

# **Bowerhill Residents Action Group (BRAG)**

## **September 2020 Newsletter**

Here is the BRAG September Newsletter as promised. Unfortunately, it will not be the last one as some Covid-19 restrictions that were lifted and would have meant meetings could resume, have been reinstated so Newsletters will have to continue for now.

### **Parish Council Report by David Pafford**

The development at Pathfinder Place is gathering pace. After the period of lockdown, during which no construction work took place for some two months, a lot of progress has been made. There are 56 houses that are occupied, with many more built and awaiting completion internally. The developers are ahead of their construction schedule and the sales staff are very busy.

The play area is due to begin installation in the week of 28<sup>th</sup> September and Taylor Wimpey is in conversation with the Highways department of Wiltshire Council about the programme of public art. This will focus on signs to indicate the entrance to Bowerhill from the Spa roundabout, as well as the road names on the development itself and a panel giving information about the significance of these names.

The Parish Council will seek information about the start of bus services in Pathfinder Way.

### **Treasurers report by Jenny Butcher**

BRAG has £1030.02p in the funds.

Future expenses to clear so far are:-

Melksham Shed (September)

Annual public liability insurance (due October)

Future Grants

I have written formally to Taylor Wimpey for Sponsorship on the Picnic Site. No reply to date!!!

Tesco blue tokens still all frozen due to virus but we should get something on this.

Looking at Peoples postcode lottery grants, not done anything as yet, but on my "to do" list.

### **Picnic area news by Jenny Butcher (7 September)**

Good news from the Picnic Area, the new wrap around seat that Melksham Shed was making for us has now been made and put on site, it looks really good. There is a saga to this which started about three weeks ago when we were contacted by Chris from Melksham Shed to meet them at the top of the bridle path so we could get the seat (in two pieces) down on the site. Graham and I waited with the two trolleys for about an hour then I thought has he phoned me on the landline instead of the mobile so shot through the allotments and yes a message on our landline, they cancelled because of the high winds that day and as he was strapping it to the top of his small van decided it was too dangerous. I

then rang him and said let me know when they were trying to deliver again but said that last Friday week we would be away in Devon visiting family. The day we were just about to go on holiday I had a phone to say they were going down the site that day. So said sorry we will not be able to help but Chris said they would take it down anyway so they did, luckily put it around the right tree and cemented in the legs so "all's well that ends well". They said they got soaking wet as it was one of those heavy shower days but were pleased with their work and the look.

We went down to the site last Saturday and were over the moon as it looks terrific and it shows off the tree and site. I phone him straight away and thanked him on behalf of us all and told him to email with costings etc plus I think we should give them another £100 on top of all their expenses. I think originally the costings of wood etc was about £350 but did not include cementing the legs in so that will be extra on top. (An email about the actual price has been circulated to Committee members for agreement.)

On the picnic site six volunteers are still busy keeping the ditches clear, hedges/trees trimmed, cutting grass, weeding, litter picking etc on the site but now looking at getting the site ready for winter.

Cutting the bridle path hedge will be the next project, this will be done gradually over the autumn, winter months.

I have ordered some visors so these will be used down on the picnic site etc., we find that some people do not respect social distancing when they talk to us when we are working down there.

[Article from Melksham Independent News on 17 September 2020](#)

### **New Picnic area seating – thanks to Melksham Shed**



Bowerhill Residents Action Group (BRAG) would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers of Melksham Shed who were involved with the making of the new round seating

area, sited around an oak trees down on the Bowerhill Picnic Site situated next to the K & A Canal.

BRAG said, "Not only did Melksham Shed make it for us but they cemented into the ground as well. It will be well used by all local residents and holiday makers, especially during the sunny summer weather, as it will be very shaded under the oak tree.

BRAG would also like to thank our many sponsors who made this happen, Asda, Waitrose, Just Giving site and Art House Cafe."

### **Report on Litter Pick held on Saturday 12 September by Pauline Helps**



Weatherwise it was a perfect day for our litter pick. Twelve Committee members and their families came out to pick up litter that Wiltshire Council then collected the following Monday. Everything was arranged to be Covid secure. Thank you to everyone who helped. It was a shame no members of the public came to join us, but this may not be surprising in these uncertain times.

### **Other news**

#### **Bench on hump next to Falcon Way, opposite Catalina Court**

Jenny Butcher reported to Teresa Strange (Melksham Without Parish Council) that the bench was broken. As it is no longer there it is presumed that it has been removed for repair.

#### **By-pass for Melksham**

Some quotes from Peter Binley, head of Major Highways Projects, Wiltshire Council on 12 August 2020 :-

"Work has progressed on developing options for the Melksham scheme, but it has been affected by the Covid-19 restrictions.

Our consultants Atkins will shortly be contacting landowners in the area in order to gain access for walk over surveys for ecological and environmental assessments. At present there is no fixed route or preferred option and they are still gathering information.

It had been hoped to carry out an initial public consultation later this year. However, in the current circumstances this will need careful consideration, but we will continue to keep the matter under review."

### **Parish Steward**

The Parish Steward is regularly available to do work on Bowerhill. If there is any work you know about that he can do – pothole repairing, cutting back shrubs and undergrowth, anything that a man with hand tools could do – please let us know.

### **Any other issues**

If there are any issues or other business that you would like raised, please let us know on Facebook or via our group email using “reply all”.

If there are issues that are more relevant to Wiltshire Council you can report problems via <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting>

**These Newsletters will continue bi-monthly – our next one is planned for November.** If there are any reports, comments, issues you would like included please contact Pauline Helps on [paulinehelps@aol.com](mailto:paulinehelps@aol.com)