

# Melksham Community Area Partnership

## Steering Group Meeting

### MINUTES

Thursday 18 November 2010



#### Present:

Chris Holden, Chair  
Colin Goodhind, Vice Chair  
Thelma Carr  
Graham Ellis  
Effie Gales-Sides  
Janet Gould  
Abbi Guteirrez

Mavis King  
Jim Law  
Wendy Lockett  
Shirley McCarthy  
Mel Rolph  
Roy While  
Miriam Zaccarelli

*Abbreviations: WC – Wiltshire Council, PC – Parish Council, SG – Steering Group*

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Kane Fulbrook Smith, Tim Jalland, Laura Pictor, Brian Warwick and Alfred Webbley.

#### 2. Agree minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on July 15 and notes of meetings on August 26 and September 16 2010 were agreed.

#### 3. Matters arising:

##### a. Carnival and village fetes

Chris reported that MCAP had been present at the village fetes at Atworth, Seend, Poulshot, and at the Carnival and Party in the Park in Melksham. At the fetes opinions were collected which were being fed into the Community Plan.

##### b. Public meeting

The MCAP Public Meeting on July 27 had been an opportunity to collect more opinions that fed into the Community Plan,

##### c. Mission statement

Chris read out the mission statement that had been drafted at the September SG meeting and it was agreed to be adopted. It was suggested that MCAP and find ways to increase publicity

***ACTION:*** *Miriam to increase publicity of MCAP*

Concern was raised that WC were producing consultations without working with the CAPs. This had been raised by other CAPs in the county. There was concern that the Wiltshire Community Plan had already been presented without consultation with the CAPs. Questions were raised regarding the issue that WC are made of elected members while the MCAP SG are volunteers.

***ACTION:*** *Chris to write to WC asking if the Wiltshire Community Plan will be modified to include priorities of the local CAP plans once they are completed.*

There was a request to see the current plans for the Spatial Plan as modified after MCAP's consultation on it in January 2010. Abbi explained that the Spatial Plan was abandoned with the change of government and that consultation will be required again on where to build new houses.

***ACTION:*** *Abbi to find new Spatial Plan information*

*Miriam to organise consultation on where housing could be developed for the Melksham area.*

#### **4. Reports from theme groups**

##### **a. Community Safety**

Colin reported that the Melksham Community Safety Group meets every month with a combined meeting every three months with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams to establish three policing priorities. The King George V Playing field was regularly identified as an area for prioritising. The next combined meeting in February will be in the Canberra Centre and will focus on young people.

The touch2id scheme has been launched, with a grant of £1000 from the Area Board for 350 cards. The enrolment will take place in the library from 25 November and Melksham is chosen as a pilot for the project that will eventually be nationwide. Colin explained that the system works with a code in fingerprints that are identified by terminals in licensed premises, of which there are already five in Melksham: Assembly Hall, Parsons Nose, The Bear, The Tavern and the Total Garage. The system does not hold information on individuals, so there is no breach in data protection. Young people no longer need to carry driving licences or passports.

The community safety group will be taking the lead on CCTV in the town, and will be consulting in the community to get views on CCTV. Colin attended a seminar on perceptions of CCTV. £12,000 of funding has been granted for CCTV, which is not sufficient.

Jim reported that Pubwatch has a new chair. The Community Safety Group looked at making membership of Pubwatch a requirement for licensees which will not be possible but may become a by-law. It was suggested that MCAP consult on whether they would value a strong Pubwatch, which would put MCAP in a strong position to feed the findings to licensees to encourage them to join. If such a consultation were to go ahead it would be necessary to ask Pubwatch if they wanted it.

***ACTION:*** *Miriam to investigate further*

Mavis reported that the Neighbourhood Watch meeting that was held on 11 September highlighted the need for a Community Coordinator. He had been appointed but has been ill.

##### **b. Waterways**

The first stage of the open consultation on the Wilts and Berks canal restoration project has been completed – 114 comments have been received which will be fed into the consultation group for development into a second stage questionnaire. The current list of comments will go on the website. The next meeting of the waterways group will be on 7 December when the second stage consultation will be looked at as well as other waterways issues in the community. They will look at work done by Melksham 1<sup>st</sup> on waterways.

***ACTION:*** *Miriam to upload to website.*

*Consultation Group to meet to agree questions for second stage*

##### **c. Power/ Energy Group**

Chris reported that the group had its first meeting and are looking aspirationally at having a sustainable source of power generation owned by the community, using the river or wind power. The group pledged to consult very widely on any future plans.

The Melksham Climate Friendly Group have yet to finalise their official status in relation to MCAP and the name of the group is not yet decided. They will pay tribute to the work done

by WC. Vince Albano (WC) has helped highlight best way to focus energies and pointed out the initiatives already running in Wiltshire.

It was felt that the availability of insulation for over-70s needs to be publicised. Setting up a group to provide help in supporting people to become energy efficient was discussed. Helping people who are difficult to reach was identified as a priority.

***ACTION:*** Chris to feed back to Power/Energy Group

Colin suggested that MCAP work with Age UK. A WfCAP meeting had highlighted the need to keep in mind priorities for older people.

## **5. Report from Villages**

Tim was absent from the meeting but had reported that it was difficult to reach the parishes as there is a reluctance for PCs to get involved. Mel added that some parishes are so self maintained that they don't feel the need to come to CAP meetings. Thelma suggested putting in writing an explanation to the PCs about MCAP as there seems to be little understanding. Colin explained that the launch of the website had been intended to be a suitable time to link to the parishes but lack of time and resources had prevented that. Chris suggested he and Colin will make a plan for getting to villages.

***ACTION:*** MZ to draft a letter to Parish Councils

Effie raised the issue that at the presentation Tim had given to Melksham Without that MCAP would not be asking for money and the CAP needs to prove its worth before it can ask for money.

## **6. Finance report**

The Finance Report of the previous 12 months was tabled.

## **7. Melksham Campus/Library**

Chris reported that he has done research on the ideal Library situations and that the success of a Library is dependent on footfall and visibility. He had been asked to respond to the combined Service Campus proposals and wanted to raise concern that the Library is currently located close to three primary schools and in the deprived area of Melksham so there is genuine concern that the children will lose access to the Library as parents will not go out of their way if it is relocated. Chris also highlighted the likely increase in carbon emissions due to increased travel to the proposed new campus.

Jim expressed concern for the disabled people and people in villages finding it hard to access a new campus.

Chris explained the concept of Social Capital which is not about money but the social value of the contact that people would be deprived of without access to a Library. The shops and the Library interact providing economic as well social benefit.

Abbi explained that the area of land at the current Library is not big enough for a leisure centre and a pool. Abbi explained there will not be two campuses but there may be one campus with combined services except for the Library which might remain where it is. The timescales have been put back as the results of the Leisure Review need to be confirmed before the campus proposal can be seen by Cabinet. It was agreed that the campus issue could turn out to be a great example of public consultation for MCAP and the Area Board working together. Roy stressed that no decision had been made by WC and that there are benefits and disadvantages to both options. All plans will need to be seen before a decision is made. He emphasised the importance of reaching the hard to reach people. He also reminded the group that when the proposals for the new Melksham Oak School were discussed people were against it but now the school is welcomed.

Thelma voiced her disappointment that when Neil Ward spoke at the Area Board Meeting in Seend, he said the funding would come from loans. Abbi explained that WC will borrow capital but will make substantial savings in the new campus with which to pay it back. The campus idea is purely about saving money and preserving services.

## **8. Community Plan**

Miriam explained that all the comments that have been received through various consultations have now been compiled into a very rough initial draft of the Community Plan. She will send the draft by email to the SG and it will be presented at the AGM for additional comments. Abbi suggested that solutions to issues are collected as well as problems.

***ACTION:** Miriam to email SG draft Plan*

## **9. AGM**

Chris explained that at the AGM the Steering Group will be re-elected and asked if anybody would like to stand as Chair. He stressed that if he continues as Chair the SG members will be given remits – areas of the partnership activity to be responsible for. Representatives are needed in areas such as schools, social housing, TARAs. There are lots of groups that the partnership does not hear from and many groups doing what the CAP is trying to do. It was agreed that the CAP should be making changes not just stating opinions, and there is a need to become more strategic.

It is likely that funding for CAPs will come to an end but the needs of the community persist. If people are encouraged to get involved in projects then they accept ownership of the community. Jim spoke about a scheme previously in place in which tasks that needed doing were on paper in a box that people would pick up and complete. Janet suggested that the Community Payback Scheme be used for work that needs doing. Colin suggested asking WfCAP what other CAPs have done in terms of community involvement.

***ACTION:** MZ to investigate other CAPS*

It was agreed not to consult on the campus at the AGM, but that if any issues arise from the meeting Chris will bring them to the Area Board meeting the next day. As MCAP has already submitted its response to WC outlining all concerns it would be seen as confrontational to carry out further consultation. Anything that MCAP does needs to be done in conjunction with WC.

## **10. Consultation Group**

Miriam reported that it had been difficult to agree a date for the consultation group to meet. The next task for the group is to devise the second stage questionnaire in the Melksham Link consultation. Chris reported that he will write to WC about the quality of their consultation and request that any consultation that they do goes through the MCAP SG first.

***ACTION:** Miriam to arrange Consultation Group Meeting*

*Chris to write to WC*

## **11. Standing orders for meetings**

As Brian was not at the meeting there was nothing to report as he will be writing a process for the SG meetings to agree.

## **12. Spring River Festival**

Colin proposed that MCAP hold a spring river festival in April/May and the group agreed. It should not conflict with Party in the Park and would be a good opportunity for MCAP to exhibit and run a consultation. It was suggested to coincide with the Royal Wedding. A date will be agreed by email.

***ACTION:** Miriam to arrange date and working group to organise Spring River Festival*

## **13. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January was suggested and will be agreed by email.

***ACTION:** MZ to follow up*