

Update for Melksham Area Board

FROM: MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: 6 June 2018

HEADLINES

Community Engagement Officer

The Town Council have recently appointed Debbie Bentley as a P/T Community Engagement Officer to help enhance local community engagement, pro-actively raise awareness of local volunteer activity and identify support mechanisms required by local volunteers, in order to take forward community led initiatives, as well as developing strong networks and links between community groups, organisations and service users; co-ordinating engagement activities and implementing action plans.

Play Areas

143 responses have been received from a recent play area survey, which provided valuable input to the Town Council's ongoing efforts to allocate expenditure to maintain and enhance play equipment within the town and in recent weeks £11,500 + VAT worth of improvements have been agreed to update various play areas in the town.

KGV Playing Field Public Consultation

Architects appointed to provide a masterplan for KGV playing fields are currently consulting with members of the public on what they would like to see in the park, with an information board and drop box being circulated to various locations around the town to allow people to fill in and submit their responses.

Flood Warden Training

Flood Training for potential Flood Wardens has taken place over 2 evenings recently. The training was delivered by Ms Renate Malton, Flood Resilience Officer at Wiltshire Council and Lisa Milton, Environment Agency. The training sessions were attended by various members of the community (including Melksham Without residents), as well as councillors and officers.

800th Anniversary Market Charter

A Task & Finish Group has been set up, consisting of councillors and other interested parties, to consider how best to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the granting of the

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Market Charter. Various ideas have been put forward and currently a weekend of celebrations are being explored to take place in September 2019.

George Ward Playing Fields

A joint working group with Melksham Without Parish Council has been set-up to come up with ideas for the former George Ward Playing Fields.

The newly named 'Shurnhold Fields' project has identified the following vision and objectives:

- To provide a quiet, tranquil place for residents
- To provide modest attenuation
- To provide all weather footpaths (not tarmac) with some, not all, to be DDA compliant
- To provide picnic tables and seating
- To provide a wildflower area
- To provide a car park for all users (not just for allotments)
- To provide MWPC allotments (up to 20 ½ "old style" size plots) – to be separately funded by the parish council
- To provide a wooden trim trail
- To provide at least two bins inside the project area
- To provide a WWI tree memorial comprising approx. 200 trees

If you would like to get involved, help shape this project and get your hands dirty, please come along to a future 'Friends of Shurnhold Fields' meeting. Please get in touch with either the Town or Parish Council. Clare Harris: clare.harris@melkshamtown.co.uk or Teresa Strange: clerk@melkshamwithout.co.uk

Grant Applications

Grant applications from local groups are welcomed from 1 June-31 July. Please contact mel.rolph@melkshamtown.co.uk for a grant application form or alternatively a grant application form will be available to download from the Town Council website: www.melkshamtown.co.uk from 1 June 2018.

FORTHCOMING DATES

- **1 July at 2.30pm:** Civic Service at St Michael & All Angels Church followed by refreshments at the Assembly Hall
- **8 July** at 1.00-3.00pm Tidy Town Day
- **10 July:** Judging for Melksham in Bloom
- **11 July:** Judging for Britain in Bloom (South West)
- **20/21 July:** Music Festival/Party in the Park
- **28 July:** Carnival
- **1 and 2 September:** Food & River Festival, KGV
- **9 September:** Melksham Gardeners' Society Open Flower & Produce Show - 2.00pm at The Assembly Hall (also includes prize giving ceremony for Melksham in Bloom winners and runners up.