

## **Melksham Campus Project Board**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1. To provide background and context to the Melksham campus programme and the proposed implementation of the Melksham Campus Project Board.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1. The campus programme is intrinsic to delivering the councils vision to create stronger and more resilient communities and to provide more accessible services that reflect local needs.
- 2.2. The Cabinet member and the Associate Director for the campus programme are now encouraging Area Boards across the county to take a more active role in the development of their community campus proposals.
- 2.3. The Melksham Area Board recognises that this is a crucial time for the Melksham community campus development. The board are keen to ensure informed decisions are taken in a timely manner, to avoid incurring additional costs and to prevent further pressure on the existing and dated facilities; which a further delay to the programme would create.
- 2.4. On 15 February 2011 Wiltshire Council's Cabinet approved the implementation of the Campus and Operational Delivery Programme. The Melksham Shadow Community Operations Board (COB) was subsequently formed under the auspices of the Melksham Area Board. The Shadow COB consisted of local volunteers, a representative from the Area Board and elected representatives from the Town and Parish Council, working closely with the Campus and Operational Models team, partners, clubs, groups and community residents to make recommendations on the campus project to the Melksham Area Board.
- 2.5. The Shadow COB and the Melksham Community Area Partnership undertook extensive consultation and research which formed the basis of the campus development business case. This was approved by Wiltshire Council cabinet in December 2011, with a budget of £23.072M. This was to include 3 developments:
  - New football and rugby facilities
  - The Market place improvements
  - Melksham House community campus

### **3. Current position**

- 3.1. Construction has started on the new £7M rugby and football development at Woolmore Farm, which is projected to be ready for the start of the 2016-17 season (Summer 2016). There will be a state-of-the-art clubhouse, 12 football pitches and 4 rugby pitches. The sports clubs will move from the Melksham House site at the end of the 2015-16 season.
- 3.2. The Melksham community campus and the market place both have detailed schemes that have been researched, designed and consulted on, however, they are currently unaffordable with the identified budget available, which stands at £16M. The campus at Melksham House has conditional planning permission, which was granted in 2014.
- 3.3. Discussions have recently started between Melksham Town Council and Wiltshire Council regarding the opportunity of combining services and facilities at the Melksham Community Campus.

### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The proposal is to create a new Melksham Campus Project Board, recognising the Town Council's potential involvement and the necessity to tighten the links between the 3 key organisations; Wiltshire Council, Melksham Area Board and Melksham Town Council.
- 4.2 The Melksham Campus Project Board will be determined by the Melksham Area Board and should consist of a mutually agreeable representative as follows:
  - 3 members of the Melksham Area Board
  - 2 members of the Melksham Town Council
- 4.3 The Melksham Area Board shall recommend 3 Councillors and the Town Council will recommend 2 Councillors. Appointments will be voted on at an Area Board meeting by the Melksham Area Board members.
- 4.4 The aim of the board is as follows:
  - To work with council officers, residents, clubs, groups and partners to put forward campus recommendations to the Area Board within a timely manner, which delivers a campus for the Melksham community area within the agreed budget.
- 4.5 The Melksham Area Board recognises the vital contribution that the Melksham COB have provided over the past 4-5 years, with each volunteer contributing a great deal of time, effort and expertise in bringing the development to its current position. The proposal is that the Shadow COB would continue as an advisory group, working alongside the Campus Project Board. They would provide information and advice when required and would act a scrutiny group on proposals put forward by the Campus Project Board.