

## Appendix B

### **Shevington Parish Council Chairperson's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 17 March 2016**

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting of Shevington Parish Council. Thank you for coming.

Changes have taken place since the last annual Meeting. Since the May Elections we have two new Councillors. In West Ward, Councillor Fletcher, and in South Ward Councillor Calderbank. After the election Cllr John Ball stood down as Chairman. I replaced him in that role.

I would like at this point to thank John Ball for his 30 years of commitment to the Parish Council as Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor. Thank you, John. Not that he is going anywhere. His knowledge of local history and his wide network of local acquaintances are too valuable.

The Clerk has described what the Parish Council has done over this year. I would like to say thank you to a variety of people and groups who have worked with us in our projects and also outline the priorities for the coming year.

Firstly, the Vicarage Lane Project: thanks to the football and rugby leaders who have, with dogged determination and hard work, acquired funding of £140,000 from Sport England for pitch preparation. The bureaucratic delays over leases and pitch plans and Parish Council protocol have from time to time 'done their heads in'..... But they have stuck with it, because they know the value of Sport in the community. We hope the work on the preparation of the land will begin very soon.

Thanks also to the allotment group who have endured similar frustration re their lease and the progress of their plans. They too have secured funding of £10,000 from 'The Deal' and are 'ready to go' as soon as some technical details have been sorted. Congratulations on the progress so far.

Now the near neighbours to the Vicarage Lane project: .....those who have had concerns about the project and how it will affect their quality of life. I want to thank them for the reasonable and positive way they have put their case and for their continued patience as the project moves forward.

I must also thank the Clerk for the thorough consultation work carried out across the Parish re this project. It was a mammoth task.... Thank you.

Thank you again to our admirable 'In Bloom' groups .....not only does their incredible hard work bring so much colour and life to the environment, but it has also gained them prestigious awards in the National and Regional competitions. This year Shevington is to be included as part of Wigan's North West in Bloom bid - a big honour for Shevington and a tribute to all our gardening heroes. Special thanks to Bill Draper of Appley Bridge in Bloom, who has recently retired from the project.

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Flooding: one of our main projects this year will be further investigation of the ongoing problem of drainage on the Memorial Park. The impact this has on Church Lane is all too clear... this is an expensive project .... Even a professional investigation would cost us £10,000. Some interesting solutions have been put forward ... We will be investigating these suggestions.

Our new Parish Plan is ready to be issued. We are asking you for your reactions to village matters and your suggestions as to how we can improve our environment and quality of life. It is 10 years since the First Parish Plan was issued. It is pleasing to note that quite a few, if not all, of the issues raised have been progressed.

To name but a few:

### **Communications**

Our regular Newsletter keeps people across the Parish informed. The Website now carries much more community information and is not limited to Parish Council matters.

### **Fostering of Community Spirit**

the Parish Council has been instrumental in reinvigorating the Community Association. This valuable organisation does much towards inclusiveness in the community. The promotion of Shevington as a Dementia Friendly Village is one example. The Fete committee is supported by the Parish Council ... It is now in it's fourth year of provision of a community fun day of games and stalls, music and flower and vegetable produce.

### **Community Building**

The Parish Council contributed to the refurbishment of the Youth Club building which is now a regular venue for wide range of activities and a popular venue for children's parties.

### **Vicarage Lane Fields sports provision and more allotments**

Please join with us in this project and help establish the priorities you would like addressed.. Obviously, if you ask for a swimming Pool or a Bandstand that's maybe an ambition too far. There are limits ... So be realistic.

There are other areas and groups I have not mentioned ... But we thank you all.

### **ASB**

Now to less positive matters - the Young People problem.... Large groups marauding through the village causing distress to residents .... Rooting up plants from the flower beds, throwing stones and other missiles at buses accessing the roof of the shops and hurling down missiles of a very unpleasant sort onto residents. Young people lying drunk on the pavement...having to be taken home to their parents. The Parish Council have written to the Police and to the ASB unit. I have personally contacted them. I listed at least 12 serious incidents, but the ASB unit do not have knowledge of these and the Police state that these complaints have not been logged on 101 and cascaded down to them.

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I have been to most of the village shops about this issue - people say they will not bother logging incidents.... Some say they did not know they should phone 101, others that they have done it and will not do it again. It is a long drawn out process. Shevington is no longer seen as a safe and pleasant place to live. Bus services have been withdrawn because of this problem.

Ira E Whiteley  
Chair of Shevington Parish Council