

District Cllrs General Report – January 2016

Flooding over Christmas period

As you are aware the terrible weather over Christmas and New Year has unfortunately cause several flooding issues across the borough and also in areas of our own ward. We have been dealing with several cases that had been drawn to our attention. We are also aware that other groups such as some members of the Parish Council have also been offering support and assistance to residents and we would like to offer our thanks for your help.

We would also like to thank those Council workers who reacted so quickly and efficiently during the crisis. We have asked that all instances of flooding are taken into account when the work of future prevention is investigated, so if you know of any areas we may have missed please ensure we are informed so we can feed that into the work.

ASB in Shevington

We have been working very closely with several agencies for a number of weeks now to try and resolve the issue of youths gathering in the village. There has been some low level vandalism and reports of other anti-social behaviour. Needless to say this won't be tolerated. We won't list all of the things being done as the Clerk has previously had several emails detailing the actions. which include patrols by Wigan GMP, Wigan Council ASB Unit, signage and we have also funded the installation of CCTV from our Brighter Borough funding.

Hopefully this multi-agency approach will be successful, however we have been asked to ensure residents know that it can sometimes take a little while to resolve these matters fully.

Statement in Local Press

We won't go into the details however we felt it was necessary to clarify some incorrect statements that tried to implicate us in a Parish Council matter which we have no connection. Normally we would not respond to such nonsense however this appeared to be nothing more than a publicity stunt with the single aim of trying to discredit the three of us and others.

Sadly between now and May we expect more of this type of thing and history tell us it usually culminates in leaflets made up of nothing more than lies and false accusations. We would say that if anyone wants to clarify statements or rumours made about any of us, please get in touch.

We are always more than happy to tell you the truth and clarify the situation.

Appley Bridge plastics factory update

We welcome this decision and would like to congratulate all those involved in the campaign and worked so hard to fight this unwanted application. As District Cllrs we strongly objected to the application on several grounds not least of which was the genuine concerns we had regarding the proposed chemicals plant site and the impact it would have on the quality of lives of our residents in Appley Bridge and surrounding areas such as Shevington.

Although we are pleased with the result, we would always like to urge caution that although the planning application has been withdrawn it does not mean it won't return. So we would urge residents to remain ever vigilant.

We would also like to thank members of the ABCAGE group for contacting us early on in the process as we received no formal notification of this planning application as it falls under the remit of another authority. As the elected Cllrs we feel that this is completely unacceptable, especially considering that prevailing winds mean that any potential air pollutants would have affected our residents more than most. We have communicated our annoyance at this lack of information to the relevant planning body as it is simply not on.

Sporting /Allotments field off Vicarage Lane

We are delighted that this scheme for the Parish Council land has finally been give the green light by Wigan Council Planning committee. Shevington FC, Shevington Sharks and the Allotments Society have been working for over 2 years on this plan, with numerous consultations and funding bids etc. so it is great news that they can now finally start to move towards the next phase of the project.

Cllrs Collins, Crosby and myself fully support the scheme as a sporting facility will make a huge difference to the the area. The clubs already do so much in the community, working with people of all ages and encouraging them to participate in sport and other things such as education etc. and we are very proud to have them in our ward.

They are the epitome of the The Deal, volunteers who give up their time to make the lives of others better, so it is only right that we as a council uphold our part of the bargain and work with them. We have already started the process of requesting additional funding to make this fantastic vision a reality.

This is a very exciting development for the entire ward of Shevington with Lower Ground and we are sure the community will once again throw their support behind it.

Regards

Mike, Paul and Damian