

# Shevington Parish Council



# Parish Plan REVIEW 2016



# **PARISH PLAN REVIEW**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The review looks at progress since 2006 and sets out the way forward. The nature of the Parish Plan is wide ranging and includes matters not under the direct control of the Parish Council. Nevertheless, it does paint a picture of what is important to the community and can be used as an advocacy document when meeting with Wigan Council, the Police and other bodies. Certain of the land use elements could form the basis for a Neighbourhood Plan.

Consultation was carried out on the draft plan in Spring 2016.

This document should be read in conjunction with the original Parish Plan of 2006, which can be found on the Parish Council's website: [www.shevingtonpc.gov.uk](http://www.shevingtonpc.gov.uk). The Review follows the same topic headings as the 2006 Plan, but a few new topics are introduced and other areas expanded.

## **POPULATION**

Changes in the population and demographics of the area give rise to certain issues dealt with in later sections

The population of Shevington fell from 9,786 to 9,517 between 2001 and 2011 (a fall of 2.7%) following large increases since 1961. At the same time the population of Wigan Borough rose by 5.5%.

All age groups between 0 and 59 in Shevington showed a decline. The largest decline was in the 30-59 age groups whilst the 60-74 and 75+ age groups increased by 628 and 186 (45% and 36.5% respectively).

The age structure of Shevington's population showed significantly lower proportions in the 0-4, 5-14 and 20-29 population bands compared to Wigan. 28.6% of Shevington's population was over 60.

The number of people not born in the United Kingdom is 2.4% of Shevington's population compared to 4.5% in Wigan Borough.

The decline in population in Shevington between 2001 and 2011 is a reflection of generations who settled in Shevington in the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's. They had families and their children have now left them and the original settlers are now of pensionable age. As fewer adults of child bearing age now exist in Shevington there are now fewer births than deaths giving rise to a net loss of population.

The number of households in Shevington only grew by 62 (1.6%) between 2001 and 2011. This compares with an increase of 9% in Wigan Borough.

Owner occupied households declined by 77 (2.2%) between 2001 and 2011 but at the same time privately rented households increased by 89 (44.9%).

Wigan Borough's privately rented households also increased, but owner occupation increased as well.

Owner occupied households still form a high percentage of all households (86% compared to 67.9% in Wigan). Privately rented households account for 7.1% of the housing stock compared to 11.6% in Wigan.

Shevington has seen one of the lowest increases of households in the Borough. The increase in private renting reflects the inability of large sections of the population to finance a mortgage. This has led to investors buying to let, in particular in locations like Herons Wharf. The small change in the number of social rented households reflects the drying up of right to buy, although recent changes by national government may reverse this trend.

Shevington already has a high level of car ownership, but there is some evidence that the increase in car ownership is reducing.

### **THE PRESERVATION AND GROWTH OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT**

The emergence of several major volunteer groups has contributed in a very positive way to the growth of community spirit. Shevington Community Association (SCA) has re-emerged with a (mainly) new and active core of members. The SCA has established the Shevington Fete, which has grown in local popularity and visitor numbers and has also provided a platform for other local groups to publicise their activities and to raise funds. More recently the SCA has provided direct grants to local voluntary groups who can demonstrate that they provide benefits to the community. The SCA has also raised funds to plant World War One commemorative oak trees across the area - one each year from 2014 to 2018. Heritage Booklets continue to be produced and are now available on the Parish Council's web site. Annual Achievement Certificates are awarded to nominees who have made an impact on community life.

Shevington and District in Bloom volunteers generated a new pride of place with their litter picking and planting efforts. The original group, started in 2011, now has active offshoots in Appley Bridge and Standish Lower Ground and Crooke, fulfilling in part its plan to work with volunteers across the whole parish and beyond. The local football and rugby league clubs have been very active in growing the numbers of teams participating in training and competition. Their difficulties in providing sufficient playing areas to accommodate this growth seems likely to lessen with the acquisition by the Parish Council of land off Vicarage Lane, where funding will be sought to provide allotments, sporting and other facilities which will benefit the whole community. Planning permission for the project was granted in 2016.

### **PLANNING.**

At the time the Parish Plan was published in 2006 Wigan Council had just adopted their replacement for the original Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The previous plan was adopted in 1996.

### **Unitary Development Plan.**

The replacement UDP covering the Shevington area has not changed much since 1996. Green Belt boundaries were substantially unchanged as were the areas of Safeguarded Land. A change within the Green Belt was the designation of Major Existing Developed Sites. These were sites washed over by the Green Belt, but contained previously developed land. One such site identified within the parish was the Orica UK Ltd site. This policy allowed redevelopment of previously used land within the area identified by the plan and gave rise to proposals to develop 130 houses on two areas within the Orica site. The only other substantial housing development permitted was the remainder of the site previously occupied by the Croda Glue factory at Appley Bridge.

### **Wigan Core Strategy**

Although the replacement Unitary Development plan was due to last until 2016 there was a change in Government guidance that led to the immediate start of work on a Core Strategy for the Borough. This Strategy, as deposited, did not change the broad policies adopted in the Unitary Development Plan and placed emphasis on development in the central core of the Borough. However, during the examination of the Strategy, questions were posed on the adequacy of land for future housing needs and the absence of any release in certain areas like Standish. At the same time the Government rationalised national planning guidance and issued National Planning Policy Guidance. This placed more emphasis on the adequacy of housing land supply and made changes to guidance on development on previously used sites in the Green Belt.

The Wigan Core Strategy (adopted in September 2013) requires that Standish should accommodate 1,000 dwellings by 2026 with delivery of 500 completions by 2018. Land at Almond Brook Road and Rectory Lane were identified as the 'broad locations' for housing growth in Standish. Normally the detailed boundaries of the housing on those sites would have been identified in the Allocations and Development Management Local Plan (see below). The Inspector, however, required land in Standish to be bought forward in advance of this Plan.

Wigan Council also produced the Standish Infrastructure Plan which set out the infrastructure required by the number of houses indicated by the Core Strategy. It assumed that 1000 houses would be built - divided equally between the Almond Brook and Rectory Lane sites. The Parish Council considered the "plan" in December 2013 and sent comments to Wigan Council emphasising the effect that this level of development would have on Shevington. Planning applications have already exceeded 500 in both locations and, although two sites to the south of Rectory Lane had been refused by Wigan as the 1000 house target had been exceeded, they were granted permission on appeal by an Inspector..

### **Wigan Allocations and Development Management Local Plan**

Following the adoption of the Core Strategy Wigan Council started preparing the Allocations and Development Management Local Plan. This will bring

forward detailed planning policy and land allocations in line with the Core Strategy.

The consultation version of this plan was published in late 2015. At the same time Wigan consulted on a document setting out open space, playing fields and recreation needs and provision alongside this Plan

The key issues that have been identified are:

- To focus development primarily on Wigan, Ince, Hindley, Platt Bridge, Leigh, Atherton, Tyldesley, Astley, Golborne, Lowton and **Standish**.
- To capitalise on the borough's strategic location at the heart of the North West.
- To allocate land for around 15,000 new homes, with an appropriate mix of house types, sizes, tenures and affordability, to ensure that people have somewhere to live.
- To allocate around 200 hectares of land for businesses to safeguard jobs and help create new jobs.
- To help Wigan, Leigh, Ashton and our other town and local centres provide what people want.
- To deliver strategic transport infrastructure interventions to make it easier for people and business to access what they need.
- To help deliver other infrastructure improvements to support development including education, health, energy, water, and green space.
- To make it easier to walk and cycle and enable opportunities for leisure and sport, to help people live healthier lifestyles.
- To improve the design and landscaping of new buildings and places, conserve the best of the past and improve the natural environment – including Greenheart - to help make the borough a more pleasant place to live in and work.
- To protect the Green Belt.
- To help people adapt to climate change, use less energy and make less waste in order to live more sustainable lives.

The final plan is scheduled to be submitted in Summer 2016. In the case of Standish much of the land for housing has been identified in advance of this plan and will have already had an impact on Shevington in advance of the anticipated adoption of this plan in 2017.

One area that wasn't addressed by the plan is the need for Sheltered Housing. This is particularly important in Shevington which has an aging population (see section on Population). Shevington & District Community Association have set up a working party to investigate the provision of sheltered housing.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy**

Wigan Council have carried out consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The CIL will require developers to contribute to funding infrastructure needed as a result of growth. This money could be used to pay for schemes such as transport, open spaces, education or health facilities. Wigan Council prepared a draft Charging Schedule and submitted it to

examination. They decided in 2016 not to proceed with a CIL for the time being.

### **Neighbourhood Plans**

Changes in Government policy enable the Parish Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. Early discussions about this plan have taken place. Some elements of the Parish Plan could be incorporated into a Neighbourhood Plan.

## **TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT**

### **Traffic and Parking**

With close links to the M6 network, increased levels of traffic now use the main arteries of Shevington for commuting and transporting goods. The greatest impact is the use of Wigan Lower Road and Shevington Lane to gain access to the M6 at Junction 27. Although the former road is clearly unsuitable for large heavy goods vehicles, Wigan Council is reluctant to impose weight limits on this road because it is part of the Strategic Highway Network. Some relief to this route could come if Wigan Council opens an improved link to Junction 26 from Wigan. When this occurs there would be a case for removing Wigan Lower Road from the Strategic Highway Network.

There have been some improvements relating to illegal parking - thanks to initiatives such as strategic placement of planters as part of Shevington in Bloom. However, some initiatives have had the unfortunate side-effect of moving some of the problems to other areas, such as nearby residential areas. There is also a need to improve rear access to the shops.

Parking on the pavement, grass verges and routes close to schools continue to be an issue and cause a nuisance to many residents. Wigan Council have been consulted on several occasions, but are finding it difficult to come up with a solution that suits all parties involved. The recent agreement by Wigan Council Cabinet to allow Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) may prove useful in combating problem areas of parking. Local schools also need to be involved and to contribute to solutions, such as promoting alternative means of travel.

Parking continues to be a problem in Shevington Moor where people sharing cars on Motorway journeys are now parking on residential estates. The two railway stations serving the area have inadequate provision for parking, although the main impact is felt outside the parish boundaries.

Traffic Control is another important issue and Wigan Council has introduced 20mph speed-limits on most residential roads. The problem of speeding on other roads throughout the parish continues, however. The main areas affected are Back Lane, Miles Lane, Shevington Lane and Gathurst Lane, where motorists still drive at speeds well in excess of the speed limit. Wigan Council has been consulted on these matters but has been reluctant to take further traffic calming action.

Wigan Council should undertake a comprehensive study of the impact of traffic on the parish.

### **Public Transport**

Although most movement around and from the area is by private car, some residents are dependant upon public transport.

### **Buses**

For some time the principal bus service in the parish has operated between Wigan and Wrightington Hospital via Shevington, Shevington Vale and Appley Bridge. This has been replaced by a commercial service operating between Wigan and Appley Bridge. Although operating more frequently than the former service (every 12-15 minutes) the link to Wrightington Hospital was severed. However, as from April 2015 one journey per hour has now been diverted at Appley Bridge to serve Wrightington Hospital.

Shevington Moor is not served by the Wigan to Appley Bridge/Wrightington Hospital service but by the Wigan to Preston service operating hourly during the daytime on Mondays to Saturdays.

The remainder of the local bus network consists of services subsidised by Transport for Greater Manchester (formerly the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority). The main service provides a link between Pemberton, Gathurst, Shevington, Shevington Moor, Standish and Wigan. It operates hourly on Monday to Saturday daytime. A further service subsidised by Lancashire County Council links Appley Bridge with Skelmersdale and Burscough, operating hourly on Monday to Saturday daytime. This bus used to serve Wrightington Hospital, but this link was withdrawn in 2016. Lancashire County Council also withdrew the subsidy from Monday to Saturday evening journeys on the Wigan to Preston route that served Wrightington Hospital and Shevington Moor in 2016.

All evening and Sunday services are subsidised by Transport for Greater Manchester. These are:-

- An hourly Sunday and evening service between Wigan and Wrightington Hospital via Shevington, Shevington Vale and Appley Bridge.
- A Sunday daytime service between Wigan and Shevington Moor.

Three journeys between Wigan and Appley Bridge/Wrightington Hospital in the early morning and late evening are also subsidised by TfGM.

Until October 2011 Local Link operated in the area. It provided door to door public transport in areas where other services were limited. Anyone living in the local area covered could use the service and there were no age or disability restrictions. Local Link was a shared service, so users could sometimes travel with other passengers. A booking centre was open daily between 7.30am and 10.30pm and services ran between these hours on Mondays to Saturdays. Fares were charged (including concessionary fares) based on the number of zones travelled.

The service covered all of the Parish area except Crooke as well as Standish, Orrell and part of West Lancashire, including Wrightington Hospital.

Transport for Greater Manchester described the following as attributes of the Local Link service:-

- It provided a service to estates in Shevington.
- It operated at times when some local bus services did not and provided journeys to and from Wrightington Hospital before 9.00 and after 18.30.
- It provided evening journeys between the north and the south of the area.
- At least half of the journeys on Local Link could not easily be made by mainstream services. To attempt to cover these journeys by implementing mainstream services would be at a higher cost than Local Link.
- It provided a service to Wrightington Hospital in the early morning when buses do not operate, otherwise involving a walk of over a mile on unpopulated roads.
- It provided some work journeys and takes children to bus stops to meet school buses.

The only door to door service now operating in the area is Wigan ATL (Ring and Ride) but this is poorly promoted and can only be used by passengers who have difficulty using normal bus services. In 2016 further restrictions were placed on the qualifications for using Ring and Ride in particular raising the qualifying age limit to 70.

Because of the lack of adequate commercial cover there are a number of services from Parish communities to the following schools and colleges:

- Shevington High School (also links with Beech Hill and western Wigan)
- Standish High School.
- St John Rigby College.
- St Peters Catholic High School.
- Winstanley College
- Runshaw College

Bus services suffer from Shevington being on the edge of the Transport for Greater Manchester area. Links into Lancashire are particularly poorly developed, especially those between the Parish and Wrightington Hospital. Evening and Sunday services are confined to the main trunk route into Wigan, leaving wide areas of the Parish not served.

### **Trains**

The Parish is served by two railway stations at Gathurst and Appley Bridge. In 2004 Abellio (Dutch Railways)/Serco won the Northern franchise which includes the Wigan-Southport line. Two important changes took place as a result of the new franchise: the introduction of a Sunday service at Gathurst and a later service from Manchester on Monday to Saturdays.

Appley Bridge currently has two trains an hour - one to Manchester Victoria via Atherton and the other to Manchester Airport via Bolton. Gathurst has one train an hour to Manchester Victoria via Atherton. In the peak most trains stop at



both stations. In the evening and on Sundays an hourly service connects both stations with Manchester Piccadilly. There are no through trains to Manchester Airport on Sunday.

There has been substantial growth in the number of passengers at both stations. Gathurst had an estimated 34,989 passengers in 2004-5 but by 2014-15 this had grown to 86,050 - an increase of 146%. Appley Bridge had an estimated 146,150 passengers in 2004-5 but by 2014-15 this had grown to 243,034 - an increase of 66%. This rate of growth has shown signs of levelling off in recent years.

The service has been the victim of its own success. Many trains are now excessively overcrowded and have been known to leave people at stations coming out of Manchester. Promised additional and or new carriages have often not appeared and rolling stock, especially the Pacers, are outdated and not fit for purpose. The performance on the service on the Wigan to Southport line leaves a lot to be desired. It is one of the worst performing routes in Greater Manchester. Recent performance reported to Transport for Greater Manchester showed the Southport-Bolton-Airport services achieved only 71.8% of that timetabled, whereas the Southport-Atherton-Victoria were little better at 80.3%. On one day in October 2014 there were 11 cancellations.

The Chancellor recognised the issue of the poor rolling stock in the 2014 autumn statement and announced that the Pacer units were going to be phased out. The bidders for the new Northern Franchise were asked to do this as part of their bid. The franchise bidding process started in March 2015. The bidders were asked to procure 120 carriages to replace the "Pacers" by 2020 and to enhance the number of trains per hour serving Gathurst from one to two trains per hour.

The winner of the Northern franchise announced in December 2015 was Arriva Rail. They started operations in April 2016. One of their first suggested changes to the timetable was the diversion of most trains to operate to Manchester Victoria. This caused great concern to local users and local MPs have strenuously opposed this proposed change. A meeting was held with the Rail Minister in the Autumn of 2016.

## **PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**

Shevington Surgery has 12,800 patients. It is already overstretched when it comes to room availability and at some times does not have a room for a doctor or nurse to work from. This problem can only become more acute as NHS policy is to move services from Secondary (hospital) to Primary (GP) care and this will require still more space for practice staff.

The obvious solution is to expand the Surgery building but the Practice does not have the resources to do this, although an application for funding was made to the NHS in 2016. The Practice income has fallen substantially in real terms over recent years and the partners have had to reduce their income to maintain the services available to patients.

Residential building taking place at Herons Wharf in Appley Bridge and the Orica site in Shevington, as well as substantial development to the west of Standish, could result in 1000 more patients. This will further reduce the Surgery's ability to provide a high standard of care and would require still more doctors, nurses and administration staff and the space to accommodate them.

New volunteer groups now reach out to:-

- Those families affected by Alzheimer's and dementia (Shevington is actively involved (with Wigan Council) in the national programme to develop 'Dementia Friendly Communities'. A number of volunteer run groups have been established which, though open to all, are promoted as being 'Dementia Friendly.' A series of 'Dementia Friends' awareness sessions have been rolled out across the community in 2015 and 2016 to help raise understanding and empathy, so helping those living with dementia to 'live well' in our community)
- Those with Macular Degeneration or sight loss in general.

## **EDUCATION**

Other than one plea to maintain its quality, no mention was made of education provision when the Parish Plan questionnaire results were published in 2006. An assumption was made that there were no education Issues.

### **Pre-school**

Parent and Toddler groups, playgroups, nurseries and child minding services in the area, or just outside, are largely provided by the voluntary and private sectors. The Children's Centre services, which were run from the relatively new build attached to Shevington Community Primary School on Miles Lane, have been reduced. Children's Centre services which remain are managed through the Beech Hill and Ince Centres and these are under review as a result of Wigan Council's need to identify savings.

The Library continues to run 'Story Time' and other sessions for parents and young children which are very popular. A volunteer managed Face Book Group 'Standish and Shevington Mums' have become well established as a means of networking and sharing local information amongst young families.

### **Primary Schools**

In September 2014 Shevington Vale, Shevington Community (Miles Lane) and Millbrook primary schools became the Federation of Shevington Community Primary Schools maintaining a head teacher / assistant head teacher in each school but with an Executive Head Teacher and one Governing Body having overall management.

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School and St Anne's Church of England Primary School in Standish Lower Ground are the only other primary schools serving the area. Some children go to a Lancashire school (All Saints) in Appley Bridge and some Shevington Moor children go to Standish schools

In 2016 Wigan Council launched a consultation on the future provision of primary schools in the area. The section on population demonstrates how the

population is aging with a consequent reduction in children of school age. This has led to a surplus of primary school places. Wigan's suggested solution is to close one of the Federation schools.

### **High School and Colleges**

Shevington High School is a co-educational secondary school for 11 to 16 year olds, rated overall as 'Good' in its last Ofsted Inspection (2012). Attainment outcomes are currently very good. Although placements from the Parish area have not increased, the main pressure on the school comes from a growth in potential students from the Beech Hill area and possibly the new areas of development to the west of Standish. John Rigby College, Winstanley College, Wigan and Leigh College and Runshaw College are all used by young people from Shevington.

### **Adult Education**

Shevington High School continues to provide some adult education classes, but the programme of subsidised non-vocational adult learning has inevitably had to reduce somewhat as it has across the country.

Pertinent to the increase in the numbers of older residents are the development of thriving University of the Third Age groups. Though a U3A has not emerged in Shevington, many local people have joined the groups formed in Up Holland and Parbold. This is an example of adult education and leisure activities being run by volunteers. In a similar vein Women's Institutes, walking groups and book groups also flourish.

Access to on-line learning in the home has become more of the norm, but IT provision in Shevington Library is important for those without personal access.

### **Leisure Activities.**

Active Living classes run by WCLT increased a few years ago, but financial restraints have caused many of these to be curtailed. Privately run classes and walking groups have taken their place and these thrive, as do local Gyms – an indication of a health orientated population, particularly involving the active retired.

Additional leisure / support opportunities are available to groups and individuals through a number of Community Interest Companies(CICs). One is in Appley Bridge (Fir Tree Fisheries) and two just outside our borders: (Thompson House and Reflections Court.)

For children, outside of schools, there is a busy dance school in the centre of Shevington and a music school in the parade of shops as well as the Youth Club and sports teams.

## **RECREATION AND AMENITIES**

### **Parks**

**Memorial Park** in the centre of Shevington is the only park owned by the Parish Council, the Memorial Garden having been gifted to it by the owners of Shevington New Hall. It contains a Shevington War Memorial, a play area (recently added to and improved) and a Trim Trail. Since the original Parish Plan was published, a Friends of Memorial Park has been established which has been instrumental in improving the range of play equipment in the park, including a zip wire. An issue over the last few years has been flooding in certain areas of the park. The Parish Council has undertaken a study of this problem and is seeking to remedy it.

**Stockley Park** is in the centre of the large estate in Appley Bridge which lies to the north of Miles Lane. The majority of the park lies to the west of Woodnook Road, but there is a small outlier to the east which has recently been enhanced with planters and trees under the auspices of Appley Bridge in Bloom. There has been an increase and improvement in play equipment in the western area in recent years.

**Whiteacre Park** is a small neighbourhood park in Shevington Moor with play equipment.

**Crooke Park** is to the north of Crooke Village and results from reclamation of coal workings. There is also a play area in this park. Adjoining Crooke Park is **Lawns Wood** - a nature conservation site where Crook Village Residents Association has begun to improve the footpath running through the site.

### **Other Amenity Areas**

These are mainly grassed areas with no facilities. They can be found at Miles Lane and Cloughwood Crescent in Appley Bridge and in Longbrook and High Park in Shevington.

### **Allotments and Bowling Green**

These are located at Forest Fold on land leased from Wigan Council. This area also contains raised bed allotments. Areas around the bowling green and the entrance have been landscaped - the latter area under the auspices of Appley Bridge in Bloom. In 2016 there was a waiting list for allotments. The proposed allotments at Vicarage Lane will provide more capacity and help reduce the waiting list.

### **Recreation Areas**

**Shevington Recreation Ground** is managed by Trustees on behalf of the community. Despite its presence in the centre, many of the Shevington Football Club teams have to play their home fixtures outside the village. Although based in Shevington, Shevington Sharks Rugby League Club has to play all its fixtures outside the Parish. This will be partially remedied when additional pitches are provided on the Vicarage Lane site.

In addition there are a number of recreation areas on private land. The largest of these is **Gathurst Golf Course**. This course had its centenary in 2013. It was originally located to the south of Shevington but, following the construction of the M6, a new course was constructed to the west of the Motorway and has gradually been extended from 9 to 18 holes.

Another facility opened since the original plan is **Fir Tree Fisheries** at The Nook in Appley Bridge. This provides facilities for both able bodied and disabled anglers.

Finally, to the east of Shevington are **Elnup Woods** - a pleasant area for walking which also has some relics of industry, particularly the remains of a mill and dam and miner's cottages. It has its own friends group and pupils of Shevington High School have carried some open air art projects in the area.

### **Amenities**

In the centre of Shevington there are three halls (**St Anne's Parish Hall**, **Methodist Hall** and the **Youth Club and Community Centre**) which provide a base for a number of community activities. Attached to the Youth Centre is a gymnasium.

Nearby is **Shevington Library**. In the last few years a wholesale reorganisation of the Library service has taken place. Whilst Shevington library was saved from closure, its status was downgraded. One of the results of this was the removal of evening and Saturday opening. The local community have managed to restore Saturday opening through the use of volunteers. Better use has been made of library space by setting up an Art Gallery in one of its rooms.

### **THE ENVIRONMENT.**

We need to be aware of the possible effect of changes on the environment at both macro- and micro-levels. Environmentally aware groups and individuals will see 'one world' issues and effects but will also want to balance local needs against these to achieve harmonious development. It is clear that environmental issues form a regular part of Parish Council and Community Association discussions, for example, and it may be that Shevington has been spared indiscriminate building development over recent years due to local awareness and action. However, ultimate decisions on planning lie with Wigan Council and, in spite of much local effort, developments on the ecologically important Orica site went ahead. The Parish Council has moved to preserve green open spaces through its purchase of **Otters Croft Wood**, to preserve its ecology, and of land off **Vicarage Lane** for community leisure use.

Here are examples of how residents value their access to open spaces and to a pleasant local environment:-

- The vast majority make good use of local and borough-wide recycling initiatives,
- Suggestions are regularly put forward to district councillors of areas needing extra care by the 'Beat It' team,
- Shevington and District in Bloom's planting initiatives, working with the

- Parish Council, have received local accolades and national recognition,
- 'In Bloom' work has had a good effect on littering and vandalism,
  - 'In Bloom' work has developed more perennial and permanent planting.
  - Litter picking sub-groups work regularly in Shevington centre, Appley Bridge and in North Ward (Longbrook Estate to the Motorway) to supplement the work of local authority and parish contractors.

## **THE NEED FOR A VISIBLE POLICE PRESENCE**

The desire for increased Police visibility is still a major issue for many residents. Positive steps had been taken to address this matter, both by Greater Manchester Police Wigan (GMP Wigan) and the Parish Council. However, the last few years have seen cuts to Policing budgets, and consequently staff, forcing a rethink on how patrols are undertaken and the availability of local facilities. Shevington is now included in the Wigan West Community Division, and is serviced locally by one Sergeant and one PCSO.

Other decisions have affected Policing visibility, such as GMP not renewing the tenancy agreement for the Police room, based in Shevington Library, and the loss of the locally sponsored Community Police car. The District Councillors took up residence in the old Police room in Shevington Library and it is now utilised for surgeries and meetings with residents. An open offer to share the room with the Police/PCSO was made and accepted. The Councillors and PCSO run some joint-surgeries and other events to retain the vital link between the local Police and the community.

Crime in the Parish is relatively low. Anti-social behaviour is still top of the list of concerns. Positive actions such as improvements to the Youth Club and the additional equipment in Memorial Park will hopefully reduce some of the ASB incidents linked to a lack of Youth facilities. The excellent work done by the local sports clubs, Shevington FC and Shevington Sharks, also has a positive impact on the community, offering sporting opportunities to a wide-range of the community. The involvement of Wigan Athletic Community Trust by running regular Kickz training sessions has seen a significant drop in ASB incidents.

The statistics compiled by the Borough's Community Safety Partnership suggest that complaints about youth nuisance predominate numerically over any other problem. There is convincing evidence that under-age drinking, to a very large degree, and some drug abuse, to a very much lesser degree, have exacerbated anti-social behaviour that has resulted in sustained damage to street furniture, vandalism and intimidation. Greater Manchester Police find themselves endlessly contacted by Borough and Parish Councillors to do something about the nuisance; covert surveillance, remote CCTV and reinforced patrols have all been deployed. More recently the introduction of a dispersal zone in the centre of the village has given the police more powers to move people on, even if crimes have not been committed.

## **YOUNG PEOPLE.**

### **Shevington Youth Club**

The club re-opened for junior members on October 2014 with two new youth workers. It is hoped that senior club will re-open in the future. Average attendance each week is around 12 in each age range. The Youth Club steps are no longer a gathering place.

### **Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies**

The Scout and Guide movement continues to be active in Shevington.

### **Sports and Dance**

Shevington FC and Shevington Sharks ARLFC continue to provide training and participation activities for dozens of boys and girls every week, including training out-of-season. It would be difficult to underestimate what they have done for the young people of Shevington over many years and this will increase with the opening of new facilities at Vicarage Lane.

Anna Shimmin runs well-attended dance classes in the Dance Studio, mainly for girls.

### **St Anne's Church "One Way" group**

This teenagers' group meets weekly during term time. Attendance is compulsory for any young person who wishes to be confirmed at St Anne's.

## Appendix-The Parish Plan 2006 – A Review of Progress.

### Tasks

<b>TASKS</b>	<b>PROGRESS MADE</b>
1 To ensure that as many as possible have a clear understanding of the role of the Parish Council, its geographical boundaries, and the extent of its statutory powers	Meetings are publicised via the notice boards and the website and are open to all. The extent of the Council's statutory powers is explained whenever possible and recorded in the Minutes, which are published on the website and in hard copy in Shevington Library. The parish boundaries have been publicised via the newsletter and the use of a map as part of the display at Shevington Fete.
2 To match its budget planning to the needs and priorities that this plan identifies and that are presented to the Council as it goes about its work	Priorities identified in the Plan have been included in the budget annually, wherever possible, e.g. the provision of bins.
3 To plan for medium and long term outcomes that will require the allocation of budget reserves	Funds have been set aside annually over a number of years to fund future work such as car park repairs.
4 To maximise the impact of its resource spending by seeking grant aid and support from all appropriate funding bodies	The Council is restricted by the number of grant funding streams it can access, but wherever possible, it has tried to do this, either directly, e.g. 'Awards for All' lottery grant application to fund more litter bins, Calor Village of the Year competition to raise funds for a new notice board for Crooke Village, or by working in partnership with other agencies, e.g. Shevington Village Bowling Club to raise funds for a new pavilion, Adactus Housing to obtain match funding for the above notice board.
5 To ensure a positive role for the Parish Council in liaising with and lobbying Wigan Borough and West Lancashire District Councils whenever there is something that requires such a role, and to maintain a good working relationship with local borough and district councillors	Responses are made to consultations from Wigan Borough Lancashire County Council and West Lancashire District Councils, as are planning representations. Meetings take place annually between parish councillors and senior Wigan Council officers. Wigan councillors regularly attend and report to Parish Council meetings.



TASKS	PROGRESS MADE
6 To play an active part in the work of other non-statutory and voluntary bodies that contribute to the life of all the communities in the civil parish of Shevington and the surrounding district, particularly to take part in the work of the local Township Forum	Representatives are appointed to represent the Council on several local voluntary bodies, e.g. Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees, Community Association, Youth Club, and play an active part in their work. A representative attended meetings of the Township Forum when it existed.
7 To inform, and urge action from other bodies who might find the results of the Plan worth knowing, e.g. Greater Manchester Police Authority and local Chambers of Commerce	Contact is made regularly with bodies such as Greater Manchester Police over law and order issues. The GM Police Authority no longer exists but a Police Commissioner for Greater Manchester has been elected.
8 To become an effective local advocate and educator for and on environmental issues; there would be no need for litter clearances daily if everyone disposed of their rubbish in a responsible manner	The Council has on a number of occasions invited Wigan Council officers to carry out anti-litter campaigns in the area whilst in parts of the parish local volunteers undertake litter picking duties
9 To consult regularly with the residents of the communities that make up the civil parish of Shevington and to keep them informed about progress as well as seeking their opinion about new and/or required initiatives	Residents have been consulted on numerous occasions either via the newsletter or direct leafleting about new initiatives, e.g. the future of the Orica field, and been informed about progress via the newsletter.

### **Action (Immediate and Ongoing).**

<b>ACTION (Immediate &amp; Ongoing)</b>	<b>PROGRESS MADE</b>
1 Ensuring a clean local environment by maintaining the joint Parish and Borough Council cleaning of pavements and public areas, and by publicising the volume of distaste for littering and the thoughtlessness of dog owners who do not clean up after their pets	Public areas owned or managed by the Parish Council are cleaned and maintained by contractors and/or volunteers. Wigan councillors are lobbied over litter collection and maintenance of public areas. Issues are reported promptly to officers. Dog fouling campaigns have been initiated and posters are displayed on notice boards.
2 Providing and maintaining litter and 'doggie' bins throughout the area and increasing their number as demand indicates	Litter bins continue to be provided throughout the area and their number has been increased over the past few years.
3 Carrying on the seasonal planting in the decorative tubs near shops and at Gathurst Station, and seeking to 'adopt' Appley Bridge Station as well	The planter stock has been increased over the past two years. Those in front of the shops in Gathurst Lane have been re-arranged and continue to be planted up. The planters at Gathurst Station continue to be maintained as well as those at Appley Bridge Station which was adopted several years ago. All concrete planters have been painted. Planters are now also provided in Crooke Village, the centre of Appley Bridge, in Woodnook Road and in Shevington Moor.
4 Ensuring that trees removed from open spaces are replaced with suitable varieties, and those opportunities to plant trees along through routes where they can enhance the local environment and not cause danger to road and pavement users.	Whenever trees have been removed from Parish Council owned open spaces they have been replaced with suitable varieties. The planting of trees along through routes has been encouraged and on some occasions supported financially, e.g. the trees in front of the shops at Gathurst Lane.

<b>ACTION (Immediate &amp; Ongoing)</b>	<b>PROGRESS MADE</b>
5 Maintaining the open spaces for which the Parish Council is responsible to the highest standard possible, and encouraging the increased use of the Bowling Green at Forest Fold	The Parish Council employs contractors to maintain the open spaces for which it is responsible to the highest standards possible within its budgetary constraints. Use of the Bowling Green has been encouraged whenever possible. The Green is advertised via the notice boards and the newsletter. The new notice board at the entrance to Forest Fold includes information about the Green.
6 Maintaining and, where possible, upgrading the network of 14 miles of public footpaths that extend across the civil parish	The Council have in the past contributed to the maintenance of the network of public footpaths in the area. The Parish Walk is held every year with a view to keeping the footpaths open. The Council liaise with the Rights of Way Officer at Wigan over the maintenance of the footpaths and have recently agreed to support the introduction of a bridleway along one footpath as a means of achieving the upgrade of that path.
7 Publicising the work of those statutory and voluntary organisations who can help alleviate loneliness and isolation	The Parish Council have publicised the work of both statutory and voluntary bodies that can help alleviate loneliness and isolation by displaying their posters on the notice boards.

### Action (Medium Term)

<b>ACTION (Medium Term)</b>	<b>PROGRESS MADE</b>
1 Improving parking provision and control	The Parish Council provides a car park in the centre of Shevington and lobbies for improved provision and control elsewhere.
2 Monitoring planning control and protecting the Green Belt	Planning representations are made regularly. Incursions into the Green Belt are monitored and objected to. Land has been purchased from Orica in part to prevent further development.
3 Improving and expanding the provision of recreational facilities	The Parish Council has recently been in negotiation with local volunteer sports clubs over the provision of new recreational facilities on the recently purchased land.
4 Bringing the communities on the peripheries of the civil parish into a full engagement with the work of the Parish Council, with a first step being a survey of the present state of facilities in those areas	Communities on the peripheries of the civil parish are being gradually brought into a full engagement with the work of the Parish Council via the newsletter, Council meetings in different locations and consultations. Facilities and the quality of maintenance in those areas are assessed regularly. The Annual Inspection of Property now takes members to all areas of the Parish. There is a long way to go.
5 Canvassing all likely users and providers of sheltered housing to establish the level and nature of the need and the possibility of provision of appropriate sheltered accommodation	Other than occasional discussion at meetings progress in this area has been very limited. A working group has been set up by the Community Association.
6 Supporting and assisting larger scale environment improvements, e.g. the making of the Memorial Park and the Recreational Ground a richly planted, landscaped and functional formal and informal recreational space in the heart of the village; protecting and developing the other open spaces across the civil parish that can be used for non-intrusive recreational purposes.	Work on developing the recreational facilities in Shevington Memorial Park is currently being carried out by the Friends of Shevington Memorial Park. The Parish Council are looking into making drainage improvements and repairing the footpaths in the park. The Recreation Ground Trustees are working on improving the drainage on the recreation ground. The CVRA are maintaining and developing the open spaces in Crooke Village. Elected members and other groups are looking into developing other open spaces in the parish.

<b>ACTION (Medium Term)</b>	<b>PROGRESS MADE</b>
7 Working with Shevington and District Community Association to develop an annual programme of activities to promote cooperation and the enjoyment of a burgeoning community spirit.	Members who represent the Parish Council at Shevington & District Community Association meetings work with the CA to develop the annual programme of activities which is intended to promote co-operation and an enjoyment of community spirit.
8 Investigating the possibility of creating a Village Hall that would provide a space for a multitude of formal and informal activities - and would, incidentally, offer a permanent home for the Parish Council.	The possibility of purchasing the Old School House and developing it was investigated, but funds were not available and nothing came to fruition. The older building has been converted into two housing units whilst the newer building is now a hairdresser.
9 Undertaking an ongoing survey of the pavements in the civil parish and lobbying the local authority to maintain an ongoing programme of repair and upgrading	Issues with pavements are reported as they arise.