

Update for Melksham Area Board

FROM: MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: 11 April 2018

HEADLINES

King George V Playing Fields

The Town Council has resolved in principle that it is prepared to take over the role of sole trustee of the King George V Playing fields. The Town Council believes it is better placed than the unitary authority to look after, care for and maintain this unique amenity area within the town and, over time, would wish to enhance the recreational activities available for the community to enjoy. The Town Council perceives that King George V Playing Fields is an underutilised and underappreciated resource and that much can be done to enhance its appeal and attract people to make use of the recreational offer it provides. To this end the Town Council has appointed a Landscape Architect to prepare a master plan highlighting possible ways forward of how this may be achieved.

Ongoing liaison is currently taking place with Wiltshire Council and other key stakeholders, including Fields in Trust, towards the transfer of the sole trusteeship.

Cigarette Bins in Market Place

Recently 3 cigarette butt litter bins have been installed in the Market Place in a bid to deter the disposal of cigarette butts on pavements and in floral planters in the area. With the assistance of Wiltshire Council, additional measures are currently being explored in an attempt to address this anti-social behaviour which is particularly prevalent at this location.

Play Areas

Quotations are currently being sought on costs to refurbish several play areas following a recent play area audit (including those currently maintained by Wiltshire Council). A survey seeking peoples' views on what they like and don't like about the play areas they visit the most has been circulated to schools/nurseries and other youth organisations as well as being posted on the Town Council website and Facebook page.

Refill Campaign

Following various recent articles on the amount of plastic being thrown away and the impact this has on the environment, the Town Council is supporting the National 'Refill' scheme by becoming a 'Refill Station', allowing people to be able to refill their bottles from the Town Hall. The Town Council is also exploring the possibility of a plastic recycle point in the Town Centre.

Art Project – Underpass

Representatives of the Town Council are discussing the possibility of an art project on the walls of the A350 underpass with a local artist to mark the centenary of the end of World War I.

Update for Melksham Area Board

Community Engagement Officer

The Town Council is undertaking a recruitment exercise to appoint a part-time Community Engagement Officer. As part of a revitalised Town Team initiative, the incumbent will co-ordinate and harness the enormous amount of goodwill within the community by supporting voluntary and community groups through enhanced networking, and promoting equipment and resource sharing and training which, it is envisaged, will generate significant community benefits particularly in respect of maintaining and enhancing our public spaces.

Forthcoming Dates

30 April: Annual Town Meeting
1 July: Civic Service