

Update for Melksham Area Board

Name of Parish/Town Council	Melksham Without Parish Council
Date of Area Board Meeting	15 November 2017
Projects	

Hornchurch Road Play Area, Bowerhill

The Parish Council are about to sign the legal paperwork for the transfer of the play area at Hornchurch Road from Bloor Homes to the Parish Council. However, the Parish Council contractors due to replace the safety surfacing have raised serious concerns about the ground conditions of the surrounding public open space for a winter installation. Heavy lorries removing the old surfacing and delivering the new will have to cross the grassed areas in the public open space, which is not well drained. Although it may be drier as the weather gets colder it is not advisable to pour and set new surfacing when it is very cold and icy. The Parish Council are therefore not planning to undertake this work until the Spring.

Trees!

Melksham Without Parish Council have recently signed up to the new "Tree Charter" and believe in making trees accessible to all and planting for the future. If you feel the same, you may wish to come and help plant and maintain new trees. In the Spring the Council will be planting another 400 trees on the perimeter of Bowerhill Sports Field, these will be five different native species, chosen for their wildlife qualities. They are also holding a working party to tidy up the grass and undergrowth around the saplings planted a couple of years ago. Please get in touch if you would like to come and help. The trees are all supplied free of charge by the Woodland Trust.

Youth Champion & Senior Champion

Following on from the recent "Age Friendly" meetings held in Melksham, the Parish Council are keen to find a Youth and Senior Champion for the parish. This would be a volunteer role for someone who could give their perspective from their age group point of view, for example on planning applications and public consultations and how any proposals may impact these groups differently to other members of the general public. If this is something that you are interested in then please get in touch. Wiltshire Council and the Melksham Area Board both have their own Senior Champions and the Parish Council are keen to develop this idea for the parish and have a Youth Champion too.

Telephone Kiosks in Shaw & Whitley

CAWS (Community Action: Whitley & Shaw) have plans to refurbish and convert the two unused 'phone boxes in the villages. The one on Corsham Road opposite the school in Shaw is to become a historical archive resource and the one on Top Lane in Whitley a free lending library for books. The Parish Council are adopting the boxes from BT (for a £1 each) and will take on the insurance responsibilities for them, whilst CAWS will take on the refurbishment, conversion and ongoing maintenance of them. The Parish Council are pleased to be able to support CAWS in this way and to keep these iconic boxes in the parish as a community resource, rather than BT removing them.

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Forthcoming events/Diary dates

Development in Melksham and Melksham Without

Have your say!

You are invited to drop-in events in Melksham and Melksham Without to further the work of the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan, led by the Parish and Town Council, which has already included a number of consultations and events, is reaching a critical stage in its development. It needs input from the community to add further information, especially in relation to housing.

Neighbourhood Planning is a government initiative to involve local people in land use planning, and it provides an opportunity for local people to have their say on future development in the area. When it is complete will become part of the documents which govern planning in the area; because of this, it is critical local people make their voice heard.

Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Richard Wood said, "It is absolutely vital that this document expresses the views of the local people of the area and this is why this stage is so critical."

The Neighbourhood Plan covers housing, transport, shopping, working, environment and health / leisure for the communities of Melksham and Melksham Without.

An online and paper survey will also be available for the community to make more detailed comments after the events.

The drop-in events are being held at Christie Miller Sports Centre on Friday 10th November between 4pm and 7pm, or at Melksham Guide HQ (entrance to Waitrose Car Park) Saturday 11th November between 11.30am and 2.30pm

Further information on the Neighbourhood Plan is available from Melksham Town Council (01225 704187) or Melksham Without Parish Council (01225 705700).

Complete the online survey that will open on 10th November 2017 at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MelkshamHousingSitesConsult>

Paper copies will also be available from the town and parish council offices and other venues.

Signed: Teresa Strange, Clerk

Date: 6th November 2017