

Meltham Mercury

Meltham Town Council's Newsletter - Spring 2021

The Council offices are temporarily closed.

Please email the Clerk:

townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk



/AroundMeltham



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The Clerk to the Council is Michelle Chard.

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The Council offices are on the first floor of the Carlile Institute (access via lift or stairs).

WELCOME TO OUR SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

We are looking forward to gradually returning to some kind of 'normal'.

It is clear that we are going to have to learn to live with the virus and continue to adjust our lives.

In Meltham we are so lucky with our outdoor spaces and countryside right on our doorstep: woodland, moorland, streams and rivers are there for us to enjoy. If you haven't yet explored the Robert Ashton Memorial Park (RAMP) which is owned and managed by Meltham Town Council (MTC), do go and enjoy the pop up sensory garden which will be there over the Easter weekend. We hope that you will start to notice the improvements in the Park over the next few months. MTC recently awarded the Friends of RAMP a start-up grant and is looking for volunteers. Please email friends.ramp@gmail.com for further information.

The Council Office in the Carlile Institute remains closed due to the virus but behind the scenes it's business as usual. You can contact the Council (ideally via email) TownClerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk. If you do not have access to email, please telephone our temporary number: 07983 627364.

Wilshaw Village Hall – Exciting Times



Photo: Aleks Jedrosz

An enthusiastic group of local residents has recently taken ownership of the Village Hall in Wilshaw, a lovely former village school room which is listed. They have quickly developed exciting plans both to sensitively refurbish and improve the flexibility and comfort of the space for users. Meltham Town Council has agreed to work closely with them and has offered grant funding support through their 'Community Projects Fund'. We wish them well. Watch this space!

Meltham's Response to COVID

Meltham.org is continuing to assist with the local response to the ongoing pandemic by providing lifts to vaccination centres. The meltham.org group is seeing a decrease in demand, which is great – however Meltham Food Bank is seeing an increase in demand. If you're able to donate, you can buy packs from Morrisons or drop supplies at the Food Bank at the former Meltham Town Hall (between 10am -1pm Mon- Fri) or make a direct bank payment to Crossroads Project, ac no. 65360811, sort code: 08-92-99 ref Crossroads Meltham Foodbank.

www.melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Come and visit our 'pop up' sensory garden in the Park over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend

Everyday over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend (Friday 2 April - Monday 5 April inclusive) between 10.00am and 6.00pm there will be a stimulating sensory garden appearing in the park.



With Spring officially here, see the brightly coloured windmills – pretty flowers, busy bees and ladybirds spinning in the wind. Spot the hot air balloons in the tree branches and listen to the enchanting sounds of different wind chimes.

Suitable for all the family but particularly younger children. You can find the pop up garden in the Robert Ashton Memorial Park, close to the car park. We hope you enjoy your visit but please leave the objects in place so other visitors can enjoy the experience.

SMALL WORLDS

The poster display of the **SMALL WORLDS** photographic series part-funded by Meltham Town Council has been taken down from within the Carlile Institute, however we are working on a unique partnership with The People's Meeple in Huddersfield, where the series is currently on display until 10 April 2021. Please check opening times before you visit. The People's Meeple is opposite Wilko's, the former 4 Cousins café.

New Animal Trail proves very popular

In the last edition we launched our family animal trail in the Robert Ashton Memorial Park – ten brightly coloured wild animal shapes were hidden around the park. The challenge was to find them all. This activity has been really popular with families - it's a common sight to see visitors ticking off the animals on the activity sheet which can be printed from the Council's website or scanned from the QR code.



Christmas Day Lunch update

Before Christmas, Meltham Town Council gave a grant to Meltham Community Group to ensure that local people unable to visit family on Christmas Day could apply for a subsidised Christmas dinner.

75 two course meals were prepared and cooked by Mann's Wharf and delivered to Meltham residents together with a personalised Christmas card. The lunch was well received and Pam Murgatroyd who generously organised the lunch said, 'I have received some lovely thank you messages from residents and would like to thank the Town Council for their support!'



Dog Owners

BAG AND BIN THAT POO CAMPAIGN



Send us your photos to

WIN PRIZES



To enter just send us a photo of you disposing of your 'used' dog bags in a bin. Also tell us why you think it's important to 'bag and bin that dog poo'. Share the campaign with your friends on social media and help us spread the message.

Hopefully sharing positive behaviours will encourage others to follow.

Email your entry to:
townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk



You have until
15th April 2021
to enter, good luck!



*(L) Town Mayor, Kate Buchanan (R) Matthew Hepworth
Photo: Aleks Jedrosz*

We're offering some fantastic prizes.

Town Mayor, Councillor Kate Buchanan said 'Dog Fouling was one of the things residents raised most often during Ask Meltham. It is great that the community has an opportunity to make a difference by promoting responsible behaviour and caring for the environment of our town.'

See Meltham Town Council website for Terms and Conditions or use the QR code above.

*Town Mayor, Kate Buchanan 'Bag and Bin that Poo'
Photo: Aleks Jedrosz*

A big THANK YOU to those of you who are using the Kirklees bins to 'Bag and Bin' or taking your bags home with you. Kirklees bin collectors have seen a huge rise in their use. We know that the majority of you are responsible when it comes to clearing up after your dog. Many of you are still concerned about dog fouling in Meltham and fed up with used dog bags left in walls or hung on trees. Please help us with our campaign!



ASK MELTHAM: You Said / We Did

This illustration shows the six key areas and identifies where we are up to. We are working hard to progress these projects although as you will appreciate we are limited in some areas until restrictions change. Meltham Town Council is fortunate to work with Kirklees on many aspects of the Ask Meltham work. In particular we are lucky that Councillors Paul White and Terry Lyons are both local town councillors and Kirklees councillors. See below for more detail.

YOU SAID	OUR INITIAL FOCUS	WHAT WE'VE DONE & PLAN TO DO
IMPROVE ROBERT ASHTON MEMORIAL PARK	IMPROVE ROBERT ASHTON MEMORIAL PARK (RAMP)	<p>We've commissioned a master plan for the improvement of the park and a public consultation is completed - the results will be published shortly. A Friends of RAMP group has been established.</p> <p>We are commissioning more detailed plans for the play / tennis court area; pond improvement & footpath improvement. Other actions planned include; bulb and wildflower planting; signage & interpretation; outdoor classroom and story telling; opening up of historic sight lines & careful cutting back to let in more light. We will hold 3 events annually in the park</p>
REDUCE DOG FOULING / LITTER	REDUCING LITTER & DOG FOULING	<p>We are exploring whether additional bins can be provided. We will continue to roll out dog fouling deterrent posters in key areas and run campaigns in Mercury and social media. Plans are prepared for a Litter Pick when circumstances allow & we will organise an annual Keep Meltham Tidy campaign (could be litter, dog fouling etc) involving local businesses where possible.</p>
IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY	IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY	<p>We will explore with Kirklees & Ward Councillors the installation of speeding deterrents at speeding hot-spots. We will run an annual road safety campaign (speeding, dangerous parking, speeding bikes) both in Mercury and on social media</p>
IMPROVE SOCIAL CONTACT IMPROVE TOWN CENTRE CREATE A GREENER MELTHAM	IMPROVE TOWN CENTRE	<p>We have introduced a shop front grant scheme and it has already been used. We will work with Meltham Walkers are Welcome to develop better signage and promote Meltham as a walking destination; create and display a map of local walks & paths and fund the creation and printing of leaflets. We will continue to promote our 'Grot Spot' service. We have revamped neglected planters in the Town Centre and are looking to provide additional hanging baskets</p>

Ask Meltham and Kirklees

Your local Kirklees Councillors have been working closely with Meltham Town Council in responding to and finding solutions to the concerns local residents highlighted. They have recently set up regular meetings with Highway Engineers to look at priorities for improvements in the Town's network.

In particular, they have secured design time to develop improvements at Coach Road/Acre Lane/Thick Hollins (locally known as hellfire/crash corner) as well as improvements in the Market Place to ease traffic congestion. They have also had recent success in requesting resurfacing at Colders Lane, Bent Ley Road and Mean Lane and continue to press for more roads in Meltham to be resurfaced. All S.106 contributions (financial payments from house builders) have been identified and are being closely monitored to ensure that the funds are spent on the right community projects in a timely manner. Current projects being developed using these funds include improvements to our three Primary Schools and many of our green spaces and parks.

Meltham Town Council would like to involve young people in its future plans. We asked Holly Holmes aged 17yrs what would make living in Meltham better for young people. Here is her response:

"It's a tricky one to answer to be honest. Before COVID, I would arrange to meet my friends and go for walks around the Golf Course, on the Greenway or walk up onto the moors, it's just such a peaceful place. I miss the days when we were able to have festivals or celebrations such as the annual Scarecrow Festival or Meltham Memories when everyone came together and for me it was so enjoyable. I think in the future, it would be great to have more social events like that, just so people can get together and be a village more often. Meltham has always been a traditional village and it would be wonderful if we could keep traditions going or even make new ones".

Local councillors welcome interaction from residents, myself and my neighbours included, and we are currently working together to resolve some problems to do with dangerous roads in the village. It's looking hopeful that progress will be made which is reassuring for us. Meltham.org is taking an important role to help reduce loneliness during the pandemic, which I feel very reassured and grateful about.

No increase in precept demand

At its meeting on the 8 February 2021 the Town Council authorised a formal precept demand to Kirklees Council for £137,982 for 2021/22 which means there is no increase in the precept demand from the previous year.

Council servicers include allotments, litter picking and environmental improvements, children's play areas, park facilities and maintenance, playing fields and gardens, public toilets, and sports facilities. It subsidises the library to protect this provision in Meltham and makes substantial grants to Meltham organisations to support community led activities.

Town Mayor, Councillor Kate Buchanan said: 'The Town Council is pleased to announce that we have been able to keep the precept demand for 21/22 the same as the previous year – despite continuing funding to tackle the issues that residents identified as part of the Ask Meltham project. The Town Council's precept continues to be significantly less than the national average and is a tiny proportion of residents' total council tax bill, with the majority of council tax going to Kirklees Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the fire and rescue authorities. At a total cost of less than a pound a week for an average property, our services continue to represent value for money.'

A word from **Catherine & Dylan,** the Parks Ground Maintenance Contractors...

We have been the maintenance contractors for the Robert Ashton Memorial Park in Meltham since 2012 and carry out all sorts of maintenance works in the park throughout the year including grass cutting, topiary, weeding and planting.

I think the park is one of Meltham's best kept secrets and we enjoy speaking to park users who are very complimentary about the work we do. During the 'lockdowns' the park has been even more important to people as a haven for walking, meeting or playing and we've been working throughout to maintain the landscape as usual.

The grass is ready for its first cut in April. To achieve the best finish (and to some people's surprise) we use walk-behind mowers rather than a ride-on, walking over fifteen miles each cut. But it is gratifying to see people waiting to kick a ball around on the newly short football pitch. Weed killers are a no-no for us (we hand pull weeds) but this can mean in peak growing season some areas look a bit untidy at times, as can the molehills - we've yet to find an effective humane deterrent for moles!



Catherine and Dylan inspecting the topiary in the park

Every year we plant thousands of bulbs - a favourite with visitors - starting with snowdrops at the sides of the paths around the pond. Then there are daffodils and tete-a-tete in swathes, thriving under the dappled shade of trees in the leaf mulch soil. Our latest bulb project includes, tulips, daffodils and rather spectacular alliums running along 3 sides of the tennis courts.

The park is also haven for wildlife, as well as the ducks on the pond there are lots of grey squirrels, a scurry or dray is the name for a group; look out for them in the woodland to the left of the drive. In spring we often see the young and they are fearless!



Bulbs in the formal garden area

If you haven't visited the Park before, now is the perfect time to visit – with a show of bulbs and later in the spring the long lilac purple wisteria blooms over the arch just along the path from the tennis courts. You might even see a squirrel kitten or two?

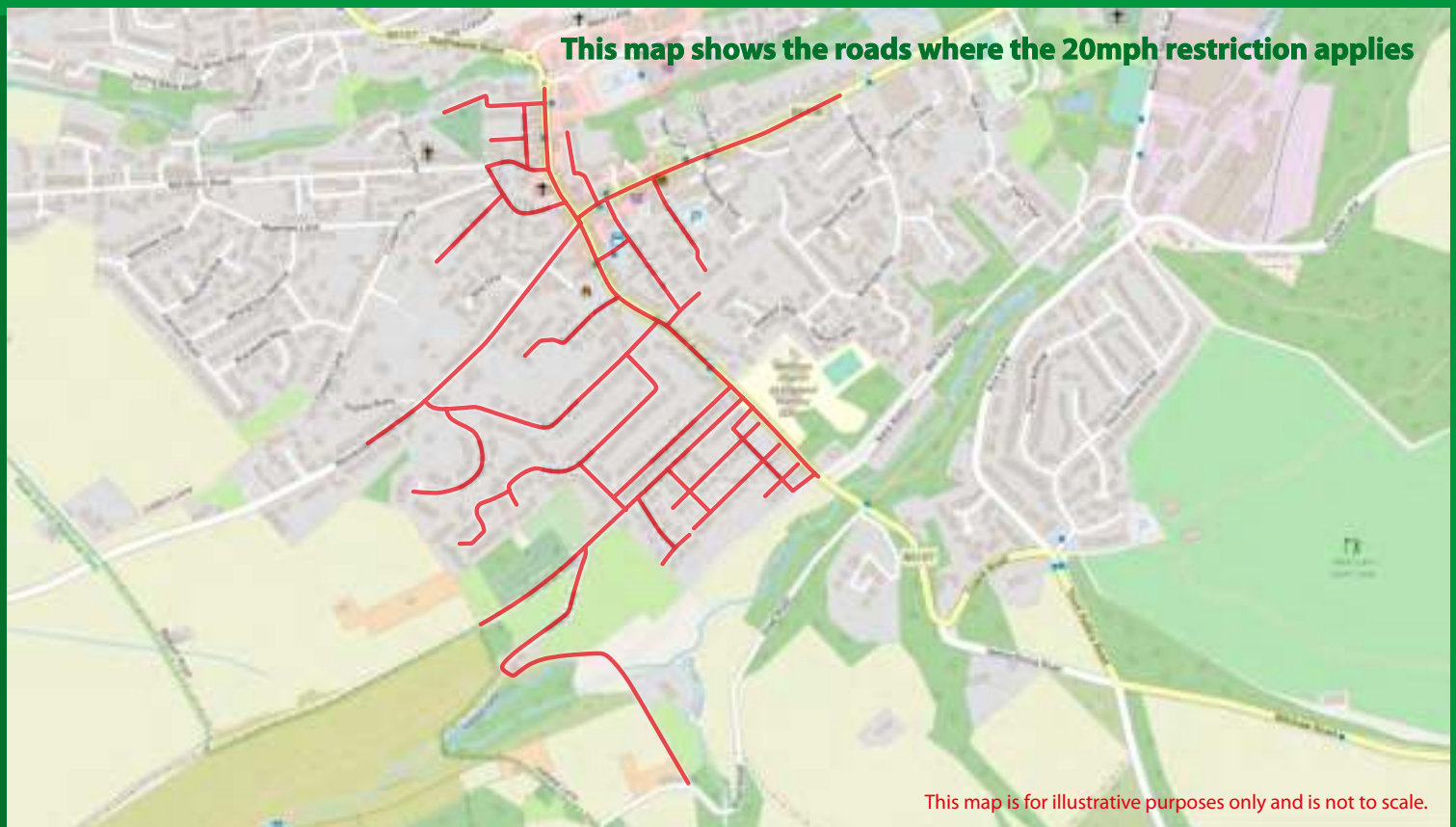
Catherine Power of Design Powered

No Need to Speed!

To coincide with Road Safety Week Meltham Town Council invited all primary school children (between the ages of 4 to 11 yrs) in Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw to design an A4 poster which reminded motorists to keep within the speed limit. Lots of entries were received and after much deliberation the winners were chosen by three of the Town Councillors. Phil Gibbins, Head Teacher at Meltham CE said:

"The children at Meltham CE really embraced the No Need to Speed campaign. Road safety is already an important part of our PHSE curriculum, so it was a fantastic opportunity both to revisit important learning and also to work with Meltham Town Council to achieve something that we hope will make a difference! Hundreds of the children created their own artwork to help raise awareness and lots of them were delighted to receive prizes for their work. Thank you to Kate Buchanan, Meltham Town Mayor, for inviting us to get involved and we hope our small efforts go some way towards encouraging drivers to remember the 20 mph speed limit past our school and to drive safely wherever they go".

The best participating school was Meltham C E which received £50 in book tokens. Over 25 individual pupils from Meltham CE, Meltham Moor and Helme primary schools received either book tokens sponsored by local firm Towndoor or prizes donated by Rosenbauer for their creative posters. There was one overall winner, Amelia Kennedy, who received £30 in book tokens – you can see the winning poster on the back page – we are asking all Meltham residents to display the winning poster in their window as a reminder that reducing speeds is vital to make our roads safer, especially for children travelling to and from school. During road safety week the Town Council also delivered over 500 '20s plenty' wheelie bins stickers to residents along the highways in Meltham which have a 20mph speed limit.



Town Mayor, Councillor Buchanan commented 'speeding in Meltham was one of the things that was raised most regularly by residents during the Ask Meltham project last year and the Council continues to explore ways of reducing speeding – the stickers look really effective and show the community's commitment to lower speeds!'

No Need To Speed

beep
beep

CAUTION
CHILDREN
CROSSING



NO
need
to
speed!

20

VROOM broom

HONK
HONK



Don't speed and follow the safety rules.



SLOW DOWN!

Please place in your window