandy. Their intention was to run a campaign to try to prevent the proposed changes.

During the discussion members suggested that posters could be displayed on notice boards and on the Parish Council website, an article could appear in the next newsletter and that OPSTA should contact the Leaders of local principal authorities as well as other relevant local councils. Time was limited – the deadline was the start of the new franchise: 1 April 2016.

Shevington in Bloom

Shevington in Bloom had been awarded the title of 'Best Town' in the North West once again last year. Because of the pressure put on the group in preparing for the event, they had decided that they would continue to maintain the floral displays, but would not enter the competition in 2016. Since making that decision the group had received the news that Wigan had been invited to enter the 'Britain in Bloom' competition and had been instructed that the judges should be brought to Shevington. Because of this the group would still be taking part, although not in their own right. Judging would take place in August.

Vandalism

The Shevington in Bloom group circulated photographs of the flower beds at the front of the Parish Council car park before and after they had been destroyed through vandalism by the young people who had been causing havoc in the village centre for several months. These young people were behaving in a way that was very intimidating. During the discussion it was stressed that residents had to ring 101 if they witnessed anything and make sure that their complaint was logged.

Parking on Grass Verges

A resident reported that cars were being parked on grass verges near the Top Shop in Shevington Lane. This led to a discussion about parking on grass verges and pavements elsewhere and how the issue could be approached. One member had a supply of warning leaflets provided by the Highways Department that could be attached to offending vehicles and was willing to share them with others.