

## ***Update for Melksham Area Board***

<b>Name of Parish/Town Council</b>	<b>Melksham Without Parish Council</b>
<b>Date of Area Board Meeting</b>	7 June 2017

### **Headlines/Key successes**

#### **New Councillors following Elections**

Following the Election on 4<sup>th</sup> May, the parish council had 5 vacancies and advertised for volunteers to come forward to fill those positions as co-opted councillors. Six candidates put themselves forward and five were co-opted at the Annual Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May when Cllr Richard Wood was also elected Chairman, and Cllr John Glover was elected Vice Chair. The new parish councillors are:

#### **BERRYFIELD WARD:**

Cllr Richard Wood (Chairman)  
Cllr Steve Petty

#### **BLACKMORE WARD:**

Cllr Alan Baines  
Cllr Paul Taylor

#### **BEANACRE, SHAW & WHITLEY WARD:**

Cllr Terry Chivers  
Cllr Greg Coombes  
Cllr Mary Pile

#### **BOWERHILL WARD:**

Cllr John Glover (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Mike Mills  
Cllr Paul Carter  
Cllr Nick Holder  
Cllr Kaylum House  
Cllr Joanne Pattison

#### **Grants awarded at Annual Parish Meeting**

Melksham Without Parish Council members and staff really enjoyed the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May. It was a great opportunity to hear from all the local groups and organisations about what they have been doing, and their plans for the next year. We also heard from the Neighbourhood Plan team, our Wiltshire Council members and officers, Wiltshire Air Ambulance about their new HQ being built in the parish, and the exemplary work by the Shaw & Whitley flood wardens now transformed into the CAWS Community Emergency Group; there was such a diverse group in attendance. The evening culminated with grant funding cheques being presented to over 40 organisations.

---

## ***Update for Melksham Area Board***

### **Local village magazines desperately need volunteers**

Do you enjoy reading the **Bowerhill Villager**? the next issue will be the last unless some new volunteers come forward to take over the running of the village publication. The fantastic team that write, edit, print and distribute the Villager have been going strong since the first issue in 1983 and some of them are now in their 80s. They have decided it's time for them to step down and a new set of community volunteers come forward.

Please do get in touch via Melksham Without Parish Council if you have some time to spare and would like to see this valuable community asset continue.

- do you have a few hours every month to compile the newsletter on a computer
- do you have a few hours every month to print and bundle up the publications
- do you have an hour every month to distribute the bundles to the 60 volunteers who then post it through letterboxes
- do you have the creativity to draw a monthly topical cartoon?
- do you have time to be the treasurer and/or deal with the advertisers?
- in addition, the team that undertake the above jobs meet once a month to agree the content of the newsletter that month

The **Connect** magazine that serves Shaw & Whitley is looking for a new Editor, and is in the same position as the Villager in that the next issue may well be the last if no one comes forward to take this role on. Connect is published every two months.

**These are your communities, your news, your publications and if you don't come forward the Summer issues will be the last.**

### **A Dementia Friend**

Melksham Without Parish Council signed up to be a member of the Melksham Dementia Awareness Alliance during the Dementia Awareness week in May. The majority of Councillors (including the new ones) have now been trained and are Dementia Friends. One of the first things the Council did was to review new RTP1 planning advice on making houses and surrounding areas more dementia friendly, and will be lobbying both the Neighbourhood Plan team and Wiltshire Council to adopt the principles outlined.

### **Weed spraying in the Parish**

Villages in the parish of Melksham Without have all had their main roads sprayed with weed killer at the end of May. This is something the parish council pay for every year to prevent the spread and growth of weeds during the summer months, which is not only unsightly but encourages litter and then vermin. In addition to the kerblines, all the bus shelters have been treated too.

The villages covered are Shaw, Whitley, Beanacre, Berryfield, Bowerhill as well as the "old" Semington Road right up to the Semington bridge as used by many cyclists and pedestrians, and the main road from Bowerhill out to Redstocks to try and stem the encroachment of vegetation onto the pavement. The car park and area surrounding the Pavilion at Bowerhill Jubilee Sports Field have also been treated.

This year the Bowerhill Industrial Estate has also been included, to try and improve the appearance of this important commercial area.

---

## ***Update for Melksham Area Board***

### **Big Spring Clean & Best Kept Village Competition**

A big thankyou to all the local community action groups and residents who took part in the Big Spring Clean and who are working tirelessly to improve the appearance of the villages in the parish ahead of the judges visit for the Best Kept Village competition. BRAG (Bowerhill Residents Action Group) also contended with cleaning up and repairing picnic tables following recent vandalism at their picnic area near the canal. CAWS (Community Action: Whitley & Shaw) have been bulb planting and have new planters being installed around the villages for summer bedding. They also gave the 'phone boxes in the villages a thorough clean ahead of taking them over in conjunction with the parish council. BASRAG (Berryfield & Semington Road Action Group) continue their litter picks, running the village hall and had a successful Easter Egg hunt.

### **Refurbishment of Play Areas**

Melksham Without Parish Council have leased the play areas at Berryfield and Kestrel Court in Bowerhill from Wiltshire Council and have given them a good clean, either repaired or replaced the safety surfacing and repaired the play equipment. They are now working on doing the same with the play area at Hornchuch Road, Bowerhill but are experiencing a delay with some legal technicalities.

### **Dropped kerbs work in Whitley**

Melksham Without Parish Council have responded to residents' concerns and requests for dropped kerbs along the Corsham Road to allow easier accessibility for those in wheelchairs and mobility scooters when crossing First and Middle Lane in Whitley. Working with Wiltshire Council's CATG (Community Area Transport Group) and Melksham Area Board it is great to see those requests for support, and funding, finally come to fruition. Work started on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May and will last two weeks and is jointly funded by all three organisations. In addition, the Parish Council are paying for additional works to improve the condition of the pavement at the bottom of Middle Lane whilst the traffic management is in place.

### **Parking Issues on Bowerhill at School Dropping Off and Picking Up Times**

Parking problems at school dropping off and picking up times is a national issue, and not exclusive to one particular area, town or village.

At numerous meetings, Melksham Without Parish Council have considered at length problems with parking at school drop off and pick up times around the parish. The Council regularly receives requests for double yellow lines to be installed on residential roads near to schools and whilst it is empathetic to the frustrations of residents living in close proximity to schools, it also recognises the problems faced by parents trying to find an appropriate and safe place to park their vehicle for that short period of time whilst delivering or collecting their children.

The Parish Council does not feel that the installation of double yellow lines is an appropriate or effective way to try to address the issue, as this simply pushes vehicular parking onto other roads, and additionally means that residents and their visitors are prevented from parking outside of their homes at all times.

The Parish Council are therefore very interested in any positive suggestions from Bowerhill residents about how best to address parking issues at school drop off and pick up times at both Bowerhill Primary school and Melksham Oak Secondary school.

Please send your suggestions and ideas to [office@melkshamwithout.co.uk](mailto:office@melkshamwithout.co.uk) or alternatively call the office on 01225 705700 during office opening hours, Tuesday or

---

## ***Update for Melksham Area Board***

Thursday 9.30am – 2.30pm.

### **A warm welcome to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance**

Melksham Without Parish councillors were delighted to take part in the ceremony at Outmarsh Farm when the first cut in the ground was made as part of the build of the new Operational HQ in the parish. A warm welcome to the Air Ambulance team to Melksham Without.

Other buildings currently under construction in the parish include a new car dealership, hotel and drive thru café near the Milk Churn pub on the A350 approach to Melksham.



### **Want to keep in touch?**

Follow us on facebook ***Melksham Without Parish Council*** or ***Teresa Strange (Clerk)*** for additional community news or on twitter ***@melkshamwithout***, visit our website or request to be on the Council email mailing list for regular updates.

## **Forthcoming events/Diary dates**

### **Next meetings:**

MONDAY 12 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	PLANNING & FINANCE COMMITTEES
MONDAY 19 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>
MONDAY 3 <sup>RD</sup> JULY	PLANNING & HIGHWAY COMMITTEES
MONDAY 17 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>
MONDAY 24 <sup>TH</sup> JULY	PLANNING & STAFFING COMMITTEES
MONDAY 4 <sup>TH</sup> AUGUST	PLANNING COMMITTEE

---

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July**

Opening of new Community Shelter at Shaw School (and Summer Fete) 3-6pm

---

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

Picnic & Music @ The Beeches – CAWS Community Event at Shaw Playing Field

Signed: Teresa Strange, Clerk

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017