

Ward Councillor Report to Shevington Parish Council

29 June 2022

Canal Towpath

The upgrade of the canal towpath in this ward is to be included in Phase I of the scheme. Work on the upgrade is due to begin in September. It will start at the border with West Lancashire and progress in the direction of the DW Stadium. The route is intended for use by walkers and cyclists.

Potholes

The ward councillors have received many complaints about potholes in the vicinity of J27. They are in the area for which Lancashire County Council are responsible.

Mirror Opposite the Junction of Kilburn Drive with Shevington Lane

The following response has been received from the Area Traffic Engineer:

“Unfortunately, as a general rule traffic mirrors are to be avoided wherever possible, for the following reasons:

- Their effectiveness in all weathers is likely to be different;
- They can cause confusion for motorists by providing distorted information;
- They can create difficulties in judging speed and distance of reflected vehicles;
- They can cause problems of driver glare in strong sunlight;
- They are susceptible to vandalism;
- Considerable maintenance would be required to keep them completely clean.

Indeed, within Greater Manchester, the ten local authorities have agreed that traffic mirrors should only be considered on the public highway under very specific circumstances, and where the following conditions are met:

- There is a collision history relating to a lack of visibility;
- Visibility for vehicles emerging from the side road is severely restricted;
- A visibility improvement scheme is not feasible;
- Visibility cannot be improved by removing hedges, walls, trees or other obstacles;
- The speed limit on the major road is above 30 mph;
- There are no other reasonable standard highway improvements possible.

The GM Police road casualty records show that there have been no injury accidents reported at this junction within the past 12 years of information, which is as far back as the records go. In addition, Shevington Lane is designated as a 30 mph road. Consequently, and in view of all of the above reasons, we cannot consider introducing a traffic mirror at this location.

However, I will ask for the Highways Inspections Team to assess whether or not there might be any vegetation encroaching over and on to the public highway which may be hampering driver visibility at this junction. In addition, I will also arrange for a new sign to be installed on the northbound approach to Kilburn Drive, to warn Shevington Lane traffic of the approach to a junction on the left-hand bend.”

Illegal Parking

The Area Traffic Engineer has also written:

“Vehicles parked on the footway can be a danger to pedestrians. It constitutes an obstruction of the highway and can also lead to pavement damage, which are both offences under The Highways Act 1980. However, such an offence is one which only Greater Manchester Police have the necessary powers to enforce against. The Traffic Network Section of GM Police have informed us that they do enforce on footway parking, however, they only do so if they consider that the parked vehicle is causing an obstruction, which they deem to be when the footway width has

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been reduced to less than 1.2 metres (approx 4ft). Any such obstructions can be reported to GM Police directly on their non-emergency Tel 101, or via their website at:

<https://www.gmp.police.uk/ro/report/rti/rti-b/report-a-road-traffic-incident/>

In addition, the concerned residents may wish to visit the following Council webpage, which provides further information with regard to problem parking issues, and includes a range of joint Council and GM Police endorsed advice leaflets/ warning notices, which can be printed off and placed on to any vehicles that are obstructing the footway, etc:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Parking-Roads-Travel/Parking/ProblemParking/Index.aspx>

Illegal parking can be reported via the Report It app. The greater the number of reports, the greater the chance of someone attending.

Overhang at Appley Bridge Shops

The owner of the properties housing the businesses in the centre of the parade of shops was recently served with a s47 notice by the enforcement officer, as the front panel was hanging down in a dangerous way. A repair has been undertaken and a new panel has been fitted.

Ward Councillors' Surgeries

Because of Covid no councillor surgeries have been held at Shevington Library on Saturday mornings for a long time. The library is still not open on Saturdays. However, it has been agreed with Sgt Nick Forshaw that surgeries will resume on occasions when he is on duty on a Saturday morning. The first such surgery will take place on Saturday, 14 August.