

Update for Melksham Area Board

FROM: MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: 15 November 2017

HEADLINES

COUNCILLOR ANDY HINCHCLIFFE

Unfortunately as many of you may know, Councillor Andy Hinchcliffe sadly passed away on 27 September.

Andy was a serving member of Melksham Town Council, having been elected originally on 13 May 2013. The Town Council at a meeting on 2 October recorded its appreciation for Andy's input to the work of the Town Council during his period of office. He was a great asset to this Council and for his significant and valued contribution which stands as a lasting tribute to his memory.

TOWN WARDEN

From September a Town Warden has been employed to undertake various duties in the Town including, but not exclusive to:

- Litter picking in town centre.
- Emptying litter bins more regularly.
- Clear dog mess.
- Removal of dirt, leaves and detritus from road gullies.
- Trimming back of trees and hedges blocking footpaths.

In order to assist the Town Warden with his duties, the Town Council have purchased a refurbished roadsweeper with the help of the Area Board with match funding, which the Town Council are extremely grateful for.

MELKSHAM IN BLOOM

At a recent awards ceremony in Torquay, Melksham achieved a Gold in the South West in Bloom competition up against some tough competition.

Well done to the team for all their hard work.

ASSEMBLY HALL

Melksham Town Council would like to understand how the Assembly Hall could be improved to increase the community's enjoyment of this valuable asset. Therefore, an on-line survey has been created <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JPY87TS>, as well as a popup

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invitation on the Melksham Town Council website, and through its Facebook and Twitter pages.

Paper copies of the survey are available at the Assembly Hall and Town Hall. The survey will close on 5 December 2017.

Two public meetings will also be held on Thursday 30 November at the Assembly Hall, at 10:30am, and 7:30pm with members of the Town Council and CaSA Architects who are helping to develop the brief.

RECREATION AREAS

King George V Park

The Town Council have installed new infant play equipment on the former paddling pool site which opened during the school Summer holidays and has been a great success.

The Town Council has also set aside funding to replace equipment in the park, as and when necessary, given Wiltshire Council's decision not to replace broken play equipment in their play areas.

Other Play areas

Riverside Drive is the latest play area to be refurbished by the Town Council as part of its ongoing attempts to deliver improvements to amenities and facilities within the town and to ensure that Wiltshire Council owned and operated play areas in the town are not closed. Primrose Drive and King George V Park have also received investment from the Town Council to ensure that remedial works are undertaken to ensure that play equipment in the town remain available for the community to enjoy.

The Mayor; Councillor Adrienne Westbrook stated "We understand that Wiltshire Council is facing enormous financial pressures at the current time, and the Town Council is determined to proactively ensure that play areas in Melksham remain open and in a safe condition, therefore the Town Council are in the process of discussing the transfer of responsibility for play areas to the Town Council in order that they can progress a programme of repairs to ensure that remedial works are undertaken to bring the play areas up to a safe standard".

The Mayor went on to say "The Town Council remains committed to bringing play areas up to a safe standard with its ultimate goal being to refurbish and enhance the play equipment and facilities. These are challenging but exciting times and the Town Council is totally committed to exploring ways by which services for our community can be delivered and enhanced".

GRANTS

Grants totalling nearly £30,000 were handed to 52 organisations at a grant awards evening in September, which will help them with various projects within the community.