

Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan 2 (JMNP2)

Community Facilities DRAFT Evidence Base Report V6

September 2023

Appendices

Appendix 1 Health Facilities

Appendix 2 List of Pubs in Melksham

Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan2

Community Facilities Report

1 Introduction & Policy Context

This report is an update of one produced as part of the evidence base to the first Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan (JMNP) which was 'made' (or adopted) in July 2021. The update of the Neighbourhood Plan (JMNP2) retains, updates and adds new policies in response to changed context since the first Plan was made.

The National Planning Policy Framework 2023 (NPPF)¹ defines community facilities as facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship. Policies should plan positively for the provision of these services, to help promote healthy and safe communities (para. 93).

The Wiltshire Core Strategy identifies community and health facilities in Melksham as under pressure, with most GP surgeries and primary and secondary schools at capacity (para 5.80). It includes the following key issues and considerations in relation to community facilities:

- *'Wherever possible, key community services and facilities should be located within or well related to the town centre to help promote and deliver the requisite regeneration. This should include consideration for how to best provide for the proposed new community campus for the town, which would offer a number of services and facilities, including leisure uses.'*
- *'Developer contributions from future housing growth should help to deliver infrastructure necessary in the town. In particular, there is a need to increase the capacity of GP surgeries, particularly towards the west of the town. Additional cemetery capacity is also needed.'* (para. 5.83). The expansion of Melksham cemetery is on Wiltshire Council's Regulation 123 List (meaning that it may be funded, in whole or in part, by Community Infrastructure Levy).

2 Community Facilities in Melksham Joint Neighbourhood Plan Area

Key Assets

There is a range of community facilities throughout the Melksham Neighbourhood Area, both within Melksham town and the settlements of Melksham Without. These facilities and services host and support a variety of community activity within the Neighbourhood Area.

The Neighbourhood Area is home to some highly valued community facilities, particularly its sports facilities (some of which are of regional importance) and Melksham Assembly Hall, (an important cultural facility for the local community). The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has also identified the high quality community centres and village halls within the area as a key positive asset.

Particularly within the rural settlements in Melksham Without, community activity is centred around key community hubs such as community centres or pubs; these are venues that are used for a range of different uses by a number of organisations. This is illustrated in Table 1 below.

Melksham Without Parish Council has put together comprehensive details on possible emergency rest centres in the parish. In some serious emergency situations such as flooding, fire or a bomb warning, the police may

¹

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1182995/NPPF_Sept_23.pdf

advise people to evacuate their homes. If this happens, the local council assisted by the voluntary organisations will set up a rest centre to look after evacuees who have nowhere else to stay.

Rest centres are usually set up in leisure centres, schools or church halls and provide a safe shelter for people until they are allowed to return to their homes or are provided with temporary accommodation.

Current gaps in provision of community facilities

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has identified a lack of theatre and cinema space in the Neighbourhood Area.

Funding from new housing developments has been provided to build a new village hall on Semington Road, in Berryfield, and a new community centre is planned to be constructed for the residents in the newest part of Melksham, to the east.

The new Community Campus situated in the town is a hub for community services, and providing a new library, swimming pool, sports hall, gym, dance studio and meeting room, amongst other facilities. The Campus is a hub for the whole Melksham Community Area and likely beyond.

Future need for community facilities

As development and potential strategic allocation sites come forward in the Neighbourhood Area, it will be important to ensure that new facilities are provided so that the day to day needs of the increasing population can be met. This is particularly important for the provision of health care facilities, such as GP and dental surgeries, and schools (existing primary schools in the Neighbourhood Area are already oversubscribed). See Appendix 1 for more detail on health care provision in the area.

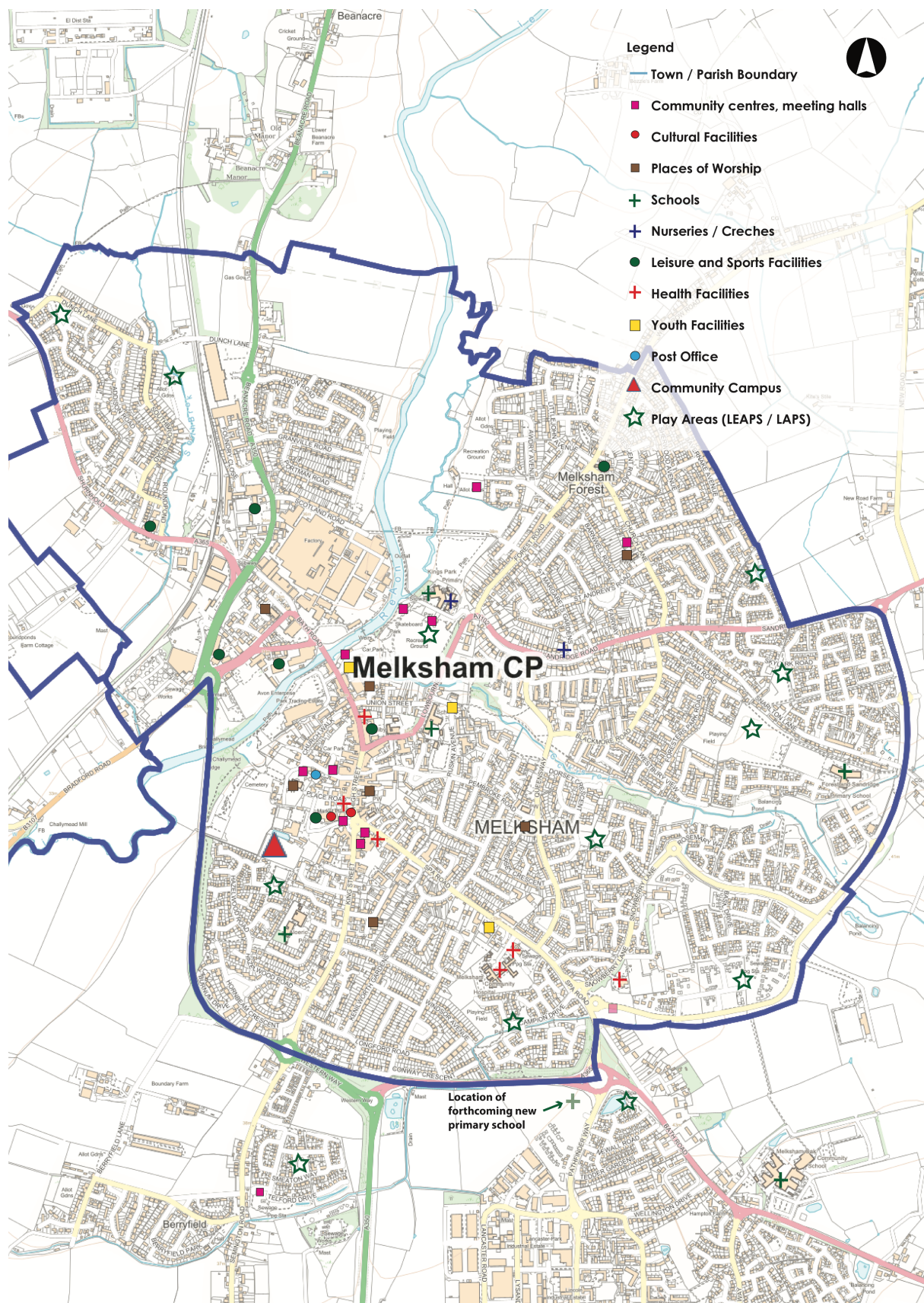
The capacity at the area's only secondary school, Melksham Oak is shifting. It is forecast to rise slightly above the proposed capacity of 1500 between 2023 to 2026, by 2027/28 the school is expected to have 1500 pupils (figures from Melksham Oak Community School, 2019). An extension to the school has recently been built.

This Report

The facilities and information listed within this report have been collated and researched by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group with help from their planning consultants. Despite this, the list cannot be said to be exhaustive (there are almost certainly more facilities than those listed below).

The maps, lists and Table below identify the community facilities within the Neighbourhood Area.

Map 1 – Melksham Town Community Facilities (see also list below)



List of Melksham Town Community Facilities (see also Map 1)



Community Campus



Community centres, meeting halls

1. Melksham Town Hall
2. Riverside Community Centre
3. St Michaels Church Room
4. Rachel Fowler Centre
5. Forest Community Centre
6. Adventure Centre
7. Champion Drive Pavilion
8. Masonic Lodge
9. Bangladeshi Centre



Cultural facilities

1. Melksham Assembly Hall
2. The Meeting Space



Places of worship

1. Queensway Chapel (inc. Community Centre / Hall and Nursery)
2. St. Michael's & All Angels' Church
3. Melksham United Church
4. Church of St Andrew
5. Ebenezer Baptist Church
6. Melksham Baptist Church
7. St Anthony of Padua



Schools

1. The Manor CofE VC Primary School
2. River Mead School
3. Aloeric Primary School
4. Forest & Sandridge C of E Primary School
5. Melksham Oak School



Nurseries, creches

1. River Mead Nursery (Little Fir Tree Nursey)
2. Little Robins



Health facilities

1. Melksham Community Hospital
2. Spa Medical Centre
3. Market Place Dental
4. Giffords Surgery
5. Melksham Dental Practice
6. Regency Dental Practice

Leisure & sports facilities

1. Melksham School of Tap & Ballet
2. Spencer Sports and Social Club
3. Melksham House (closed)
4. Snap Fitness
5. Fierce Fitness

Youth facilities

1. Scout Hut and Guide Centre
2. Canberra Children's and Young People's Hub (inc. meeting room and nursery, Young Melksham (inc. Teen Talk and No Limits, Walking Netball, in2sports)
3. Army Cadet Force

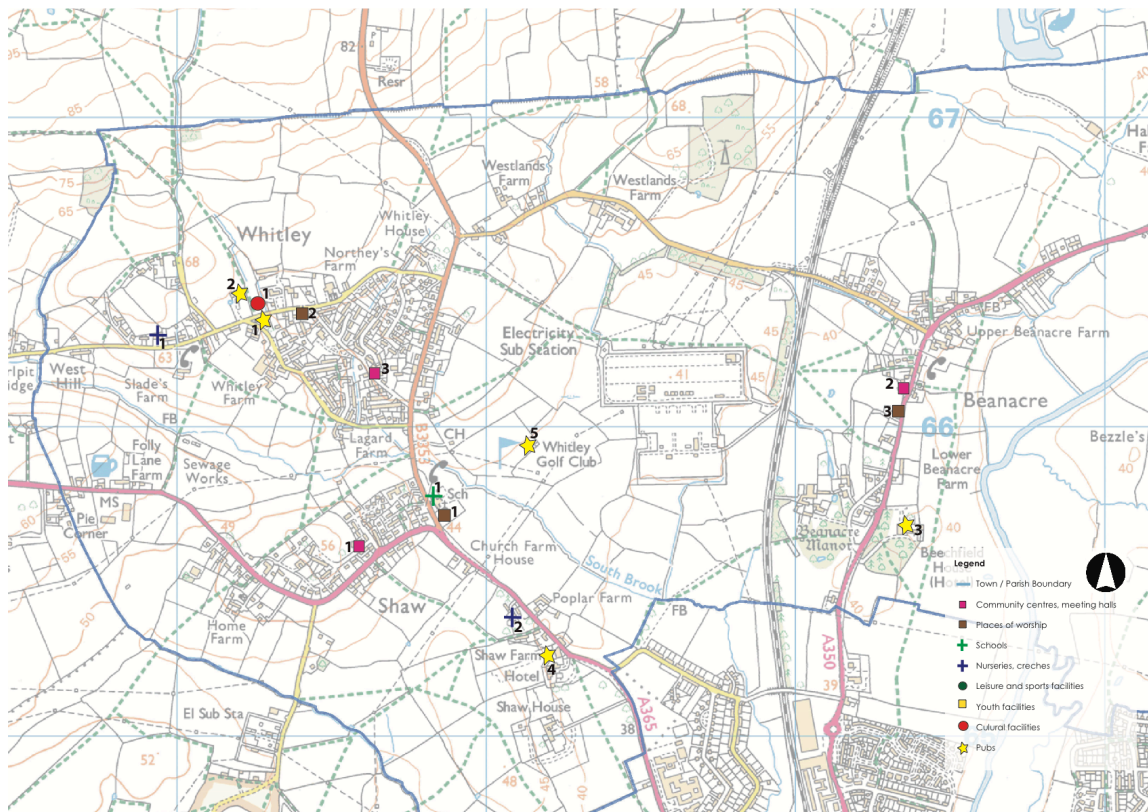
Post Office

Melksham Post Office

See Appendix 2 for a full list of pubs in Melksham

Melksham Without Community Facilities (see also list below)

Map 2 Whitley, Shaw and Beanacre Community Facilities



Map 3 Bowerhill and Berryfield Community Facilities



List of Melksham Without Community Facilities *(see also Maps 2 & 3, and Table 1 below)*

Community centres, meeting halls

1. The Beeches Village Hall
2. St Barnabas School Room
3. Whitley Reading Rooms
4. Berryfield Village Hall
5. Bowerhill Village Hall

Places of worship

1. Shaw Christ Church
2. Whitley Methodist Church
3. St Barnabas Church

Schools

1. Shaw C of E Primary School
2. Bowerhill Primary School
3. Melksham Oak Community School

Cultural facilities

1. Phone box library



Pubs

1. Spindles Bike Shop
2. The Pear Tree Inn
3. Beechfield House Hotel
4. Shaw Country Hotel (closed)
5. Golden Fleece
6. IL Vello D'Oro
7. The Milk Churn
8. The Pilot



Nurseries, creches

1. Daisy Chain Nursery
2. Rocking Horse Nursery
3. ABC



Leisure & sports facilities

1. Boomerang Play Centre
2. Crossfit Civitas gym
3. Wiltshire School of Gymnastics



Youth facilities

1. 2385 (Melksham) Squadron Air Training Corps

Melksham Without – Community Activity ‘Hubs’

Table 1 below gives further information about the use and condition of key facilities within Melksham Without. Those listed could be considered ‘hubs’ of community activity, where a range of community activity takes place.

Table 1 (below)

Name	Basic description	Owner of facility / land	Condition	Notes (inc. Organisations / events that use this facility)	Use / capacity
Community centres, meeting halls					
The Beeches Village Hall	Village Hall	MWPC	Good, block built	Pre-school held here. Changing rooms for associated recreation space, lunch club. There is a notice board a defibrillator.	
St Barnabas School Room	Church hall	Diocese of Salisbury	Fair	Notice board and defibrillator here. Table tennis. Kitchen.	
Whitley Reading Rooms	Village Hall	Parish Room and Reading Room at Whitley Registered Charity 305595	Good, brick built	Mobile library stops here. There is a notice board and defibrillator. Art group, yoga classes, toddler group, Tai Chi classes (Q'Gong)	Good use
Bowerhill Village Hall	Brick built village hall. Main hall sits 212	Bowerhill Village Hall Trust Registered charity 297945	Good	Sometimes overflow classes from the primary school are held here. Scouts / Cubs / Beavers, Busy Bees, church groups, Slimming World, PHAB, SOLS for Health Alzheimers. Core Church also meet regularly here.	
Berryfield Village Hall	brick built (built in 2023).	Berryfield Village Hall	Good	Various groups meet here, such as fitness groups and art groups. There is a notice board and a defibrillator.	
Places of Worship					
2 Whitley Methodist Church	Church with meeting room	Church	Good	Monthly bookswap, garden club, café, craft, table games	Good use
Schools					
1 Shaw Primary School	School	Local Education Authority / Academy	Good	Community hall here, Beavers and Cubs.	Oversubscribed
2 Bowerhill Primary School	School	Local Education Authority / Academy		Community hall, Bowerhill Pre-School	Oversubscribed. Sometimes overflow classes are held in Bowerhill Village Hall
3 Melksham Oak Community School	School and community facility	Local Education Authority / Academy	Good	Indoor and outdoor school facilities. Aero Badminton Club held every Wednesday. Lancaster House is an exclusion zone annex of this school.	
Pubs					

2 Pear Tree Inn	Pub	Private owner	Good	Holds regular community activities such as craft days, comedy nights and charity events.	
8 The Pilot	Pub with community facility	Private Owner	Good	Notice board and defibrillator here. Bingo / quiz night. Pilates, choir, keep fit classes	
Leisure and Sports Facilities					
1 Boomerang Play Centre	Indoor play centre with soft play, indoor pool, trampoline park, cafe	Boomerang		Little Joey's Nursery is on site	

Appendix 1: Health Facilities

Access to local health facilities and services is a very high priority for local residents. The population's recent and expected future growth, caused by significant development in the Neighbourhood Area, is one of the main reasons for this.

The Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Report 2017/18, which outlines current and projected need for health and wellbeing infrastructure in Wiltshire, used a projected population increase for the whole of Wiltshire which was surpassed by the actual population increase that occurred. This again highlights the importance of access to health facilities for the Melksham community.

Research carried out between 2015-2018 by the Neighbourhood Plan Health and Community Sub-Group indicated a shortfall in GP surgery staff.

Existing health facilities in Melksham Neighbourhood Area:

- Melksham Community Hospital
- Spa Medical Centre
- Market Place Dental
- Giffords Surgery
- Regency Dental Practice
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance (Bowerhill)

There is also a range of health and social care sessions and groups that run from various community facilities listed in this report, such as mental health support groups and

The Strategic Outline Case for Chippenham, Melksham and Trowbridge (NHS Clinical Wiltshire Commissioning Group, 2017) selects the preferred way forward for the re-provision of community and primary care services in the area. It sets the context and gives detail on existing facilities in the area. The following information is taken from this report.

There are 11 GP practices which support the local population of Chippenham, Melksham and Trowbridge.

Melksham Community Hospital

Melksham Community Hospital sits on a site of 3.53 hectares. It provides outpatient services including some specialised Wiltshire-wide services. The following services were delivered from Melksham in 2020:

- Children and Adolescent Mental Health (Oxford Health)
- Diabetes (Wiltshire Health and Care)
- Dietetics (Wiltshire Health and Care)
- Neurology specialists (Wiltshire Health and Care)
- Orthotics (Great Western Hospital)
- Pulmonary rehabilitation (Wiltshire Health and Care)
- Podiatry (Wiltshire Health and Care)
- Adult speech and Language therapy (Wiltshire Health and Care)
- Paediatric speech and Language therapy (Virgin Health)
- Tissue Viability (Wiltshire Health and Care)
- Wiltshire Orthopaedic Network (Wiltshire Health and Care)
- X-ray (Royal United Hospital)
- Wiltshire Wheelchair Service (Wiltshire Health and Care).

Appendix 1B Primary Care Activity Modelling Melksham, Trowbridge and Chippenham Primary Care Modelling

Practice	List size 2016	Projected population 2026 (inc housing)	Infrastructure Requirements 2026 inc housing (based on NHSE PID Estimator)					Comparison with current infrastructure				Capita estimates of GIA Requirement's 2026 inc housing (based on NHSE S106 Calculator)	Difference between NHSE PID Estimator and NHSE S106 calculation of GIA	Difference between current infrastructure and NHSE S106 calculation of GIA	
			C/E Rooms	Treatment Rooms	Clinical Space m2	Public Space m2	NIA m2	GIA m2	Current GIA	Current CC&E rooms	Current treatment rooms				Difference (current minus projected) in GIA m2
Chippenham															
Hathaway Medical Practice	15582	20,973	7	5	192	448	640	992	1386	10	9	394	1292	94	-900
Rowden Surgery	15815	21,287	7	5	208	485	693	1075	915	13	11	-160	1333	-418	-258
The Lodge Surgery	8167	10,993	4	3	96	224	320	496	321	7	2	-175	875	-554	-379
Jubilee Field Surgery	4467	6,012	2	1	64	149	213	331	214	3	3	-117	584	-370	-253
TOTAL	44031	59,265	20	14	560	1306	1866	2894	2836	33	25	-58	4084	-1248	-1190
Melksham															
Giffords Primary Care Centre	13647	16,360	6	4	160	373	533	827	893	8	13	66	1125	-232	-298
Spa Medical Centre	11222	13,453	5	3	128	299	427	661	600			-61	1000	-400	-339
St Damian's Surgery (Bradford-on-Avon and Melksham Health Partnership)	3282	3,935	1	1	32	75	107	165	193	2	4	28	333	-140	-168
TOTAL	28151	33,748	12	8	320	747	1067	1653	1686	10	17	33	2458	-772	-805
Trowbridge															
Widbrook Medical Practice	5358	6,480	2	2	64	149	213	331	475	4	22	-144	584	-109	-253
The Lovemead Group Practice	17345	20,976	7	5	192	448	640	992	650			342	1292	-642	-900
Adcroft Surgery	14270	17,258	6	4	160	373	533	827	713	10	13	114	1167	-454	-340
Bradford Road Surgery	10755	13,007	4	3	128	299	427	661	371			290	958	-587	-297
TOTAL	47728	57,720	19	14	544	1269	1813	2811	2209	14	35	-602	4001	-1792	-1190

Appendix 2

List of Pubs in Melksham

Spencer's Social Club
Pig & Whistle
Forrester Arms
The Watermeadow
West End
Kings Arms
The Market Tavern
Parsons Nose
Hiding Place
The Grapes (closed in September 2023)
The Bear
Buds
Casa
Henry's
Alba
Anticos
The Meeting Space
Liberal Club
Conservative Club