

## Melksham Community Area Partnership

The aim of the Melksham Area Partnership is to assist the Board in promoting the well-being of the community area with regards to its economic, social, environmental and cultural development. We will do this through enabling and facilitating consultation across the area covered by the partnership.

The results of this, consultation and consequential proposed projects will be brought to the Board to be considered for funding, and/or passed to the Council for consideration and action, as appropriate.

There have been two partnership meetings since the last report, one of which was our first AGM. Over the past few months we have set about establishing the partnership, through drawing up our constitution, establishing the steering group, identifying and liaising with contacts at town and parish level, and identifying theme groups. We have also looked at the old (Melksham town based) Community plan. From this we have moved to identify best practice examples re other Community plans.

Following interviews held in November, a Partnership Officer has now been taken on. It is felt that this will be a great asset to the Partnership, in providing support to our consultation and project activities. A job description and work plan have been provided to the Board. IT equipment for the officer will be provided by Melksham 1<sup>st</sup>.

The AGM was well attended. Attendees received an introduction to Community Area Partnerships. The meeting clarified, finalised and adopted the constitution, ensuring that all parishes can be represented on the steering group. Chris Holden presented the financial report with costs to date, and the Steering Group was elected. Doug Ross, (Project Officer of Trowbridge Community Area Futures) gave a presentation on what CAPs can achieve. Trowbridge Community Area Futures have become involved in a large number of disparate projects, which have made a real difference to the lives of the community. Colin Goodhind then gave a presentation on the MCAP Website & Online Consultation. He pointed out that few (if any) other Wiltshire CAPs had funding for website development. It is hoped that, once established in Melksham, sites might be developed for other CAPs, providing potential revenue for Melksham CAP, and thus reducing future funding. This was followed by a consultation exercise, which resulted in our ten theme groups being identified.

### **Future Activity:**

In order to fund future activity for financial year 09/10, Melksham CAP are requesting a sum of £5,500.

This will cover the costs of

- employing the Partnership Officer
- launch of website / spatial plan consultation exercise
- room hire for steering group and theme group meetings
- quarterly newsletter
- promotional materials
- consultation events in villages / parishes

## **Agenda Item No.7a**

As activities progress, the steering group will seek to reduce costs wherever possible, through looking at alternative meeting venues and communication outlets etc. It is expected that the website, once established, will save costs with regard to consultation / printing etc.

The next meeting of Steering Group is on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Police Headquarters.

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A: Constitution

Appendix B: CAP Project Plan

Appendix C: Minutes from AGM

Appendix D: Job Description for partnership officer

Appendix E: Draft work plan for partnership officer

Appendix F: Financial statement