

CAWS Chair Report – January 2023

Please read this report before the meeting as I do not propose to walk through it on the day. I will however use the table at the end of the report to highlight where I think we need discussion and/or Actions.

2023 Summer Event

We agreed at our last meeting that we would hold a picnic in the park/music event at Shaw Playing Field on 15 July 2023, but I now see this clashes with a similar event planned in Melksham (extract from Melksham News below). We should therefore consider whether we hold the date or reschedule to de-conflict. It is worth noting that our Jubilee Fair conflicted with other local events but was still very successful.

We should also now consider putting in place a sub-committee to take the planning forward.

TOWN'S PARTY IN THE PARK TO RETURN NEXT YEAR

MELKSHAM'S popular Party in the Park is set to return next year, after three-year break, on Saturday 15th July 2023.

Planning for the event is well under way. A spokesperson said, "It is hoped that Covid or any other pandemic will not get in the way this time!"

"After a break of three years, Party in the Park returns, but may be a somewhat scaled down event compared to what we have seen in the past. This is due to rising costs and lack of income. It is hoped, though, that the event will still host a music performance stage, an arena, and stalls from mainly local charities and organisations, which have been so popular in previous years.

"It is too early at present to announce any acts, bands or activities, but this will happen in due course. Admission charges to the

event have still to be decided, but will be kept to the minimum affordable to make the event workable.

"The organisers, all volunteers, try to do their best for the local community, knowing that bad weather or a pandemic could present a huge financial risk for Party in the Park.

"Melksham Town Council kindly awards the event a grant each year which covers approximately 14% of the event income, the rest has to be raised through site fees, advertising and admissions. So, financial viability and prudence is a serious issue for the organisers as no-one else underwrites the event should disaster strike.

"Make a note of the date in next year's diary! Time flies, and before we know it, Party in the Park will be upon us! It will be good to get the event back up and running."



Indecision on the stage at the Party in the Park 2019. Picture by Linda De Santiz

Topography Signs

I have opened discussions with MWPC regarding taking this initiative forward. We will need a rough idea of what we want to talk about on the signs, an artist to do the design work, and the Highway Engineers approval for the exact locations. I am being put in contact with a couple of designers who have been involved in other local signs, and Melksham History Society to help with content, but I think we could also do with some local knowledge - is there a local historian in the villages who might help with this?

Some initial *personal* thoughts on each sign below but other ideas would be appreciated.

Littleworth Lane Sign

- Map of area to show footpaths and Points of Interest
- Call out boxes on the POIs which might include: the Roman Road (history); Park Lane Quarry; Eastlays Quarry (to include the MOD history); Neston Park; Brittle Wood; the Pear Tree; potted history of Whitley.
- QR code to take you to the Wilts dynamic map
- CAWS Logo etc

Shaw Playing Field Sign

- Map of area to show footpaths and Points of Interest
- Call out boxes on the POIs which might include: site of Shaw Hill House and its history; site of Beltane School; Norrington Common; Letchpool Farm; Pie Corner; potted history of Shaw

- QR code to take you to the Wilts dynamic map
- CAWS Logo etc

As a reminder we are planning signage similar in style to the sign by Shaw School and other similar initiatives in the area and I attach some pictures below as a point of reference.



Chatty Bench

We need to agree location(s) and decide whether we need to procure a new bench and/or utilise an existing bench. We also need to agree signage and I attach some examples from some other schemes as a point of reference.





Tree Planting

We have now received a list of recommended trees to plant from the Gardening Club and I have sent these to Lowdens for their input as they are still keen to support the initiative. We missed the opportunity to plant in the autumn but that was probably a good thing given the extreme weather we have been experiencing – there has been quite a bit of national press coverage about similar schemes failing because of the weather.

Lesley has kindly agreed to knock on some doors to consult nearby residents. Other volunteers for that would be appreciated.

Warm Spaces

Wiltshire Council have launched a Warm Space directory which MWPC are supporting.

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiMWU5MzUyYjgtOTIIMy00ZDlkLTlmMzYtM2Y4OTRIMzE3Njc2IiwidCI6IjU1NDZINzVILTNIzTtNDgxMy1iMGZmLTl2NjUxZWVhZmUxOSIsImMiOiJh9&pageName=ReportSectionc894cab5f45ce9d20f9>

I think the Whitley Stores Warm Space initiative is a great step forward and I know they are considering registering with Wiltshire Council. The Methodist Chapel in Whitley is considering doing the same for their 2nd Tuesday of the Month café events. The Coffee Stop is also considering re-launching their Chatty Tuesday event as a Warm Space. I will speak to the Friendship Club to see if they want to register too.

Not everyone in our villages has access to IT so I think CAWS should consider publishing a simple poster of the Warm Spaces in our area with a link to the Wiltshire register for those who do have access to IT. I will also contact Connect to see if they might be able to publish a regular update.

Speeding (NB Agenda Item 8)

A big thank you to Kirsty for the work she is doing liaising with Speeding Enforcement and other community groups (e.g. Atworth Parish Council). The two recent short Speed Enforcement deployments have led to 88 convictions helping to demonstrate the scale of the issue on our local roads.

MWPC would, not surprisingly, support any investment we might make in a SID. They might also be persuaded to match fund. However, our current stance is that we should not invest without community support (which I think we have?), a commitment to an increase in tempo of deployments (and potentially permanently), and a review of locations. We should discuss any next steps in our meeting.

Slow Down stickers are now ready for distribution starting with Corsham Road, Shaw Hill and Top Lane.

Planning Update

Public Consultation on the next iteration of the Neighbourhood Plan will start shortly (see handout – “Your Voice, Your Melksham, Shape your Town”). We should plan on CAWS making a contribution to this but we should encourage individual responses too.

No further news on the Local Plan (95 new houses), the Melksham Bypass, or the Middle Farm/Corsham Road development.

There do not appear to be any extant planning consultations in our area at this time.

CEG Update

The ditch/drain by Whitley Cottage has been cleared and a new trash screen installed.

CEG personnel have been on high alert during the recent poor weather (snow, ice, rain).

An incident involving flooding risk at Bath Road, Shaw (water and sewage) is currently under investigation by Wessex Water and Wiltshire Council. The root cause is not yet known but the capacity of the drainage pipes from Shaw and Whitley seems to be a contributing factor. An emerging opinion by some is that if the proposal in the Local Plan to build up to 95 houses in Shaw and Whitley were to proceed, the problems down stream would be exacerbated.

The mobile generator procured by CAWS and funded by a grant from SSE has been delivered to the CEG Lockup.



MWPC Update

The vacancy on the Parish Council created by Mary Piles resignation will be filled by co-option later in the month.

MWPC have asked CAWS to help identify the most frequently used bus stops in Shaw and Whitley. This is to help short list the locations for interactive displays. I think these might be the Pear Tree, the Methodist Chapel (Top Lane) and Beltane Place but I would appreciate the input of others. I suspect there will only be funding for one or two signs!

Applications for Grant funding close at the end of the month. Do CAWS want to make an application? Please note that the timeline of many of our initiatives is out of kilter with the MWPC Grant timetable but there may be other opportunities later in the year (e.g. Area Board).

The Community Larder is up and running in the Round House and is open Mon/Tues/Wed at 2PM. This is a food waste reduction initiative for perishable goods and is currently well supported by Aldi.

Shaw Church Christmas Tree Event

The Shaw Christmas Tree Event was a great success. Thank you to all who supported this initiative with the CAWS tree.



Publicising Local Events

As part of our initiative to provide support to lonely people, publicise Warm Spaces, and provide opportunities for volunteers we might want to consider publishing a regular update of events. This might go on Notice Boards, Social Media and in Connect (I will make contact with the editor regarding the latter).

Upcoming events that I am aware of are below. Any others?

Event	Date	Location
Learn how to use a defibrillator	14 January 2023, 2PM,	Berryfield Village Hall.
Opening of the new Berryfield Village Hall	21 January 2023, 12PM to 3PM	Berryfield Village Hall
Pantomime	28 January 2023, 2.30PM	Melksham Library
Book Swap	4 February 2023 (1 st Saturday of the month)	Methodist Chapel
Cafe	14 February 2023 (2 nd Tuesday of the month)	Methodist Chapel
Friendship Club	Wednesdays – 9AM to 2PM	Shaw Village Hall – contact club secretary to attend
Whist Club	Thursdays – 7PM to 9.3 PM	Shaw Village Hall – contact club secretary to attend
Warm Space	Saturday mornings	Whitley Reading Rooms

Venue for future meetings

We have provided the Head Shed to local community groups, including CAWS, for a number of years free of charge. This offering includes the space, utilities, business broadband, a business Zoom account and professional cleaning after each event.

With regards to CAWS:

- does the space continue to be suitable, especially as the capacity is 12 (at a squeeze)?
- or would our meeting be better suited to SVH or WRR (or elsewhere)?
- if the Head Shed continues to be suitable, should CAWS make a small contribution to the costs (as SVH do now)?

Discussion/Action Summary

Topic	Discussion and/or Actions Points
Summer Event	Confirm date Appoint sub-committee
Topography Signs	Name of local historian? Ideas on sign content
Chatty Bench	New bench or existing bench? Location(s)? Design sign
Tree Planting	Volunteers to consult with residents
Warm Spaces	Prepare poster
Grant Funding	Do CAWS want to make an application and if so for what? Consider as part of Finance Update.
SIDs	Should we invest? Next steps?
Neighbourhood Plan	Submit consultation response idc
Bus Stop Display Sites	Identify preferred locations
Local Events	Identify upcoming events
CAWS Meeting Venue	Consider future use of Head Shed or alternative

4 January, 2023