

# Melksham Area Board: Update – 8 December 2021

## Melksham Community Campus

### Construction

We are now nine months into the community campus build programme. The build is progressing really well and is expected to be watertight by the new year. There has been lots of progress since the last report:

- Foul drainage connection
- Installation of the electrical substation and power cables
- Creation of a swale and installation of an attenuation tank
- External brickwork
- Internal blockwork
- Installation of external doors and screens
- Commencement of the north and south car park construction including ducting and preparation for new water supplies.
- All concrete pours complete

Works currently in progress:

- North and south car park construction
- First fix mechanical and electrical installation (containment)
- Internal blockwork and rendering

Behind the scenes the design team and campus team continue to work on developing and finalising design which includes approving samples, reviewing design information, agreeing finishes and colour schemes.

### Programme

There is still a general issue with the supply of some building materials across the construction industry. This affected progress with the roof earlier in the year. Furthermore, inclement weather and the effects of COVID-19 on the workforce has hindered progress to a degree. However despite these challenges the campus is still on track to open by Autumn 2022.

### North car park works and site access

The north car park construction work is ongoing until April 2022. During this time access through the north car park will be for maintenance vehicles only and by prior arrangement. The works were scheduled out of club playing season and the Campus Team have been working closely with the onsite sports clubs around their access requirements. The footpath through the site from Place Road will remain closed for the duration of these works and Melk 20 remains open for pedestrian access to the clubs and for public access through the site.

Melk 21 footpath, south of the old rugby pitch is now open following the recent excavation works for the storm water drainage and power cable. Pedestrian access from the Market Place remains closed for the duration of construction.

### Club utilities

There has been a slight delay with installing the new water supplies for the tennis and bowls clubs. Due to tree root protection areas to the north of the site, the method of installing the

pipework for the supplies and other groundworks in this area required some re-design of the construction method and drainage. The works are now fully underway and back on track.

An external water supply will be installed close to the tennis courts and a new, independent supply is being provided to the bowls club. The bowls club water supply was previously connected to the Melksham House supply.

## **Parking**

One of the planning conditions for the campus is having an approved parking strategy in place prior to the opening of the campus. The campus team have been considering options available to ensure that the parking is prioritised for users of the facility. We will be carrying out some soft consultation in the coming weeks prior to applying for a Traffic Regulation Order in the new year.

## **Section 73 planning application**

A Section 73 planning application was submitted at the end of October. The planning reference is PL/2021/10087 and the consultation period ended on 3 December. This application sought approval for the addition of photovoltaics (solar panels), updated surface water drainage and external lighting plans as well as a number of changes to the hard and soft landscaping as designs have developed over the past few months. This includes a number of improvements to the car parks including more family bays, more elective vehicle charging points and the inclusion of assessable bays in the north car park.

## **Furniture, fittings and equipment**

Procurement of equipment and fixtures continues. The current priorities are the library furniture, café and signage. An external signage planning application will be submitted in the new year.

## **Archaeology**

Cotswold Archaeology have been carrying out testing of the findings on-site and will provide an update in due course. We will communicate this information once it is received and digested.

## **Melksham House**

Planning approved the application for the development of Melksham House in October. The demolition and soft strip out works are due to begin early in 2022. We are keen that these enabling works are carried out prior to the main entrance road being resurfaced. As the levelling up bid was not successful, a report regarding the main refurbishment of the House is being taken to Cabinet in December. The main refurbishment works are not intended to commence until the campus build is complete.

## **Communications and events**

We were delighted to offer a site visit to local councillors at the beginning of November to show them first-hand the progress that has been made on site. At the end of November, we buried a time capsule on the campus site. Pupils from Aloeric Primary School and Bowerhill Primary School contributed drawings, writing and other items. A handful of pupils were able to witness the burial of the capsule and they also received a presentation on construction. This was a very exciting morning for the children and adults alike and will be something to look forward to in the future when the time capsule is unearthed in 2051. Local media including Wiltshire Times, Melksham Independent News and BBC Radio Wiltshire were also in attendance to cover the event which resulted in some positive coverage.

## Progress photos

