

INTERIM GREEN TRAVEL PLAN FOR BERRYFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Name of Development – Berryfield Village Hall

Address of Development – Telford Drive, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 6GF
(Bowood View/Bellway Homes development on land to the east of Semington Road)

Floor area – 256sqm (gross)/236sqm (nett internal)

Planning Application

The planning application 20/03879/REM for the construction of the village hall was submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council (MWPC) and approved on 12th November 2020.

Planning Condition 4

“No part of the development shall be brought into use until a Green Travel Plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Travel Plan shall include details of implementation and monitoring and shall be implemented in accordance with these agreed details. The results of the implementation and monitoring shall be made available to the Local Planning Authority on request, together with any changes to the plan arising from those results.”

Interim Status

Before the building is brought into use a Management Committee, which will include representation from Berryfield & Semington Road Action Group (BASRAG), the parish council (MWPC) and local residents/representation, will be established (BVHMC). The Committee will include a Travel Plan Coordinator (TPC) whose responsibility it will be to monitor delivery and, as appropriate, evolve the Travel Plan for the facility.

The hall construction was completed and handed over to MWPC on 5th September 2022. A group of residents have regularly been meeting with the parish council, BASRAG and members of the committee of the existing portacabin village hall to chose finishes, specification, planting etc as the hall construction progressed. This group is forming the basis of the new hall's Management Committee with regular articles and updates in the local press to encourage new members to join from across the village of Berryfield, not just the new development.

The parish council are taking interim responsibility for the village hall until the Management Committee have formally formed a Charitable Trust and the hall leased to them on a peppercorn rent. In this capacity, the parish council are therefore submitting this Interim Green Travel Plan, which will then be updated by the Management Committee when in place, and will reflect the users and practices of the hall moving forward. There has been a lot of interest from potential regular users for ball room dancing, toddler music groups, short mat bowls and martial arts as well as the existing art group and craft group moving across from the temporary portacabin hall. Plenty of interest in local residents holding children's parties too. Until the Management Committee is in place and able to accept bookings, it is unknown what the hall uses will predominantly be, and where the attendees will be

coming from, to help inform the Green Travel Plan. Representatives of the regular users will sit on the Management Committee to ensure the users of the hall are having a say in the running of the community facility.

Objective

The Travel Plan promotes alternative modes of transport for journeys to and from the new Village Hall. Primarily the Plan will be provided to all groups using the facility and it will include –

- Walking will be promoted as a highly sustainable mode of travel with associated health benefits. This mode of transport will be encouraged for journeys from the immediate residential areas.
- As with walking, cycling will be promoted as having significant health benefits, and encouraged. Cycle stands have been provided at the facility for secure parking at the site.
- Promotion of bus use. Semington Road provides a local bus route with a stop a short/level walk from the proposed building. The Travel Plan will include information about bus routes/timetable.
- Car sharing is an option for travel when public transport does not meet individual travel needs and particularly for established groups/activities which will be key users of the facility and will be promoted accordingly.
- Taxis are often used by those who have relinquished car ownership but have the occasional need of one, or those who cannot drive, particularly to relatively local destinations. Taxis are regarded as a sustainable transport choice when used in this way.

Action Plan

Measure	Priority	Timescale	Who
Establish BVHMC	High	On building completion	MWPC
Identify TPC	High	On set up of BVMHC	BVMHC
Produce Interim Travel Plan	High	Before building completion	MWPC
Update & Produce Travel Plan	High	Weeks following set up of BVMHC	BVMHC
Distribution	High	Part of Hire Conditions	BVHMC
Review Travel Plan	High	Regular intervals	BVHMC

Actions taken to date

Walking

- The parish council encouraged walking to the Open Evening event that was held on Wednesday 19th October, with simple directions for pedestrians – “use the pedestrian entrance off Semington Road, opposite the New Inn pub”. There were 50 people attending that event, and only 4/5 cars in the car park. 1 of those was for a potential regular user with mobility issues, and 1 was a parish council officer who had kit to bring with them. Residents attending were from across Berryfield and not just the Bowood View housing

development; there were also councillors from across the town and parish in attendance.

- A pedestrian highway direction sign is being progressed via the LHFIG (Local Highways & Footpath Improvement Group) **Issue No: 9-2-16** and rated HIGH priority amongst the LHFIG issues currently submitted by the parish council. To be funded by the Melksham Area Board as the estimated cost is under £500. The pedestrian sign is for the pedestrian entrance on Semington Road, and another vehicle sign for the turning into Telford Drive off Semington Road. The signs have been designed by Highways (Appendix 5 of the LHFIG minutes 4th August 2022) and Highways to action.
- The parish council have negotiated a proposed £20,000 Unilateral Undertaking from David Wilson Homes for a pedestrian/cycle connection from the new development to be built adjacent to the site of the village hall; this is for a footbridge to cross the brook from the proposed development (144 dwellings at Reserved Matters PL/2022/02479) to the hoggin path in the public open space in front of the village hall. This is to encourage residents to walk to the community facility in a direct route, and not take a circuitous route out onto the main road which could mean that they prefer to drive.

Buses

- The parish council are progressing the two new bus shelters as detailed in the s106 agreement for the Bowood View development through the LHFIG process to ensure a speedy resolution. This is in agreement with Phil Grocock, Bus Network Manager who has confirmed that that X34 route is a commercially viable route and will continue. A site visit was held with Mark Stansby, Senior Highways Officer on Friday 1st July 2022 with parish council representatives. **Issue No: 9-22-10** and rated HIGH priority amongst the LHFIG issues currently submitted by the parish council. To be funded by the £20,662 s106 funding held by Wiltshire Council. The project will be advanced when Wiltshire Council staff resources become available.
- The parish council have pursued the reinstatement of the X34 evening and Sunday service, with this response from Councillor Kevin Daley, Portfolio Holder for Passenger Transport and Streetscene, 5th July 2022:
“The introduction of an evening and Sunday service on this route is certainly high on our wish list, but there are two problems - the current shortage of bus drivers and the shortage of funds. The provision of these journeys was included in our Bus Service Improvement Plan but unfortunately, we have not yet received any BSIP funding for this from the Government. I, therefore, think that it could be quite some time before these evening and Sunday journeys can be introduced which is not what we had hoped for.”
- A trial of a new potential bus route (16) took place on Saturday 17th September 2022 using an electric bus to connect the train station, town centre, east Melksham, Bowerhill Industrial Estate, Hampton Park Commercial estate which will run back to town via Semington Road, which is

adjacent to the new village hall <http://melkshamnews.com/2022/09/27/towns-electric-bus-taster-day-2/> more details of the proposed route and progress with stakeholders here

<https://moderngov.microshadeapplications.co.uk/melkshamtc/documents/s8296/Climate%20Fest%20-%20Electric%20Bus%20Report.pdf>

- Photo of X34 bus passing the village hall on the adjacent Semington Road, the pedestrian access to Semington Road is out of shot, but between the village hall and the bus.



Cycle

- Cycle stand and shelter is in place



- The adjacent Semington Road is part of the new Active Travel route from Melksham to Hilperton, with an improved Toucan crossing for pedestrians and cycle access across the A350 Western Way. This improves the access for pedestrians and cyclists to the village hall too. Semington Road is on the National Cycle Network NCN 403.

[https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/8877/Hilperton-Melksham-active-travel-scheme-map/pdf/Hilperton to Melksham Active Travel Map design PDF.pdf?m=63782251308333000](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/media/8877/Hilperton-Melksham-active-travel-scheme-map/pdf/Hilperton%20to%20Melksham%20Active%20Travel%20Map%20design%20PDF.pdf?m=63782251308333000)

- Committee at regular meetings with mechanism accordingly for regular review and evolution of the Plan as required.

Car Sharing/Taxis

- Attendees of events at the village hall will be encouraged to lift share, this is relatively easy to arrange/organise for regular users.

Community Transport

- We are working on a couple of events at the new hall specifically aimed at different groups, and for these we will use the Melksham Community Transport. A “Celebrating Age” event working with Age Friendly Melksham, and an Energy Workshop for help/support with energy saving tips this Autumn/Winter with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.
<https://adults.wiltshire.gov.uk/Services/857>

Next Steps

The parish council are hosting a meeting on Weds 19th October for those forming the new management committee, to meet with trustees/committee members of other halls in the parish; Shaw Village Hall and Bowerhill Village Hall to share best practice. At that meeting the booking forms and hiring conditions will be drafted, and there will be inclusion in that documentation on green travel plan aspects.

A parish council representative will be part of the Charitable Trust/Management Committee and will be able to monitor and review the Travel Plan implementation regularly.