



# Community Engagement News

## Melksham Town Council

Debbie Bentley

Contact: [debbie.bentley@melkshamtown.co.uk](mailto:debbie.bentley@melkshamtown.co.uk)

### Feature Newsletter

Welcome to the first ever edition of Melksham Town Council Community Engagement News. I am Debbie Bentley the newly appointed Community Engagement Officer.

In my first couple of weeks I have been busy finding out more about Melksham and the vast array of groups we are so lucky to have. In this edition I thought I would share with you some of the spaces I have visited and some of the plans for the future. Remember I am here to work with you, so if you need support in a particular area or would like to see particular activities then please get in touch.



### Volunteers

One of the most common demand among all groups is the need for willing volunteers. I am sure I will be asked many times to help with promoting opportunities and look forward to seeing all the roles available.

We are lucky in Wiltshire to have a fantastic database of volunteering opportunities for potential volunteers to search and see what appeals to them. So, why not try to put your vacancies out there?

The link to the database is <http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/volunteering/> and Community First also offer the opportunity to have your role featured on the landing page.

### Around Melksham

It has been excellent this past couple of weeks, to be able to go around Melksham and see all the great spaces we have. Although I am a resident here, there were many I never knew existed! I especially look forward to showing my two young children them in coming months.



*A snapshot of the many allotments in use within the Town.*



*Methuen Park is just one of many play areas for residents to enjoy.*



Alongside areas managed by the Town & Wiltshire councils I have also been meeting with residents who are helping to maintain and enhance their own local neighborhoods.

The **Primrose Drive Nature Area** has been wonderfully created to enhance the

enjoyment of the space. With bugs houses, bird boxes and the introduction of benches and bins. This area is truly thriving. Volunteers have confirmed that wildlife is vast and varied. From birds and bees, to water voles in the brook.

This is not the only neighborhood to have benefited from the input and hard work of dedicated residents. I have also met with the **Hazelwood Road** team and heard about their work and plans for the future.

I will be looking to support them with additional policies and documents needed to help secure funding to achieve these goals.



*Hazelwood Park where residents have been recently painting the fencing around the play area.*

Melksham isn't just about its outside spaces and many groups and activities are there to support people in other ways.



I have also met with the **Melksham Seniors** who hosted a Film Club at the Assembly Hall for their members. Whilst it wasn't quite as packed as this picture it was fantastic to see so many people coming together and enjoying the facilities on offer. I know there are many, many people enjoying the wide variety of activities offered through this group.

**Looking Ahead:**

I am looking forward to meeting many more groups and individuals within the town and seeing how we can help to make Melksham a better place for all.

In coming months, I will be working on various projects including:

- King George V Park
- Age Friendly Melksham
- Community Engagement & Perceptions
- Family Learning Festival (October)
- Social Prescribing (for Health & Wellbeing)

If you are a charity, group or individual and would like some guidance, support or would just like to share the work you are doing then please contact me or come and see me at the Town Hall:

Email: [debbie.bentley@melkshamtown.co.uk](mailto:debbie.bentley@melkshamtown.co.uk)

Phone: 01225 704187