

## **Community Assets Chairs Report 2021**

Despite the Covid restrictions, Community Assets with its supporting Working Parties continue to deal with a progressive mix of projects: the aim being to improve the facilities we offer in the village to our residents.

### **New Maunsell Way Youth Hub**

Planning permission was granted for a new and improved larger facility in December 2020. Existing stakeholders are 1<sup>st</sup> Wroughton Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, Wroughton Youth Football Club, Wroughton Youth Club, and BMX Wroughton. The aim is to deliver a fully sustainable Youth Hub for our community which offers excellent facilities for existing community groups who will become permanent tenants. The Sports and Youth Facilities Working Party are currently reviewing a business plan which looks at occupancy and the financial viability of the building. It is likely that a Trust would be setup to manage the building and work is underway to determine the appropriate way forward on this. Funding for the new building will be secured through bids and grants. Cost for architects fees, planning and associated works to date have been met by Wroughton Parish Council.

### **Thorney Park Play Area**

Land for this site was transferred from Stonewater Housing Association and was acquired by Wroughton Parish Council in 2019. A public consultation regarding a new gated dynamic park play area for children aged 6+ including a multi-use games area with football and basketball goals has proved popular with residents. Following a national tender exercise, a contract totalling £94,704.56 has been awarded to Kompan with the aim of installation being complete by the end of July 2021.

Please refer to Appendix 1 to view the Thorney Park Play Area Plans.

### **Boness Road Play Area**

Wroughton Parish Council has plans to develop the site as a 'Secret Garden,' predominantly to be for younger children and parents with ground works probably starting this year to address drainage etc. The area will involve wildflower planting and a community orchard. We hope to work with Swindon Borough Council's Community Forests team and obtain some free shrubs and trees from them. We are likely to involve the wider community in planting and other environmental projects at the site. We are working on a two year phased plan to deliver the play area.

### **Youth Outreach**

In 2019 WPC contracted Aaron an experienced Youth Leader from Central Swindon North Youth Outreach Team. The remit was to engage with local youngsters and find out what types of activities they would be interested in. The Outreach Youth team visit different areas and streets in Wroughton and engage directly with the young people there. WPC are now hoping to reinstate these sessions now that some of the Covid restrictions are being lifted. It is hoped that some popup events similar to the cafe event at the Weir Field 2019 will be possible.

### **Telephone Boxes**

Currently Wroughton Parish Council own three phone boxes. During March 2021 the Kellesboro Avenue kiosk was repainted, reglazed and the door was repaired. The listed telephone box at Woodland View was also repainted. There have been previous discussions on how these phone boxes could be used and

whether to refurbish the Kennet Road phone box although there is no allocated budget for this in 2021/22. A summary paper will be brought to a future WPC meeting to decide on next steps.

### **Public Toilets**

Wroughton Parish Council are responsible for the opening, closing and upkeep of the public toilets in Wharf Road. Since the introduction of CCTV on the building and vandalism has reduced it has been possible to increase the opening hours of this facility. We have enhanced hygiene procedures in place to ensure the Covid safety and continued use of the conveniences.

### **Berkeley Farm – Grounds Team Workshop**

WPC have received correspondence from Nick Gosling confirming that we do not need to immediately vacate the Nissan Hut and can stay in the current workshop location until further notice. Additional storage space at Blackhorse Farm has been offered but can't immediately be available due to an incumbent tenant. Once the tenant has left the Grounds Team can review the suitability of the site with a view to moving there in 2022. The split location would cause logistical difficulties and other alternatives for a longer term base are being explored

### **Grounds Team Vehicles and Assets**

WPC are starting to look at reducing their environmental footprint when purchasing new vehicles and equipment.

### **Litter and Dog Waste Bins**

Throughout 2020/21, an external contractor, Allbuild have been emptying the bins around the Parish. We have noted a significant increase of the amount of litter in the last year. Wroughton Parish Council's own grounds team will be taking over and emptying the bins directly from the end of May however they will not be able to carry out weekend collections or bank holiday collections. Discussions are taking place regarding appointing a contractor to address this gap. As an interim, an additional wheellie bin will be chained to one of the existing bins outside the Ellendune shops to assist with extra capacity over the weekend.

I would like to thank all the Councillors on the committee, those participating in working parties and the office staff for their support and help over the past twelve months.

**Graham Overbury**  
**April 2021**

