

NOTES OF THE CAWS COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 18 March 2026

The Community Action: Whitley & Shaw (CAWS) committee met at the Head Shed at 7:00pm

1. Welcome

Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Present / Apologies

Present: Peter Richardson (Chair), Dan Pike (Secretary), Pippa Richardson (Minuting Secretary), Melinda Adcock, Mike Booth, Kirsty Jamieson, Maureen Hibbot, Joan Boorer (Treasurer), and Lesley Sibbald.

Apologies: Alison Candlin, Helen Mitchell.

3. Outstanding Actions

#	Date	Action	Lead	Status
195	Jan 26	Distribute CAWS Leaflets	Dan	Outstanding waiting for improved weather and fitness. Attendees at Litter Pick to be asked if they might be prepared to volunteer to help.
196	Jan 26	Write to WC on the cumulative impact on all the BESS and solar schemes	Peter	Complete. Peter has written to WC and met with them several times.
197	Jan 26	Submit a grant application for £3,000 to MWPC for Connect Magazine	Peter	Complete. Grant application submitted. Connect also submitted an application for £250 but this was withdrawn following a conversation with Roger Hatherall.
198	Jan 26	Ask SVH Committee for a view on the expected resignation of the Whitley Reading Rooms (WRR) committee	Peter	Complete. Raised with MB and at the SVH AGM. SVH reluctant to extend coverage to WRR.

4. Chairs Report - Peter

Peter's slides are attached. The following points were noted in discussion.

4.1 Cumulative Impact Map

The map has been put together using information from the Bristol Avons Rivers Trust (BART), WC, planning applications and the CAWS BESS Working Group. Thanks to Dan for consolidating the information on this impactful map. Note that not all schemes are shown on the map.

4.2. Cumulative Impact Activity

The various meetings and correspondence was noted. WC have agreed to formally respond to the 12 recommendations made by CAWS. The Working Group Body of Knowledge now stretches to 165 pages and the various reports, papers and correspondence now runs to over 400,000 words. The BBC have shown interest and a meeting is being scheduled.

4.3. Consultations

The various consultation submissions were noted.

4.3. Other Planning Points

The update was noted. The Local Plan, which has been 9 years in the making so far, has effectively collapsed as the Planning Inspector has said that it should either be withdrawn by WC, or if not withdrawn, it will likely be rejected by them. This position has an impact on the Neighbourhood Plan which currently allocates sites at Middle Farm and Whitley Farm. If WC cannot demonstrate a 3-year housing land supply (a review is in progress), the collapse of the Local Plan could lead to speculative development in the area.

4.4. Cable Works

Works on Corsham Road are part complete. The contractor will return to finish Corsham Road including passing South Brook and Shaw School, probably in the school summer holidays. Westlands Lane works are largely complete but major damage to road surface and verges which should not be repaired at public expense – WC have been advised and asked to coordinate repairs.

Shaw Hill works are expected to start soon.

4.5. Shaw School

The update was noted. Peter stated that there have been road safety issues outside the school since 1896!

The School Travel Plan will likely support an application for a 20MPH speed limit past the school, and safe walking routes etc.

4.6. Grant Applications

The grant applications were noted.

Post Meeting Note. Both grants were approved at MWPC Full Council on 23/03/2026.

4.7. Village Gates

The update was noted.

4.8. History Book

The update was noted.

5. Connect

The update was noted.

The plan is bring Connect into CAWS managed by a sub-committee and leveraging the pre-existing CAWS Officer structure and resources.

Action: Peter/Dan to arrange a meeting with Matt et al to discuss a relaunch and the path forward.

Peter drew attendees attention to the draft slides at the back of the pack and asked members to reflect on the topics in advance of the upcoming meeting. He emphasised that these were just a list of initial thoughts and any changes/suggestions would be welcome

Action: All to reflect on the Connect Slides.

It was noted that it may well be economically viable to have full colour printing. Mike has previously obtained quotes.

6. Garden Club Planters

It was agreed to fund new planters up to a cost of £500.

Post Meeting Note. Mike has checked the condition of the planters and they are not as bad as originally thought. Peter has made contact with the club and it has been agreed that CAWS will procure one new planter at a cost of £90, and that the condition of the other planters will be assessed in a year's time.

7. Whitley Reading Rooms

The update was noted.

8. Broadband

The formal position is that broadband will not be updated until 2028, but the Openreach surveying engineer was hopeful of a 2026 completion, as work might be combined with other works in Melksham.

9. Gallery

The next exhibitor will be the Gardening Club. Mike has the material and will procure the boards. It

was agreed that CAWS would fund the boards for the next year at a cost of approx. £120 per year.

Action: Mike to install the Cardening Club Boards.

Action: Mindy to explore if Peter Harrison might be prepared to periodically inspect/clean the gallery.

10. CAWS Leaflet

It was agreed that we should ask people attending the Litter Pick if they might be prepared to volunteer to deliver leaflets.

Action: Peter to ask attendees at the litter pick if able to support leaflet delivery.

Post Meeting Note. Attendees were asked to indicate if they were willing to help with leaflet distribution on the litter pick sign in sheet.

11. Speedwatch

It was noted that there were 2 new volunteers and that training was in progress. Deployments during the winter had been hampered by poor weather and team availability.

The committee expected thanks for the work of the team.

12. AOB

The litter pick was confirmed for 11.00 on 29 March 2026.

Action 204. Mike to order new litter picking equipment if required.

Maureen requested more children's books for the Library. Mike had brought more stock from the container.

All to note the donation of a projector by Matt.

13. Date of Next Meeting

20th May 2026 at The Head Shed

Pippa Richardson,
CAWS Minuting Secretary

Outstanding Action Summary

#	Date	Action	Lead	Status
195	Jan 26	Distribute CAWS Leaflets	Dan	Outstanding waiting for improved weather and fitness. Attendees at Litter Pick to be asked if they might be prepared to volunteer to help.
199.	Mar 26	Arrange a meeting with Matt et al to discuss a relaunch and the path forward.	Peter/Dan	
200	Mar 26	All to reflect on the Connect Slides.		
201	Mar 26	Install the Gardening Club Boards in gallery.	Mike	
202	Mar 26	Explore if Peter Harrison might be prepared to periodic ally inspect/clean the gallery.	Mindy	
203	Mar 26	Ask attendees at the litter pick if able to support leaflet delivery.	Peter	
204	Mar 26	Order new litter picking equipment if required.	Mike	
205	Mar 26	Speak to Karen re: the proposed pathway and how it might impact her boundary	Pippa	