

Parks Working Group

Agenda for 16/11/26 @ 14:00

melksham-tc.gov.uk/meetings

Melksham
TOWN COUNCIL

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TOWN COUNCIL

Monday 9 November 2026

Dear Councillors S Rabey (Town Mayor), G Elson (Deputy Town Mayor), P Alford, P Aves, E Calland, R Cleary, J Crossley, M Drewett, A Griffin, J Oatley, T Price, C Stokes, A Westbrook, J Westbrook, A Whitlock.

Ref: Parks Working Group , Monday 16 November 2026

You are invited to a meeting of the Parks Working Group of Melksham Town Council for the transaction of the business shown on the agenda below.

Monday 16 November 2026, to be held at 14.00 in the Council Chamber, Melksham Town Hall, Market Place, Melksham, SN12 6ES.

Members of the public and the press may attend this meeting in person or join the meeting on Teams via the following link https://tinyurl.com/yk8xfbbp .

No decisions will be made on matters not already on the agenda. The Council may ask the public and press to leave if confidential matters need to be discussed.

The Seven Principles of Public Life.

All members are reminded of their duty under the code of conduct to uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Hayley Bell
CEO

Melksham
TOWN COUNCIL

Working Group/Task & Finish Group General Terms of Reference

1. Membership
   1.1 The chairman of any Committee setting up a Working Group/Task & Finish Group shall be a member of the Group. Any other members can be appointed and so can non-elected members of the public or any other representative from a properly constituted body.
   •
2. Delegated Business: The Group has delegated authority to discuss and debate items as specified by the parent committee in a brief which should be minuted:
   2.1 No Group shall have powers to make decisions on policy or budget commitment;
   2.2 Recommendations shall be put before the relevant parent committee for ratification;
   2.3 Agendas shall be put together by officers in conjunction with the Chairman.
   2.4 Meetings will not necessarily be open to the public, but all minutes will be available once adopted by the parent committee.
   2.5 Minutes will be made available to all members and the general public on request. They will be prepared by officers unless other arrangements have been made.
   2.6 The general Terms of Reference can be expanded for any group if required to enable the completion of a project. Any additional Terms of Reference will be adopted by the parent committee.

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Agenda

Parks Working Group

1. **Membership**

   To consider and appoint membership and Chair of the Working Group.

2. **Terms of Reference**

   To consider aims of the Working Group and Terms of Reference particular to the Working Group

3. **The Way Forward**

   Open the meeting to ideas and suggestions and discussion.

4. **Next Steps**

   To consider actions to be taken.

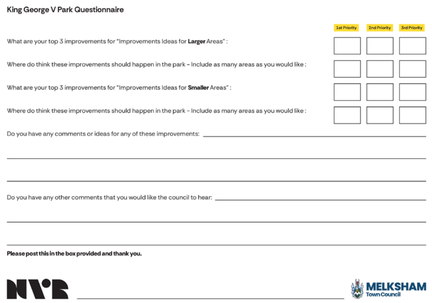
Masterplan Consultation 2026
King George V Park

Introduction

This masterplan has been comissioned as an update to the one created in 2018. The following consultation has been undertaken with the town:

1. Consultation in the park in February 2026
2. Consultatoin in the hub, via a 'letter box'
3. Consultation publicised on the website and Facebook for an onlne version of the questionnaires





King George V Park Questionnaire

	1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority
What are your top 3 improvements for "Improvements Ideas for **Larger** Areas" :			
Where do think these improvements should happen in the park - Include as many areas as you would like :			
What are your top 3 improvements for "Improvements Ideas for **Smaller** Areas" :			
Where do think these improvements should happen in the park - Include as many areas as you would like :			

Do you have any comments or ideas for any of these improvements: _____

Do you have any other comments that you would like the council to hear: _____

Please post this in the box provided and thank you.

NYR _____ MELKSHAM Town Council

Use of Consultation

The results of the consultation have been compiled to create the lists below which are intended to be used to prioritise the improvements discussed. There may be some low-cost improvments or funding available for specifc types of improvements that enable improvements to be implemented earlier, that might be further down the list. They have been grouped into three groups, based on the numbers of votes as seen here.

These colours are applied to the projects listed on the final two pages.

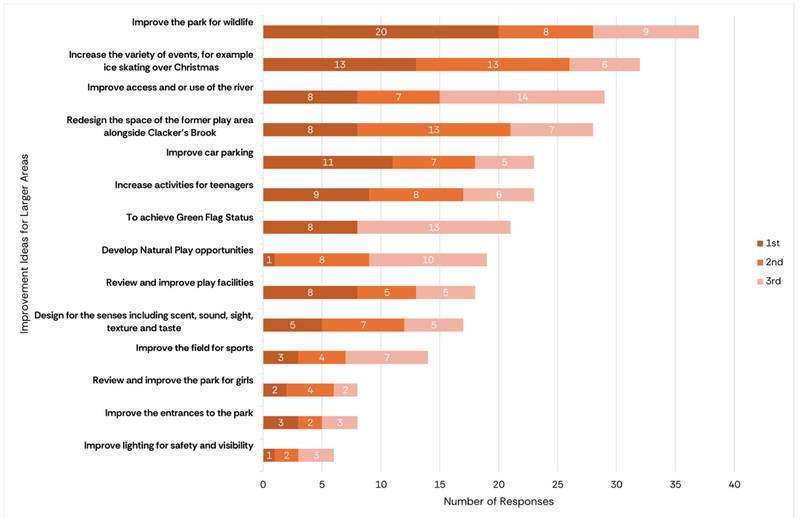
High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

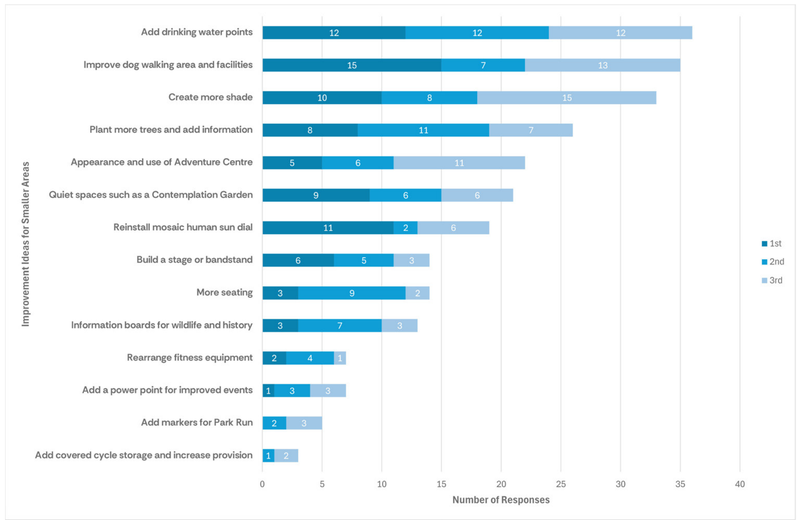
Improvements Ideas for Larger Areas

1. Add drinking water points
2. Improve dog walking area and facilties
3. Create more shade
4. Plant more trees and add information
5. Appearance and use of Adventure Centre
6. Quiet spaces such as a Contemplation Garden
7. Reinstall mosaic human sun dial
8. Build a stage or bandstand
9. More seating
10. Information boards for wildlife and history
11. Rearrange fitness equipment
12. Add a power point for improved events
13. Add markers for Park Run
14. Add covered cycle storage and increease provision



Improvement Ideas for Smaller Areas

1. Improve the park for wildlife
2. Increase the variety of events (for example ice skating over Christmas
3. Improve access and use of the river
4. Redesign the space of the former play area alongside Clacker's Brook
5. Improve car parking
6. Increase activities for teenagers
7. To achieve Green Flag Status
8. Develop Natural Play Opportunities
9. Review and improve play facilities
10. Design for the senses including scent, sound, sight, texture and taste
11. Improve the field for sports
12. Review and improve the park for girls
13. Improve the entrances to the park
14. Improve lighting for safety and visibility





Masterplan 2026-2036
King George V Park

Project Legend

These are listed in order or left to right (west to east) on the plan. The coloured boxes represent the priorities based on the consultation feedback. There are more than one box on projects that address more than one idea.

1. Entrances
2. Riverside Walk
3. Riverside Garden
4. Entrance Area
5. Reinstate Mosaic Tiles
6. Petanques (Boules)
7. Tree Planting and Shade
8. Teenage Improvements
9. Adventure Centre Improvements
10. Playing Field Grass Improvements
11. Clacker's Brook Wetland Area
12. Car Park Improvements
13. Bandstand and Additional Events
14. Outdoor Gym/ Fitness Equipment
15. Drinking Water and Cycle Storage

All of these would contribute to improving the green flag status of the park, so this priority is spread across all 15 projects.



Key

- Primary Entrances
- Secondary Entrances
- Street Signs
- Tree Planting and Shade
- New Paths
- Board-Walks
- New or Re-marked car parking
- Teenage Facilities
- Wetland Areas
- River Platforms
- New Power Connections

Masterplan Projects
King George V Park

1 Entrances
1a Primary Entrances – The existing entrance from Lowbourne is a clear threshold/ gateway. The council proposes to install gateway features at all three main entrances to increase the awareness of the park, sense of arrival by defining the 'thresholds' more clearly and to unify the park. Signs directing new visitors to the park are proposed to guide visitors into the park from Bath Road and Lowbourne.
1b Secondary Entrances – These are primarily pedestrian access points that are to have smaller gateway features to reinforce the sense of arrival to the park at the larger number of access points.



Image Credit: TBC

Image Credit: TBC

Image Credit: TBC

2 Riverside Walk
To widen and re-surface the existing path for improved access to both the park and the river. This will include benches, platforms for viewing and information boards on nature and history over time.


Image Credit: Greenspace Designs Ltd.


Image Credit: Greenspace Designs Ltd.

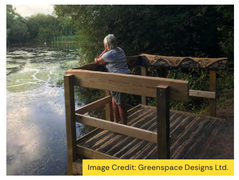


Image Credit: Greenspace Designs Ltd.

3 Riverside Garden
The area alongside the river is naturally a more quiet area due to the sound of water and less traffic. The space between the Riverside Club and toilets is proposed to be designed as a garden space that can be used for contemplation, to stimulate the senses, meet, talk and be. The council will develop the detailed design of this space with community groups for both design input and to create the garden. This garden is similar to the Sensory Garden that was proposed previously, but the sound of the road is significant which led to the riverside location being considered. The ground is relatively flat, with good access, which would mean it would be accessible to all. It would also bring the park further towards the town centre and reinforce the sense of arrival to the park.







4 Entrance Area
The area next to the toilets is to be improved with the following aspirations. To reinstate some of the car parking to the south of the space, creating a generous and welcoming pedestrian area leading into the park and a number of routes. The additional parking is intended to reduce pressure on the car park accessed from Lowbourne and to improve access to the park. This area would include signs to guide visitors to facilities in the park. Trees and planting within rain gardens would be included to reduce the 'sea of tarmac' and reduce flood risk extending the character of a park further and make it a space in its own right.









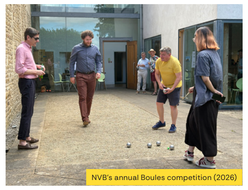
5 Reinstate Mosaic Tiles
The mosaic tiles that the town created for the human sun dial are currently in storage, having been previously located near entrance on Lowbourne. A number of the tiles were in poor repair when they were recovered, due to exposure to the weather and use (being walked on). To prevent further deterioration of the mosaics they are proposed to be installed on the toilet block, possibly in the areas in white below, so they can't be walked on, won't have water freezing and thawing on them, a form of weathering, can be appreciated more whilst improving the appearance of the toilet block, adding to the sense of arrival and pride in the park.







6 Petanques (Boules)
The area beside the toilets is suited to installing a Petanque Piste (Boules Court), which is a low-cost facility, being gravel, that can be used flexibly as needed. Examples of this locally are in Queen's Square Bath and at NVB's offices in Frome, where the piste is used for both petanque and many other the events which place tables and chairs, marquees etc. This activity is more quiet and therefore in-keeping with the Riverside Garden and Entrance Area.


NVB's annual Boules competition (2026)


Flexible use of petanque court.


Flexible use of petanque court.

7 Tree Planting and Shade
Planting trees around the central playing field in two patterns: A. A natural, informal pattern with groups and individual trees of a mixture of species, including Oak, for greater resilience to climate change and to reinforce the character of the existing trees in the park which are not in formal patterns. These will provide shade over time as well as wildlife value and increase the character of a park; B. A line of trees to continue the Cherry trees planted in the last few years on the southern side of the playing field perimeter path. Canopies may be installed alongside the path next to the play area and splash pad to provide shade instantly.



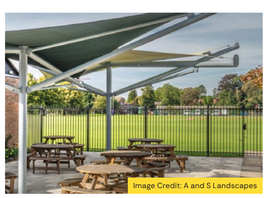


Image Credit: A and S Landscapes


Image Credit: A and S Landscapes

8 Teenage Improvements
8a. Increased facilities for teenagers, including particular attention to girls with careful consultation.
8b. To build a carefully designed informal games court with terraced seating up the sloping ground with multiple features that reduce the sense of a 'standard' court with fences on all sides and formal sport markings to make a truly inclusive space.


Image Credit: Horsham District Council


Image Credit: King's Cross Coal Drops Yard designed by Carve

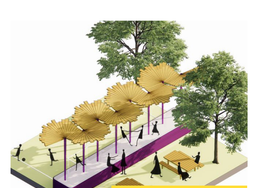


Image Credit: Make Space for Girls

Masterplan Projects
King George V Park

9 Adventure Centre Improvements
9A The council will continue to work with the adventure centre to develop the centre into a more vibrant and visually attractive part of the park. This will include seeking funding from external bodies with a focus on community.
9B The council is already working on a Well-Being Space - watch this space!
9C The Adventure Centre is located and designed for access to the river. Access to the river is to be extended in as many ways as the council and town can think of, such as during the Frome and River Festival.



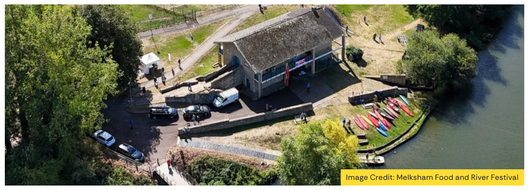



Image Credit: Melksham Food and River Festival

Image Credit: Melksham Town Council

10 Playing Field Grass Improvements
The condition of the central playing field is known to be of low quality. It drains poorly and is uneven. Both of these issues could be improved so that informal sports can take place for more of the year and in more safety and events would benefit with the soil being able to withstand more use and be more 'flat' to help temporary facilities to be sited. The types of improvements would be specified by a specialist and could include adding to the soil sand, lime, and/ or nutrients to improve the quality of the grass and drainage characteristics. The existing drainage pipes might need maintenance and areas could be re-graded to create an even surface.
The timing of this work would be undertaken to suit the seasons and annual cycle of events. They would mean areas of the grass would be inaccessible at times for safety for the work itself and to allow grass to establish or recover.

11 Clacker's Brook Wetland Area
This area floods regularly, which was why the play area was relocated. It is proposed to be re-landscaped to become a wetland area to make a feature of the flooding, helping with flood resilience, improving water quality and the park for wildlife. The flooding affects two paths that cross the space which the council would like to re-build as board-walks, including the path into the town centre that has been collapsing into the brook.

The area would likely have stream and pond-like features dug for water to flow into from the brook when it floods, so that more water is stored to protect areas of the town that are down-stream of the brook. Trees and wetland plants would be planted to increase the value to nature, absorb rainwater and protect the soil from erosion.

11a The area to the west, where the basketball hoop is currently, would be designed for natural and incidental play to introduce children to nature. Whether the space is fenced or simply signed with advice would be determined at detailed design stage to ensure risks are suitably assessed.

11b The dog walking area is proposed to remain in the area of the old play area, but will all the remnants of the play area removed, including the railings. New low fencing could be installed within low-level planting for a more natural appearance. The board-walk would then enclose another side of the space. This part of the wetland area has the larger space that floods less often, so can be used for the majority of the year. Benches, logs over earthworks and other features would likely be included to enrich the space for nature and dogs alike.







12 Car Park Improvements
12a The car park is shared with Rivermead School, although it is the council's. It would benefit from being reviewed due to its condition and layout. It could be expanded, now that the old maintenance building is no longer there, which would improve the use for the park and school. Hedges, fences and trees would be added to visually separate the car park from the park and create a more clearly defined edge to the park.
12b A new access track would be installed with a no-dig surface to ensure protection of the trees when vehicles need to access the field for events.

13 Bandstand and Additional Events
13a Options for the installation of a permanent bandstand will be explored and reviewed with the town. This will include size, design and location to ensure that it doesn't impact on other uses. This may require an increase in power supply in the park and could be used as a 'hub' for connections for the temporary events as well as for itself.
13b Power connections for events was installed around the eastern and northern sides of the playing field and were planned to be extended to the west. This will increase the functionality for events. Improved provision of services i.e. electric and data to better support the delivery of events and temporary stages


Image Credit: Melksham Food and River Festival
Image Credit: TBC
Image Credit: TBC

14 Outdoor Gym/ Fitness Equipment Rearrangement
The outdoor gym equipment has been a partial success due to arrangement and surfacing. It is proposed to relocate 4 pieces of equipment to create a 'cluster' with new surfacing. These images are to illustrate a group-space being used. The existing equipment will be moved.

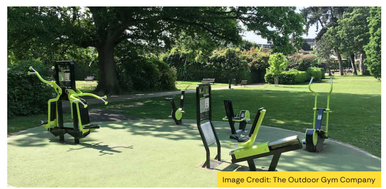


Image Credit: The Outdoor Gym Company

Image Credit: The Outdoor Gym Company

15 Drinking Water and Cycle Storage
A new 'water station' has been installaed recently. New drinking points and a cycle store will be added over time.

Image Credit: TBC
Image Credit: TBC

MEETING	DATE
Full Council	28/9/26
TITLE	AUTHOR(S)
KGV Masterplan	Hayley Bell

Report

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Report to Council: King George V Park Revised Master Plan

Prepared by NVB Studio for Melksham Town Council

1. Executive Summary

This report presents the revised 10-year master plan for King George V Park (KGV), prepared by NVB Studio, and invites Council to determine the next stage. The plan provides a practical, long-term framework for the park, reflecting completed improvements, current community needs, environmental priorities and the Council's ambition to work towards Green Flag status. It should remain a live and flexible document, reviewed and updated throughout the 10-year period as circumstances, priorities, evidence and funding change.

Councillors are asked to determine whether the revised master plan should be adopted. The plan has not yet been costed for delivery. Before any decision on adoption is made, officers must therefore prepare robust capital and ongoing cost estimates, identify potential funding sources, and produce a clear, phased project delivery plan and associated financial plan for the full 10-year period.

2. Background

The original NVB master plan was issued in March 2019 following site surveys, stakeholder engagement and two phases of public consultation. It established a 10–15 year development strategy for the park and was intended to remain a live document capable of responding to changing Council priorities and community needs.

In November 2025, Council approved the appointment of NVB to develop the next stage of the master plan. The brief included an actionable route towards Green Flag recognition, a park fit for the future and alignment with the Council's long-term vision. The programme included a Council walk-round and workshop, preparation of consultation material, public engagement and production of the revised plan.

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3. Engagement and Consultation

Initial Council engagement took place in January 2026. NVB then prepared consultation boards and a questionnaire to gather views on priorities and preferred locations for future improvements. Public consultation was promoted from 30 March 2026 for two weeks, with online participation and wider community communication.

Previous Council survey evidence recorded that 66% of respondents used King George V Park most frequently, while 22% would prioritise it over other parks. This supports the need for a clear, transparent and deliverable plan for continued investment. The final consultation analysis should accompany, or be appended to, the published revised master plan.

4. Strategic Context

- Town Plan: supports the commitment to publish a long-term master plan balancing recreation, biodiversity and community use.
- Green Flag: provides a spatial and strategic basis for progressing standards in management, safety, environmental stewardship and community engagement.
- Health and wellbeing: protects and improves a central location for play, informal recreation, parkrun, Park Yoga, events and social connection.
- Accessibility and inclusion: creates a framework for ensuring routes, facilities, information and future projects are welcoming to users of different ages and needs.
- Climate resilience and biodiversity: enables landscape, tree, habitat, drainage and river-edge matters to be considered together.

5. Key Considerations

5.1 Status of the Master Plan

The master plan is an advisory strategic document prepared by NVB Studio for consideration by elected members. It sets out a 10-year framework for King George V Park, rather than a fixed programme of works, and should be reviewed and updated at appropriate points throughout that period to reflect changing Council priorities, community needs, site conditions, funding availability, professional advice and completed projects. Any decision to adopt it belongs to Council collectively and does not transfer responsibility for its content or priorities to officers. No proposal identified in the plan may proceed without a separate

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member decision where required, appropriate technical work, procurement, permissions, confirmed funding and an approved budget.

6.2 Planning, Land and Environmental Constraints

King George V Playing Field is protected as public recreational space through Fields in Trust arrangements. Proposals must also respond to flood risk associated with the River Avon and Clackers Brook, existing trees and habitats, access requirements, neighbouring uses and any necessary planning or regulatory consents. Early engagement with relevant bodies will be required as individual projects are developed.

6.3 Operations and Management

Officers will continue to manage the park in accordance with delegated authority, statutory duties, health and safety requirements, approved budgets and operational priorities. The master plan must not restrict reasonable day-to-day decisions or require officers to implement a particular concept where circumstances, evidence, affordability or professional advice indicate that a different approach is appropriate. Any future management plan or action plan should therefore remain capable of review and adjustment.

7. Financial and Resource Implications

The revised 10-year master plan has not yet been costed for delivery. Before Council adopts it, members should receive a clear project plan and financial plan covering the full programme. This should include indicative capital costs, ongoing revenue and maintenance costs, officer capacity, funding options, dependencies, risks, priorities, phasing and decision gateways, together with arrangements for periodic review and updating. In the absence of this work and confirmed budget provision, adoption should be deferred or expressly limited to noting the document for future consideration. Adoption would not authorise expenditure on individual projects, each of which must remain subject to the Council's normal budget, procurement and approval processes.

8. Risks and Mitigations

Risk	Mitigation
Expectations exceed available funding	Publish clear priorities, indicative phasing and decision gateways.

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Projects proceed without full technical evidence	Complete surveys, feasibility work and statutory consultation before approval.
Future maintenance is unaffordable	Assess whole-life costs and include revenue provision in each business case.
Environmental, flood or land restrictions delay delivery	Engage relevant authorities and Fields in Trust early and maintain constraints register.
Community confidence is reduced	Publish consultation findings, explain decisions and report progress regularly.

9. Recommendations

Councillors are asked to consider and determine whether:

1. To receive and consider the revised King George V Park master plan prepared by NVB Studio, noting that responsibility for its content remains with the consultant and that the decision to adopt, amend, defer or reject it rests with Council.
2. Before any decision on adoption, to note that the 10-year master plan has not yet been costed for delivery and to require officers to present a clear, phased project delivery plan and financial plan, including estimated capital and ongoing costs, funding options, risks, dependencies, priorities and arrangements for review and updating throughout the 10-year period; if sufficient information or budget provision is not available, adoption should be deferred or the document noted without adoption.
3. If adopted, to confirm that the master plan is a flexible 10-year strategic guide for KGV, to be reviewed and updated throughout its lifespan, that it does not approve individual projects or expenditure, and that officers retain operational discretion while each proposal follows the Council's normal governance, budget and approval processes.

Decision Required

That Council approves the recommendations set out in section 9 of this report.