

## **Report from Headbourne Worthy Parish Council's Kings Barton Committee to the Kings Barton Forum**

**March 2024**

### **Community Building**

The KBC has been keen to ensure that the hall of the community building is large enough to hold events that accommodate as many members of the community as possible. The original internal design of the building had a long narrow hall and the KBC was keen to see this widened because it was felt would be more user friendly and beneficial. CALA was open to proposals that only "squared off" the outline of the building and re-arranged the rooms internally.

KBC has submitted to CALA a proposal for a re-arrangement of the internal design which meets this criteria and believes that it makes best use of the internal space.

### **Extra MUGA**

The size of the 2a play area has shrunk because the planning for the surrounding houses has been allowed to stretch. Therefore, the planned MUGA for this area is too small for a full size basketball court appropriate for teenagers. CALA has kindly agreed to install another smaller MUGA at another location at the development. KBC will be approaching the appropriate authorities to supply the extra funding for a larger MUGA and will be working with CALA for this to be installed.

### **New Bus service**

KBC has proposed enhancements to the timetable for the bus route. This is in order to accommodate commuters catching the London trains in the morning and the start times at the local secondary schools. As a result the timetable will have fewer runs during the day. This timetable has been agreed by HCC who will be responsible for the implementation. The timetable for the when Winchester Avenue is opened is being drawn up. As the route will be faster to operate in Kings Barton it is proposed that that buses continue to the centre of Winchester and stop at the Broadway Bus station.

### **Spine Road and Amenities**

KBC has written to CALA asking for firm timeframes for the installation of the community shops and the spine road. KBC is aware that the recent newsletter from CALA specified timeframes for housing but did not mention the shops. This has caused much disquiet for

residents who feel these requirements are being ignored and that CALA's community commitments are taking second place to house building. KBC recognises that problems with the spine road do not solely rest with CALA but feels that it is the residents and the community that is being held back by its illuiveness.

### **Meadowside Park (1a)**

Meadowside Park (1a) is due to be transferred to HWPC in April 2025. This is an excellent and well used play area which the PC is looking forward to taking over. The PC is pleased to say that CALA has agreed to pull back the gates of the park. The present siting of the gate which is flush to the fencing is beside a narrow pavement. Residents with pushchairs can end up in the road as they swing round the pushchair when they enter the park. CALA has been very helpful in acknowledging this problem and agreeing to put it right.

The PC has organised weekly and quarterly inspections of the playground for when it takes over the area and is organising a contractor to undertake the maintenance.

The popularity of the playground has meant that the safety matting has been compressed and compacted with earth. KBC will be working with CALA to ensure that the problem matting is replaced, if possible with more durable solutions.

### **Other areas transferred to the PC**

The Parish has now planted an orchard in the pocket park in Manley Rd with edible hedging at the pocket park on the corner of Manley Rd. The PC's contractor has done an excellent job maintaining the Valley. The PC has taken advice to ensure Welhouse Woods and balancing pond supports diversity and is environmentally friendly.

### **Hampshire Devolution**

KBC is aware that the devolution plans for Hampshire will necessarily include changes for Winchester town/city itself. The position of KBRA and KBC has always been that the community of Kings Barton should be able to develop as one community, served by its own parish or within the Headbourne Worthy Parish. This position has not changed. It would be helpful if the anomaly of the Headbourne Worthy parish boundary that stops short of the entire King Barton development could be rectified as part of the drawing of the Winchester Town Council boundary.