

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Melbourn Parish Council, Melbourn Community Hub, 30 High Street, Melbourn,
Cambridgeshire, SG8 6DZ

Annual Report : Index

Agenda Item:	Page:
Annual Report from The Chair of Melbourn Parish Council - Cllr Clark	1
Reports from the Committees and Working Parties of the Parish Council	
a) Planning Committee	3
b) Finance & Good Governance Committee	4
c) Maintenance Committee	5
d) HR Panel	6
e) Futures Working Party	7
f) Skate Park Working Party	8
g) MAYD Joint Committee	9
h) Melbourn Timebank	10
i) Website Working Party (dormant)	11
j) Melbourn Play Parks Working Party (dormant)	12
To receive reports from the Parish Council representatives on Village Charities and Other Organisations:	
a) Triggs Charity (Phil Stewart)	13
b) Martins Charity (Parish Clerk)	14
c) John Clear Almshouses (Mavis Howard)	15
d) Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme (Jeannie Sears)	16
e) Melbourn Community Hub (John Travis)	18
f) Melbourn & Meldreth Lunch Club (Jeannie Sears)	26
g) Grants awarded in 2023/2024 and how the money was spent:	
1) Melbourn Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club	27
2) Melbourn Dynamos Football Club	31
3) Melbourn Fete Committee	33
4) Melbourn Area Youth Development (MAYD)	34
5) Melbourn Football Club	35
6) Melbourn Primary School (MPS) PTFA	36
7) 1 st Orwell Scout Group	37
8) St George's Allotment Association, Melbourn	38
9) Turn on to Christmas	40
10) Relate	41
11) Melbourn Action Community Support	42
12) Melbourn Squash Club	43
13) Community Support for Dementia	44
14) Home-Start Royston	45
15) John Impey Way Residents	47
Report from District Councillors Hales and Hart	48
Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillor Van de Ven	53
Annual Community Awards	56

Annual report from the Chair of Melbourn Parsh Council, May 2024

I would like to start this year's report by saying thank you to all of our staff for the professional standards that have been maintained and the excellent work that has been done. The office has not been without challenges to deal with this year. Our Clerk Sophie Marriage resigned to pursue alternative goals. We thank her for all of her hard work and the improvements made during her time as Clerk. We successfully recruited two new assistants to the Clerk, last April both of the new assistants worked alongside Sophie until she left us. Abigail Williams and Alex Coxall have both thrown themselves into their roles with enthusiasm and started to make contributions to the efficiency of the office from the beginning. They have both already obtained their ILCA qualifications and will be undertaking the CILCA course and exams when eligible to do so this September. Our RFO Shelley Coulman has also been busy with exams having now obtained her FILCA. Shelley is also making a positive contribution to the Parish Council, she has been actively involved with reviewing our systems and is currently managing an upgrade of software to improve the efficiency of the office. With support from Abi and Alex.

We have also made changes to our warden arrangements Steve Pitman has been joined officially by Terry Muncey who was formerly recruited as a warden in August 2023. They are both flexible and adaptable turning their hands to many different challenges that occur within our village. In addition we have now created a new role of conservation warden, this role has been filled by Keith Rudge who was formerly one of our village wardens. Keith is currently working with others towards achieving nature reserve status for Stockbridge Meadows. This process is well under way now and we are hoping that before too long Stockbridge Meadows will be awarded the designation. This will enable us to both protect the area and get the benefits that are associated with a nature reserve.

We have also seen a steady increase in our Timebank arrangements. There are many gatherings and initiatives. This group of local residents is steadily growing under the management of Stephanie Trayhurn and is proving a real benefit to local villagers and wider community.

I am also pleased to report that since we introduced the MVAS cameras in the village we have started to see a decline in speeding. More cars, vans and lorries are travelling slower and a large number are adhering to the new 20 MPH speed limit. We still have a way to go and there are still issues around speeding, but we are clearly moving in the right direction. So a big thank you to the responsible drivers who are supporting this very important process, of making Melbourn a safer place for all road users and pedestrians.

Our Futures group has been re activated with a number of areas to review. We hope that we will be able to introduce some more positive changes which will benefit the village continuing to make it a safe place to live and work. We will be reviewing road safety around the College and Primary School, looking at ways we can improve road safety here, if possible. This will be with the help of our County and District Councillors.

Moving onto activities for our younger residents we, through the MAYD committee, have now introduced the Connections Bus. This is a hop on hop off arrangement for young people with onboard activities. This is a once a week, during term time, activity for a couple of hours. The uptake has been very encouraging. The bus provides a safe space for our young people to meet up and enjoy activities with friends and enables them to make new friends. The bus arrives at the College where it parks up for the duration. We have further introduced through MAYD the Mix Music DJ workshop, which is again a once a week initiative at the pavilion. This enables young people to learn about DJ processes again this is proving to be successful as well. We will be continuing to look at ways we can support our young people with safe and interesting projects.

Unfortunately this year we have seen a couple of major issues which in one case has caused a serious financial cost to the Parish Council. The dome seating area at the back of the football pitches was deliberately set on fire. Resulting in the fire brigade having to be called out. This was a clear case of vandalism. Damaging property in this way deprives residents of an area to sit and relax. The cost of repair as mentioned earlier will be extensive. Secondly we had an episode of setting off fireworks in an uncontrolled manner causing concern for walkers and in some cases their dogs. Both of these incidents were reported to the police. We should not be seeing this type of behaviour in our village. I am asking, please do not undertake this type activity, it spoils the village for all, thank you.

Finally as mentioned last year I would like to remind residents that we still have some vacancies on the Parish Council. If you are interested in our village and what goes on, please get in touch with the Parish Office about joining the Council and help to make a difference.

Cllr Graham Clark - Chairman of Melbourn Parish Council

Planning Committee

Working Party Name / Title	Melbourn Parish Council Planning Committee
Members of public and how many	N/A
Meeting dates to present	<p>2023: 12 June, 10 July, 14 August, 11 September, 9 October, 13 November, 11 December</p> <p>2024: 8 January, 12 February, 11 March, 8 April, 7 May(not held at date of report)</p>
Overview / Report of what Working Party has been doing to date	<p>Consider all planning applications submitted within the bounds of the Parish and larger applications close to the borders. Support or object to the applications on good planning grounds and make comments on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> <p>In the year 2023/24, the Planning Committee considered 72 planning applications – including tree works and multiple Discharge of Conditions applications for the major developments within the village. We have supported the majority of applications with or without comment, and submitted objections to 10 applications. The planning committee has also considered the land transfers of open spaces in the major developments.</p> <p>There have been 43 Notifications of Decisions received from the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) – a large increase on last year – of which 6 differed from the MPC Planning Committee’s choice. In each of these six cases, the GCSP overturned our objections – this included the Bruntwood SciTech development and two street trading licences.</p> <p>We raised objections at District Planning and District Licensing committee meetings in accordance with representing the villagers’ views. All three of these were approved by SCDC.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Continue to monitor all applications within the Parish – especially the larger applications and hold existing developments to account where Conditions are not being met.

Prepared byCllr Steve Kilmurray, Chair of MPC Planning Committee

Finance & Good Governance Committee

Working Party Name / Title	Finance & Good Governance
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	Max 7 Cllrs. No members of the public
Meeting dates to present	2023 19 June, 6 November, 18 December 2024 18 March
Overview / Report of what Committee has been doing to date	<p>Reviewing Parish Council spending to ensure value for money.</p> <p>Review income streams (Cemeteries, Little Hands, match fees for football pitches, Pavilion rental and allotments).</p> <p>Reviewing the annual budget and recommending the precept to Full Council.</p> <p>Regular review of policies.</p> <p>Monitoring of the Asset Register and the Asset Management Reserve.</p> <p>Verifying all statutory information is published.</p> <p>Review effectiveness of the internal and external audits.</p> <p>Checking the quarterly VAT refund has been submitted.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Continue to review all activities of the PC to ensure good governance and prudent finance.

Prepared by Cllr. Steve Kilmurray and Cllr. Muhilan Kanagarathnam
(Ex-Chair and Chair of F&GG Committee)

Maintenance Committee

Working Party Name / Title	Maintenance Committee
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	3 members of the public and some MPC employees.
Meeting dates to present	20 April 2023, 18 May 2023, 15 June 2023, 17 August 2023, 14 September 2023, 19 October 2023, 14 December 2023, 18 January 2024, 15 February 2024, 14 March 2024
Overview / Report of what Committee has been doing to date	<p>The Committee continued throughout the year addressing routine and non-routine maintenance issues both planned and some emergencies. This included all general maintenance contracts for the servicing of village green spaces and public parks</p> <p>The operating budget was notably underspent over the year although some unplanned overbudget spends had been needed.</p> <p>A significant project was undertaken to correct and re-install a faulty foul drain serving the Littlehands Nursery. The job was completed very satisfactorily although incurring over-spend due to the discovery and subsequent safe removal of large quantities of asbestos that had been used for hard core in the area affected.</p> <p>Two conservation projects were progressed,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An application was made to formally designate Stockbridge Meadows as a legally recognised Nature Reserve. Ratification is awaited. 2. Through a partnership with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group East (FWAG) funding access has been agreed to promote a wild pond restoration in Stockbridge Meadows. <p>The Dynamos Football Club secured £45k of pitch improvement funding and the added work schedules have been successfully incorporated into the MPC routine grounds maintenance programme.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	To follow up and complete the projects noted above

Working Party/Panel report to Annual Parish Council Meeting:

Working Party Name / Title	HR Panel
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	No members of public 4 Councillors (Max 5)
Meeting dates to present	The HR Panel meets approximately monthly and more frequently when responding to recruitment and appraisal/performance management duties. Zoom meetings continue to be used to facilitate HR Panel contact, but staff appraisals and performance review meetings are in person. (The HR Panel take the lead on Clerk and Financial Officer reviews and a representative is present at meetings where the Clerks takes the lead).
Overview / Report of what the HR Panel has been doing to date	In line with our Terms of Reference, the HR Panel, in consultation with the Clerk, identified the need for a part time (7 hours per week), Conservation Warden to pro-actively design a schedule of works for specific areas in the village. This role was filled by one of the existing wardens and we successfully recruited another experienced warden to fill the gap. Following a performance review, it became apparent that the work of the Time Bank Co-ordinator had grown considerably in the last 3 years. A recommendation was therefore made to full council to increase the hours from 14 to 20 and we are in the process of agreeing an updated job-title that reflects the evolution of the role. Following the resignation of the Clerk at the end of June, an exit interview was completed in late August, and it highlighted how much the Clerk had enjoyed her time with Melbourn Parish Council. During the notice period the role was advertised using a variety of outlets, however these did not lead to applications. Following discussions, both Assistant Clerks agreed to take on the role and be mentored by the existing Clerk. Both completed their probationary reviews as joint Clerks at the beginning of 2024. Ongoing support from experienced Clerks is still available and a member of the HR Panel has monthly meetings to identify any concerns or areas that require support.
Any future proposals of what they are going to do.	To identify another Councillor to join the HR panel and to continue to support the Clerks via regular meetings with a member of the panel. To update policies with reference to MPC published policy review schedule and advice updates from Clerks.

Prepared by: Sally Ann Hart – Chair HR Panel

Futures Working Party

Working Party Name / Title	Futures working party
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	Initially we had 4 members of the public in the group. In addition we had Melbourns County Councillor and 5 Parish Councillors
Meeting dates to present	The group ceased to meet after completing the initiatives set. 2021/23. The working party is being re established, the first meeting will be on the 25th April 2024.
Overview / Report of what Working Party has been doing to date	<p>The working party was instrumental in getting MVAS cameras in the village and establishing a 20MPH village speed limit. The group was also actively involved in the road calming measures introduced on New Road. Furthermore there was an active involvement in identifying the lack of road markings within the village. This has resulted in a number of areas being refreshed to assist with road safety within the boundaries of Melbourn.</p> <p>The group is also involved with introducing Gateway arrangements within the village with road calming information. This will be established early in the summer of 2024.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	<p>The group will now be looking at the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Road safety around the Primary school and the college. b) Introducing a visual road map of Melbourn c) Reviewing further the areas of no parking within the village d) Replacing faded road markings.

Prepared by ...Cllr G Clark.....

Skate Park Working Party

Working Party Name / Title	Skate Park Working Party
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	Up to 4 Members of the public, Plus up to 4 Council members
Meeting dates to present	This working party is being reestablished. We will have a meeting every 2 months. Commencing April 2024.
Overview / Report of what Working Party has been doing to date	We initially set a group up and issued a questionnaire to the village a very limited response from the public. We are reconvening the group again commencing in April 2024. One of our first initiatives will be to undertake a village wide survey to ensure we understand the feeling for such a project within Melbourn.
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Depending upon the findings of the survey we will determine the way forward. One of the key issues for the group is identifying a suitable location to build a skate park. We have a few locations where Melbourn Parish Council owns the land, but the issue is suitability.

Prepared by ...Cllr G Clark.....

MAYD Joint Committee

Working Party Name / Title	Melbourn Area Youth Development (Joint Committee) MAYD
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	No lay public, but does include Parish Councillors from Shepreth, Meldreth and Foxton, District and County Councillors from Cambridgeshire, Youth delivery contractors and representation from Cambridge County Youth Services
Meeting dates to present	10 May 2023, 25 August 2023
Overview / Report of what Committee has been doing to date	<p>It has been a year of change and generally successful experimenting with alternative youth service options.</p> <p>Groundwork East, who had been the agent delivering Youth Services for some years was dropped through decision at the May 2023 meeting due to (a) the much-increased cost of the contract (b) very disappointing levels of uptake by young people. Groundwork were thanked for loyal support, especially through the Covid pandemic when service provision was either online or very restricted.</p> <p>Instead, two other ideas were implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A DJ 'Workshop' to be run out of the pavilion on The Moor. This was advertised via a taster session and has convened every week with great success. It attracts a range of ages and abilities, teaching personal confidence and skills in a supportive setting. 2. The Connections Bus was contracted as a mobile youth club service, using the MVC frontage as a weekly parking site. This has proven a major success from the perspective of young people with high numbers attending. There is also excellent feedback from youth workers and parents. <p>Unfortunately, some added noise and high spirits, probably associated indirectly with the Bus visits, has created some local resident pushback which is under close review.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do.	It is planned to continue with the present two youth service options

Timebank



Highlights

MACS receive **Community Award** for Food Bank and Cozy Corner introduction

Volunteer **Party** held in June

Community Support for Dementia trip to **Felixstowe** x 2 June and August

Dog Café **2 year** anniversary in September

Doggie Disco introduced on Monday evenings monthly & renamed Doggie Happy Hour

Macmillan Tea party held at Cozy Corner raised £170 October

MACS

Food Bank serves an average of **16** customers per week

Cozy Corner has **30** visitors per week

17 Hot lunches served per week

Supports **MPS & MVC** with breakfast items

Big Picnic attended by 38 people **August**

'Trusted Partner Status awarded in November '23 – **49** applications in total processed including **8** for Meldreth and reapproved in **April '24**

Solo Sunday Lunches once per month

Memory Cafés each month supported by Timebank

Ukrainian Tea party x 2

'DanceAthon' raised **£1800** for **MACS** **November '23**

Christmas Craft Fairs raised **£300** for **MACS**

Christmas lunches x 2 for TB, Dog Café and Wellbeing Walk members

Well being Walk regularly has **20** attendees

Dementia workshop attended by TB Volunteers



On – going weekly & monthly activities

Mondays	Food Bank 10-12 and Cozy Corner 12-3 Games nights once per month	
Tuesday	Dog Café 10-12	
Wednesday	Wellbeing Walk 10.30	
Thursday	Coffee Morning and Food Bank 10-12 Cozy Corner 12-3.00	
Saturdays	Memory Cafes every month	
Sundays	Solo Lunch every month	

Membership

	April '23	March '24
Individual Members	120	138
Organisation Members	18	18

Total Hours exchanged

March '22	April '23
11,900	17,951

Website Working Party (dormant)

Working Party Name / Title	Website Working Party
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	None – Up to four Cllrs
Meeting dates to present	None.
Overview / Report of what Working Party has been doing to date	Currently dormant – will be reactivated when required.
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	None.

Prepared by ...Parish Clerk

Melbourn Play Parks Working Party (dormant)

Working Party Name / Title	Melbourn Play Parks Working Party
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	Up to five Cllrs and three members of the public.
Meeting dates to present	None.
Overview / Report of what Working Party has been doing to date	Currently dormant – will be reactivated when required.
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	None.

Prepared by ...Parish Clerk

Triggs's Charity

The Trigg's Charity was set up in 1821 by John Trigg of Melbourn who left £2,000 for the establishment of a school for poor children in Melbourn, Meldreth and a six mile radius in South Cambridgeshire. The school was held in a barn but in 1854 was superseded by an infant's school built by John Mortlock and the Trigg's Charity money was distributed in the form of prizes, Arithmetic or Woodwork for the boys and needlework for the girls.

Occasionally money was given for a scholarship to a Cambridge school. Nowadays, the money is more likely to be requested for library, classroom or playground equipment or computer accessories. Each year the charity is restricted to dispersing only the interest on our capital investment, so not huge sums.

The Trigg's Charity demands a moiety between the Melbourn and Meldreth Schools and the other schools in the area.

In 2023 the Trigg's Charity once again invited applications from the nine local schools eligible for grants through the online application form, which was once again well received by all who responded following the trial in 2022, as the application process was quick and simple. It also facilitated the review and award process for the trustees. The response rate was excellent, with all nine schools applying for a grant.

The trustees awarded grants of varying amounts totalling £6,000 to all nine schools who applied to support a number of exciting projects, including replacement IT equipment, school trips, reading books, picnic tables, trim trail and outdoor learning and forest school areas.

All payments were paid online for the first time, which was more efficient for both the charity and the schools.

The charity will be reaching out to the schools again this year to invite applications, and hopes for a similar high response rate and existing range of grant funded activities that the charity can at least in part help facilitate.

Phil Stewart

Treasurer and Secretary

On behalf of the Trigg's Charity

Annual Report on Martins Charity 2023

The opening balance on 1st April 2017 - £21.55

The closing balance on 31st March 2018 - £21.55

The Clerk

30 April 2024

FRANCIS JOHN CLEAR ALMSHOUSES

This is my FORTY EIGHTH Annual Report from the Trustees of the Almshouses to the Parish Council. Shall I make 50?

After the death of our longest stay resident last Christmas, and in the aftermath of the unauthorized alterations which she had carried out, we were at last able to do a major refit of no. 61. As I said last year, we shall in future carry out regular inspections of the properties. When no. 61 was almost finished I took the opportunity of inviting members of the Parish Council to come and have a look round the apartment – something which has never happened before in my memory. Unfortunately only Cllr John Travis was able to come but the Clerk and two deputy clerks came and I am sure they will have reported favourably on the accommodation.

We had no trouble in appointing licencees and are happy to report that they are all very content with their homes and all seem to be on good terms.

Our team of skilled tradesmen have been kept busy during the past year, not only in no. 61 but also on a damp problem which arose and various minor repairs and so on. The boilers and smoke alarms are regularly checked, and we keep the front hedge well trimmed back.

During the year we were sad to receive the resignation of Eric Johnston, one of our long serving Trustees, due to ill health. At our AGM in January we appointed John Poley to take his place and he soon got stuck in to the job. Brenda Meliniotis was again voted in as our Chairman, she keeps a beady eye on everything and Arthur Alderton is still our treasurer. Our meetings are held in Hilary Docwra's house and we are fortunate to have her husband Vernon's surveying knowledge on hand when needed. I keep on pointing out that our centenary is getting closer and we should do something to mark the event, but the item gets shelved!

I am sure that you will agree that the Almshouses are as ever a credit to the village. This is my report in the 99th year since the Almshouses were built – any ideas for the Centenary?

Mavis Howard, March 2024

Melbourn & District Warden Scheme Annual Report (formerly Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme)



Supporting the elderly and mobility impaired to remain independent in their home.

Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme MMWS underwent a significant change during 2023/4!

Our well-regarded scheme was approached in late 2022 by Harston warden scheme which covered several villages from Barrington out to Grantchester, to ask if MMWS would take over their scheme to save it from closure, as the Harston scheme trustees wished to retire.

The merger was successfully achieved on 30th June 2023 and the seven MMWS trustees took over the governance of the now larger scheme, along with two existing wardens and their clients. Work was undertaken to bring the two charities together legally and operationally and to integrate the wardens and clients.

Given the more diverse geographical area now being covered, the scheme chose to change its brand title to 'Melbourn & District Warden Scheme' (MDWS) with a new logo (see above) and the day-to-day operational management is provided by the head warden within the team of ten wardens - plus a relief warden for absence cover.

The new MDWS scheme has 64 clients and offers its services in the villages of Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth, Whaddon, Barrington, Harston, Hauxton and Grantchester.

Services offered, include regular visits, daily phone calls, monitoring of health and safety, as well as providing practical errands, emotional support, and signposting to other services. The clients receive a regular internal scheme magazine that is produced by the team to connect clients, share stories, news and provide advice, fun quizzes and word searches.

At Christmas, we took the MDWS clients for a seasonal lunch outing at The Green Man in Shepreth and as you can imagine it was no mean feat transporting and supporting so many mobility impaired clients! The clients really enjoy these social occasions and another outing is planned with afternoon tea for the early summer.

A recent client survey undertaken, showed high satisfaction with our service (see word cloud attached). Data collected regularly, evidences the community and financial value add of our scheme.

The MDWS trustees have implemented a new long term financial strategy in this last year to counter the negative impact of the added funding challenges that lay ahead in order to protect this important community-based service, which is a lifeline for so many vulnerable people.

Jeannie Seers
Head Warden, Melbourn & District Warden Scheme

Client feelings cloud

brilliant service

excellent

making a difference

LESS LONELY

laughter

brightens my day

HELPFUL

supported

safer

more connected

friendship

amazing

makes me happy

Less worried

ALWAYS CHEERFUL

What MDWS clients say about us & how we make them feel

melbourn hub

annual report

2022/2023


*"for the community
by the community"*



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 [thehubmelbourn](https://www.facebook.com/thehubmelbourn)



John Travis



Jeannie Seers

Chair's Report

This report records the sustained progress made since last year in every aspect of the Hub business. As with the previous year there was steady improvement in trading income together with a very satisfactory expansion of services to the community. The outcome was a first proper annual trading surplus since the Hub opened in 2014.

The Scope

covers the Hub financial position as at September 30th 2023 together with a general review and assessment of Hub operational highlights to date.

Our Board of Directors

was unchanged from the prior year. The confidence and experience now shown by this group is undoubtedly a key factor driving the overall success of the Hub enterprise. The director team also continues to derive direct support from an additional core of key individuals without whom the business outcomes would be very different. Special thanks to all these amazing people!



Steve Kilmurray



Jonathan Berks



Linsey Craike



Jose Hales



The Staff Team

was further strengthened under the continuing leadership of Catering Manager Gemma Dowling. The staff group has developed into a well-motivated and very reliable unit. Frequent peaks of demand occur, with average Café sales having increased by roughly 50% compared to the immediate post pandemic period. The catering team deal professionally with this challenge.

The Community Library

continues to form a crucial element to the Hub portfolio of services. Volunteering for the Library is very popular with a team of almost 20 delivering routine lending services alongside in-person author events. This function is securely funded and consequently able to regularly refresh book stocks, retaining the interests of both young and older borrowers.

Room Hire

was slow to recover after the pandemic. However, the last year has seen a marked improvement. Partnership with the Meridian Primary Care Network allowed formalisation of the **Health at the Hub** project. A decision was taken to dedicate one ground floor meeting room for medical use, equipping this space to meet the needs of the NHS. The resulting block-booking provides a basic income platform to which other room hire revenue is added. Securing and increasing crucial links with the local GP practices has become a priority. The very positive impact of delivering community healthcare services from the Hub is recognised by both patients and clinicians.

Volunteers

remain the lifeblood of the Hub business model. Recruitment of café volunteers during the last year has proven more difficult for some reason and has not kept pace with the process of normal turnover. This shortfall is being addressed. However, the Hub has welcomed a notable number of young people this year to carry out Work Experience placements and volunteering for Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Public Events

provided some spectacular highlights during the year. The Coronation of King Charles III again gave an excuse for a Hub Street Party. This was a major success resulting from wonderful teamwork with the Parish Council and crucial support from several other Melbourn community organisations. In addition, **Turn On To Christmas** returned after a gap created by the pandemic, together with a number of Craft Fairs and live Music from our brilliant local band MEGSON.

Marketing and Promotion

has had more attention this year. Steps have been taken to re-define and refresh the Marketing Plan as part of an overall Business Plan rewrite. Hub social media channels have been made more prominent with news and general information being completely up to date, alongside regular articles and advertising for three local magazines. The Hub website has continued to improve, in particular with a much-improved response to internet searches.

A Customer Satisfaction Survey

was carried out in some depth with very satisfying results. Of those surveyed 97% stated they would recommend the Hub to others. It was also a great opportunity to seek ideas from the community on the ways that the Hub can provide even more benefits to the locality.

The Future Outlook

remains optimistic. Management processes are becoming more finely tuned and more effective. Trading levels continue to increase. Services are expanding, particularly with the now proven healthcare offer through the Hub's partnership with the Meridian Primary Care Network. Ensuring this relationship is secured and financed into future years is extremely important to the future of the Hub and the community it serves.

John Travis





A Coronation Street Party!



The Coronation of King Charles III was a perfect excuse for Melbourn to celebrate.

Following a similar pattern to the Platinum Jubilee Street Party that happened during 2022 the Hub and its many partners put on a magnificent day of joy and entertainment. The High Street was closed to traffic to allow the erection of two huge marquees. Live music was provided all day supplemented by stalls serving burgers and hot dogs, beer and soft drinks while the Hub provided constant supplies of cake, teas and coffees.

A particular favourite was the 'street games' where families, in teams of four, competed over obstacle courses wearing (of course) an inflatable crown for the occasion!

The weather was perfect and the entire event was a major success.

There were simply too many people to thank in full for helping, but the Hub was and remains incredibly grateful to all the staff, partner organisations and volunteers who helped make this such a very special event. And – even more importantly – to the many hundreds who came along to celebrate and make it such a warm, friendly and memorable day.



Health at the Hub

A Collaboration with the NHS

Health at The Hub was formally launched at a Hub public event in mid 2022. A year and half later this initiative has delivered on its initial promise, becoming a key part of the portfolio of services delivered from the Hub to local communities. The partnership between the Hub and the Meridian Primary Care Network (PCN), together with financial support received from the Integrated Care Board (ICB), has allowed the original vision to become reality.

Proper funding and amazing co-operation between these organisations allowed the permanent conversion of ground-floor Hub facilities into fully equipped professional clinical space. The six GP practices that form the PCN group can call on this resource, with the Melbourn surgery unsurprisingly being the most prominent user. While the dedicated clinical room is block-booked to the NHS, related healthcare services now regularly spread into other Hub areas, such as social prescribers and wellness coaching.

Dedicated clinical activities now established include a **Nursing Clinic** providing phlebotomy services, suture removal, dressing changes, B12 injections BP and health reviews. During a recent three-month period 632 patients accessed Nurse appointments at the Hub.

Another success has been the provision of First Contact Physiotherapy services from the Hub allowing patients to be seen promptly for assessment. Over six months 310 individuals have been treated with excellent feedback

Over the last 12 months the Meridian Personalised Care Team have seen 342 patients, some of whom have gone on to make appointments and access other practitioners to improve their health. The Melbourn surgery has conducted regular nurse-led COPD reviews and in partnership with the PCN held an on-site



COPD workshop attended by 59 people.

Meridian have also implemented a GP led **Menopause Café** to great success with over 75 women having been seen over 9 sessions.

Last but not least, the Hub has been a preferred venue for the **NHS Vaccinators on Tour** team who delivered more than 5000 Covid vaccinations in Melbourn during 2023.

The café setting and related Hub services helps all patients feel welcome, relaxed and comfortable.

The Melbourn Hub is also the perfect home to an additional range of community support functions that complement the activities of the PCN. These include the addressing of loneliness and isolation, mental health consultation, dementia services, Mobile Warden schemes, Citizens Advice, Relate and a Community Library. The central village location and adjacent free parking also make it ideal for NHS patient access.

Health at the Hub is clearly set to go from strength to strength!



Financial summary

The summary table shows income and expenditure comparing financial years ending September 2022 and September 2023.

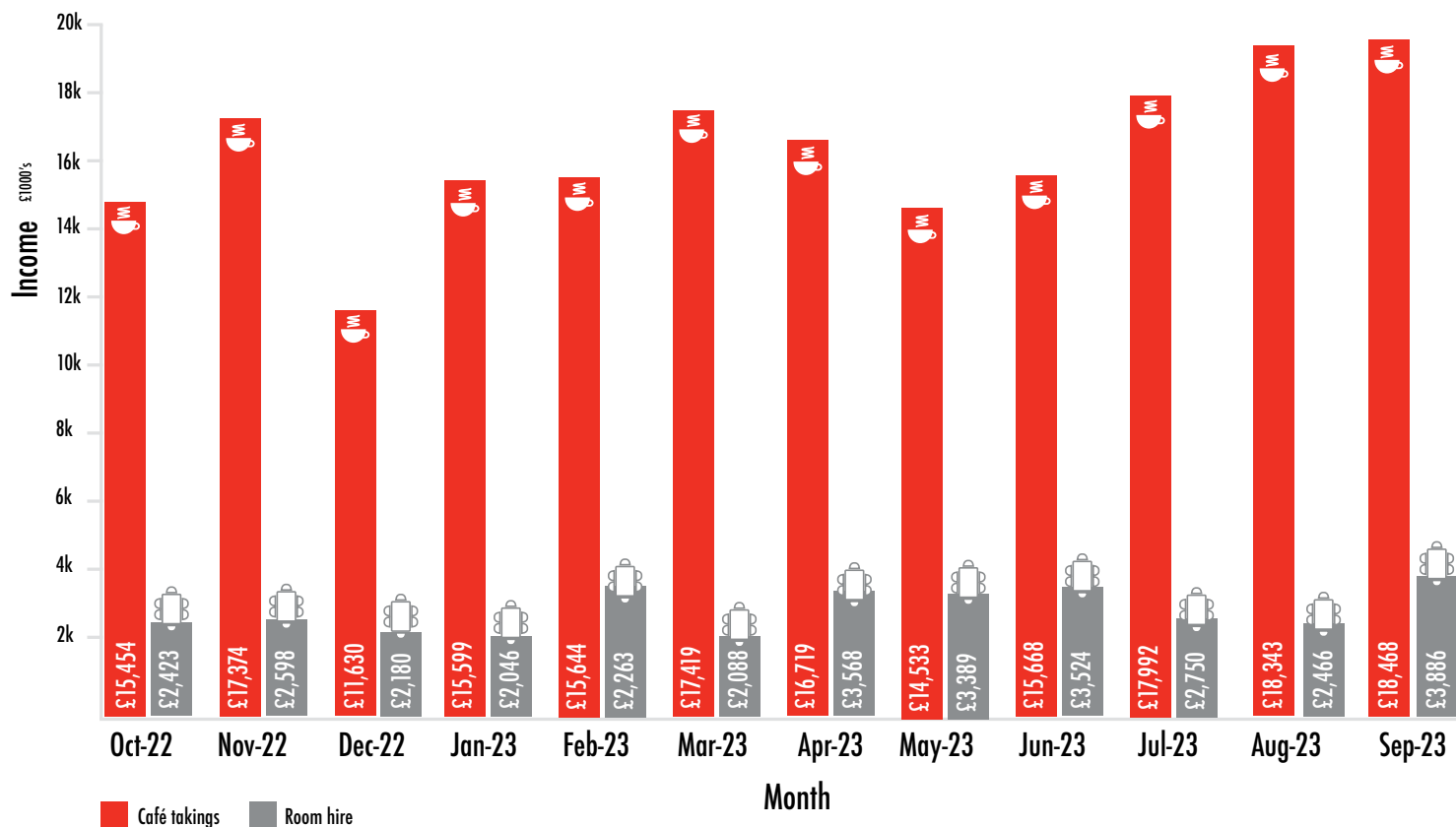
This financial year saw a strong growth in both Café sales and Room hire income, with a 52% increase in total income over the previous year. The room hire benefitted from the income from NHS lettings as noted elsewhere in this Report.

The income from café sales is now consistent throughout the year. We have to once again praise the total dedication of staff and volunteers for managing this strong growth in performance.

Income	2023	2022
Café and Events	£198,870	£131,187
Room hire	£33,181	£13,630
MPC Licence fee	£13,850	£13,400
Government grants	-	£2,667
Donations	£9,019	£5,784
Other income	£620	£5,037
Total income	£255,540	£171,705
Total expenditure	£236,998	£165,233
Profit for the year	£18,542	£6,472

Registered in England Company No: 08320569

Café sales and Room Hire income by month



Our People

a huge
Thank
You!

MELBOURN
hub

Directors and Trustees

Jonathan Berks
Linsey Craike
Jose Hales
Steve Kilmurray
Jeannie Seers
John Travis (Chair)

Administration & Support

Denis Bulgin
Ben Crundwell
Karen Kennard
Linda Samson
Pam Sole

Drivers

Paul Ray
Keith Trigg

Cleaning Staff

Debi Kester
Kim Lill
Emma Baker

Cleaning Staff *(who moved on to other things)*

Joe Littlewood
Sam Baker

Catering Staff

Lorraine Buckley
Jayne Clements
Sarah Curuk
Gemma Dowling (Manager)
Brodie Foy
Jenny Hartman
Jane Humphries
Hayley King
Max Laws
Lauren Nash
Sarah Roweth
Pratheeksha Sabu
Nadia Tomkins

Catering Staff *(who moved on to other things)*

Emma Alderton
McKenzie Coulman
Emily McCarthy Clements
Louise Harding

Library Volunteers

Joanne Abayasekara
Arthur Alderton
Viv Alsop
Janet Backer
Debby Brown
Vivienne Brown
Mary Cordiner
Sandra Dunn
Mandy Handscombe
Jane Hanson
Lynda Mitchell
Janet Molloy (Chair)
Siobhan Pitts
Maria Stapleton
Jane Stevens
Marilyn Symonds
Alison West

Café Volunteers

Sue Baker
Jean Brown
Mike Buckley
Barbara Clarke
Tina Davey
Vicky Deville
Sandra Dunn
Pat Fowl
Della Gibson
Annette Keclik
David Keclik
Jane Kirby
Pam Lambert
Pauline Mascall
Janet Molloy
Christine Newton
Liz Poulson
Stephanie Qadir
Chris Thomas
Tricia Willett



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melbournhub.co.uk

[thehubmelbourn](https://www.facebook.com/thehubmelbourn)



Designed by CWE Creative
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Melbourn Community Hub Management Group Registered Office: Melbourn
community Hub, 30 High Street, Melbourn, Cambs. SG8 6DZ
A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no. 8320569
Registered Charity no. 1152407

Lunch Club – Melbourn Hub

Annual Report 2023/24

Melbourn Hub provides a weekly lunch club for older residents, quite a few of whom are very mobility impaired and clients of Melbourn & District Mobile Warden Scheme.

The purpose of the lunch club is to enable people who have limited opportunity to socialise, to get out and meet others whilst enjoying a cooked meal.

The Lunch Club offers a bespoke subsidised two course lunch with tea or coffee and many of those attending benefit from transport to the Hub provided by kind volunteers who offer to drive them to The Hub, without which they would be unable to attend.

Membership remains at around 18 people as this is an optimum number to provide a suitable layout for the members needs in the available space.

The members look forward to their lunch and chat each week on a Tuesday and for some it is their only regular excursion.

It is with grateful thanks to Melbourn Parish Council for their financial contribution which helps towards keeping the meals at an affordable price for the members.

Jeannie Seers
Melbourn Hub Director

AFVBC Grant Report for Melbourn Parish Council

AFVBC grant awarded £255.60 (quote detail below)

Item	Detail	Quote
Banner	AFVBC (newtonnewtonflags.co.uk)	£ 86.00
Base	Heavy flat - 6 KG	£ 42.00
	<i>Banner + Base subtotal</i>	£ 128.00
VAT		£ 25.60
	<i>Banner + Base + VAT total</i>	£ 153.60
AFVBC Pens	Vistaprint (100 pens)	£ 102.00
Total		£ 255.60


Actual purchases (see receipts below):

Item	Order no.	Cost
Pens*	VP_VP6R1RT6	£81.60
Banner + base	#2658	£153.60
Bunting	2603	£25.80
TOTAL		£261.00

*A discount was secured on the pens which permitted purchase of bunting – pens quoted for grant as £102.00. The founder of the club subsidised the additional £5.40.

The pens were available to hand out at the Melbourn Family Fun Day and were subsequently gifted to each attending member on our 1-year anniversary and are now a welcome gift to new members.

Invoice
Original



Invoice Number: 0208698749
Invoice Date: 2023-04-17
Payment Date: 2023-04-17
Dispatch Date: 2023-04-17
Order Number: VP_VP6R1RT6

Vistaprint B.V.
Hudsonweg 8
5928 LW
Venlo
Netherlands
VAT #: GB805015277

Billed to:
Melbourn AFVBC

Dispatched to:
Melbourn AFVBC

Order Summary

Item	Qty	VAT %	Net Amount
Elite Soft-Touch Ballpoint Pen – Black I	100	20%	£68.00
			Subtotal (ex VAT) £68.00
			Delivery (ex VAT) £0.00
			20% VAT Total Amount £13.60
			Total £81.60

Page 1/1

This information is for your tax records only. Please do not pay against this invoice.

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Registry number: 12051083 | NL VAT #: NL812139513B01

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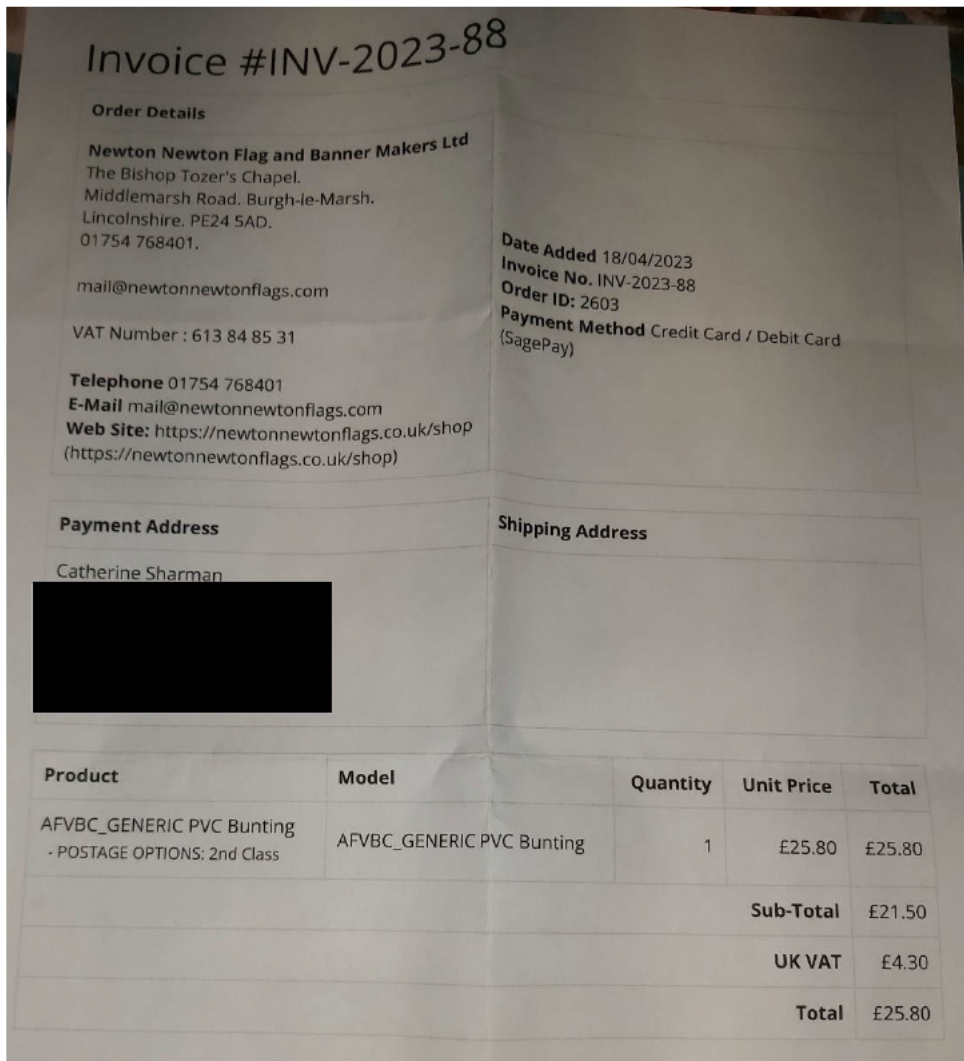
The invoice for the pens



The invoice for the flag



The flag outside the Dolphin during a breakfast club meeting



The invoice for the bunting



The bunting and some pens



The stand with bunting, flag and pens at Melbourn Family Fun Day, June 2023

Melbourn AFVBC are very grateful for the grant awarded by Melbourn Parish Council; we have had 5 new members join us since June and continue to grow in number, supporting veteran and serving members of Melbourn. Thank you from us all.

Melbourn Dynamos Football Club

I can confirm that the grant awarded to Melbourn Dynamos FC in May 2023, which was for £6,337.76 has been totally spent as detailed on the application in support of it.

As a direct result on increasing costs across the board the Club are more and more reliant on securing funding in an effort to keep our heads above water.

Despite receiving the solar funding, and other financial support, it has been necessary for the Club to raise registration fees from £140 to £195 yet despite all of this it is expected that the Club will finish the current season with a very modest amount to carry over.

The Club are extremely grateful for the support of the Parish Council in granting us this, and previous grants because without it, it would be very difficult for us to operate.

Regards.

Blake Carrington, Chair, MDFC

Report on 2023 grant spend:

Melbourn Dynamos FC gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a grant of £6,337.76 from the Parish Council in April 2023. This grant was allocated towards the procurement of essential equipment and resources to enhance our club operations and facilitate the ongoing development of our teams. This report outlines the expenditures and utilisation of the granted funds, demonstrating their impact on our club and community.

Details of Expenditure and Utilisation:

The following items were funded (partially or in full) by the grant received:

1. Two Sets of Portable Metal 9v9 Goals:
 - These goals have been extensively used in training and matches, greatly enhancing our facility offerings and enabling more effective practice sessions.
2. Balls (Various Sizes):
 - The new balls have replaced older, worn-out equipment, ensuring all players have access to quality materials for skill development.
3. Kit (Shirts, Shorts, Socks) for Various Teams:
 - The new kits have been distributed across our teams, this has significantly aided in fostering a sense of unity and pride among the players.
4. First Aid Kits:
 - The new first aid kits have been crucial in addressing minor injuries during games and practices, ensuring the well-being of our participants.

Impact on Community:

The investment in equipment has not only improved the quality of training and playing conditions but also supported our club's mission to keep participation fees affordable. By maintaining lower fees, we ensure that football remains accessible to a broader segment of the Melbourn community, particularly benefiting 281 parishioners who are active members of our club.

Acknowledgments:

We thank the Parish Council for their support and trust in Melbourn Dynamos FC. Your contribution is not only an investment in the material aspects of our club but also in the lives of the young individuals who are nurtured within our community.

Melbourn Fete Committee

Report on the expenditure made from the 2023 MPC Grant

The Melbourn Fete Committee received a grant from the MPC Community Grant Fund of £1,500 to underwrite the staging of a Family Fun Day in June 2023. The funds were requested to cover the unavoidable costs which would have been written off if the event were cancelled, as in 2021.

The grant was spent as follows:

Item	Expenditure
PA System	£1020.00
Insurance	£378.00
Deposits for attractions	£205.00
Skip	£240.00
Web and Email Hosting	£77.99
Publicity	£41.23
Total	£1962.22

The additional expenditure was taken from Melbourn Fete Committee funds.

Melbourn Fete Committee is very grateful for the continued support from the MPC. MPC's commitment enables us to stage important events for the community such as the 2023 Fun Day, next year's Fete, Turn on to Christmas each year and Open Gardens. Money raised from the 2023 Fun Day was donated to Melbourn Dynamos, MACS, Royston District and Community Transport, Melbourn Community Library, All Saints Bells and the 1st Orwell Scout Group.

C M Carter
Treasurer
18/10/2023

Melbourn Area Youth Development

REPORT on Community Benefit Grant – In support of DJ Workshops

Original Proposal

DJ 'Workshops' - £2,000 as match funding for a SCDC Community Chest Grant towards the purchase of equipment to enable delivery of DJ Workshops. The expert support is to be given free of charge (see Jason Coulman proposal document). The Community Chest Grant application would be made on behalf of the Melbourn Parish Council.

The workshops will include teaching 11 to 16-year olds new skills, how to be a DJ, what it takes to be a DJ, how to blend tracks, how to use the equipment, what the equipment does and why so that they could potentially become a DJ one day, although the process is in itself very enjoyable and plugs into basic youth interests.

The goal will be to provide a taster into music and production outside of a school setting and to support the youth provision in Melbourn and surrounding area.

The proposal is to use the Pavilion as the venue and to store equipment on site using the secure steel shed storage facility.

Outcome

It transpired that MAYD as a body are not eligible for a SCDC Community Chest Grant. However, through savings from an unexpected delay in the start date for the Connections Bus linked with clever purchasing decisions with equipment acquisition, it has been possible to commence the DJ Workshops as originally planned.

A taster session was held at the Hub where the initial interest was sparked and a group of young people formally signed up after a brilliant demonstration of what could be experienced.

Workshops have been running every Monday evening at the pavilion since September with good and growing attendance (8 to 12 young people + at least two DBS-checked supervisors). It attracts (as was hoped) a wide age range of both boys and girls and there is a definite 'club' culture developing - a Christmas Party event is being planned.

Sincere thanks are due to Jay Coulman and *Mix Music* for offering this excellent free youth opportunity that merges a key interest for young people with a safe space to socialise and develop confidence.

This was grant money well spent.

John Travis/Chair MAYD Joint Committee

Melbourn Football Club

We can confirm that the full amount was spent on the new roll-on goals as described.

These were delivered last month and are currently being safely stored in the Melbourn FC lock-up.

We aim to have them built and ready for use for the first weekend of November. Work is currently taking place by club volunteers to finish building the storage pen, as requested by the council as a condition of being granted the money.

Best wishes,

Simon
Chairman, Melbourn FC

November 2023

Update: Goals are now housed in the storage pen on The Moor.

Melburn Primary School PTFA

Report on Parish Council Grant Expenditure

The grant provided by the Parish Council in April 2023 has been used to cover the cost of the Primary School's PTFA annual fireworks display and to purchase additional equipment to improve the school's community events.

The total amount of the grant was £4,461, which was used as follows:

Fireworks display: £3,340 was used to fund the annual fireworks display held at Melbourn Primary School. The display was a sell-out success and enjoyed by the whole community. The event generated a massive £14,255.66 turnover and an estimated £8,500 profit, all of which is available to donate to the school for much needed resources for the children.

New equipment: £860 was used to purchase a new marquee to be used at PTFA events such as the Fireworks Night and annual Summer Fayre. The new marquee is a little larger than its predecessor, allowing for more space for volunteers using BBQ equipment underneath. It is also much more stable and the cover is fireproof, improving our confidence in the safety of our events.

£375.92 was used to purchase two extra long extension cables to improve safety practices and two new hot water urns to replace faulty equipment. These items will benefit community our community events (Fireworks Night and Summer Fayre) as well as many small events held at and within the school throughout the calendar year. Our new urns also have a better energy efficiency rating than the equipment they are replacing.

This totals £4,575.92 equating to an overspend of £114.92, which has been covered by PTFA funds.

In summary, the Parish Council's grant has been used to great effect and has helped to enhance the PTFA's community events. On behalf of the Melbourn Primary School PTFA, I would like to thank the Parish Council for their support in awarding us the money to improve both provision for community events and our fundraising capabilities.

Signed,
Logan Gamble
PTFA Treasurer
On behalf of Melbourn Primary PTFA

1st Orwell Scout Group

The money was used exactly as intended to purchase tents and compasses, albeit at a lower cost than anticipated, hopefully you have now received the under-spend back in your account, please could you confirm?. Below are pictures of the tents in action (they are the green tents on the RHS of the top image).

Please pass on our sincere gratitude to the Council for their support of the Scout Group.

Refund of £251.61 received



St Georges Allotment Association, Melbourn

Community Grant Report 2023

Summary: The St George's Allotment Association applied for and received a Melbourn Parish Council Community Grant in May 2023 to cover the hire cost of two 8-yard general waste skips (one for early summer and one for autumn), and to purchase soil improver for use on the Melbourn Allotments at The Moor, Melbourn. The grant received (£780.30) was comprised of £520.80 for hire of two skips and £259.50 for purchase and delivery of ~9 tonnes of soil improver. Both amounts were fully spent during the year.

Waste Clearance Skip Hire: An 8-yard general waste skip was hired from the Mick George Group and delivered to the allotments on 2nd June 2023 to coincide with the start of the main gardening season. Plot holders rapidly filled the skip by clearing non-compostable assorted rubbish from their plots, such as broken wire fencing, rusted metal, broken glass, waste plastic, etc., see photo.



A second skip has been purchased and delivery arranged for the 27th October 2023 to coincide with the autumn clear up as tenants start to put their plots to bed for the winter season.

This project is beneficial to all of the St Georges Allotment community and resulted in many tidier allotments. Having less rubbish on their allotments not only benefited the current plot holders but also provides legacy value to future tenants. It also benefited the local environment by removing environmentally harmful materials such as plastic

and provides safer conditions for plot holders to tend their plots. It complements the ongoing work by the council to reduce the amount of asbestos cement fragments on the allotments.

Soil Improver: The delivery of a lorry load of soil improver from Waterbeach Waste Management Park was arranged with Melbourn based A J Grab Hire Ltd, and on the 25th August 2023 they duly delivered 10.8 tonnes of lovely black gold, see photo. The soil improver was available to all plot holders and within a few weeks had been wheel-barrowed to individual plots by the holders. The known benefits of using it as a mulch include improved soil structure, increased moisture retention, weed suppression and better crop growth. The improved soil fertility will also benefit future plot holders as well as the current ones. The soil improver is generated from waste food and vegetation collected from households around the county and composted under ideal conditions at the Waterbeach Waste Management Park.



Conclusion: The first skip hire and the purchase and delivery of soil improver have been completed and the remaining skip hire will be delivered on 27th October, ensuring both grant projects will be fully completed in 2023, bringing benefit to allotment holders and the allotment environment. The full amount of the grant has been spent, and a small additional amount to cover the increased cost of the extra soil improver was provided from the Association funds.

Turn on To Christmas

TOTC started in 2017 and is organised by members of the Fete committee. TOTC has a popular and varied format including live music, children's Christmas themed activities, tombola, story-telling and of course the turning on of the Christmas Tree lights. We are supported by the management, staff and volunteers of the hub who sell food and drink at the event. In line with the general ethos of both the village fete and TOTC we endeavour to make these events as affordable as possible and all of the activities we provided this year were free, thanks to the funds provided through the PC.

This year for the first time we incorporated into the light switch on the arrival of Father Christmas in his sleigh thanks to the participation of the Royston Round Table. This proved a popular addition which we hope to continue at the next TOTC. Estimating numbers is difficult but it was as busy as previous years with most of the families walking to the event so therefore likely to be fellow villagers.

We announced on the PA system several times throughout the afternoon that funds were provided through the PC.

The whole event was a complete success and I am grateful in being supported by a very able and enthusiastic team, we look forward to TOTC 2024. However, in the meantime we are busy organising this year's Fete.

On behalf of the TOTC organising committee and the families attending our event we are very grateful for the funding we received from the PC. As can be seen from the accounts there was a surplus of £47.24, please advise if you wish this to be repaid. If the funds are not needed to be repaid they will be used towards the fete.

Many thanks,

Trevor Purnell
TOTC Chair

Relate Cambridgeshire

Service recently launched so too early for a full report.

The grant was to fund the rental costs of a room for Relate's counselling at the Hub once a week, and to cover the setting up costs and administration, including marketing the service etc.

We have a counsellor ready to begin the service soon, and here is a recent social media post attached.



The graphic is a promotional post for Relate Cambridgeshire. It features the Relate Cambridgeshire logo in the top left. The main text is centered and reads: 'Available now to take enquiries', 'Relationship, Autism relationship and Personal counselling services available at the Melbourn Hub from Friday 19th of April 2024'. In the bottom left, there are contact details: 'Email or ring us to book on:', a phone icon with the number '01302347866', and an email icon with the address 'counselling@relatecambridge.org.uk'. In the bottom right, there is a red circular logo for 'MELBOURN hub'.

Relate
Cambridgeshire

Available now to
take enquiries

**Relationship, Autism relationship and
Personal counselling services available at
the Melbourn Hub from Friday 19th of
April 2024**

Email or ring us to book on:

 01302347866

 counselling@relatecambridge.org.uk

**MELBOURN
hub**

Claire Godward, Chief Executive Relate Cambridgeshire

Melbourn Action Community Support



MACS (Melbourn Action Community Support)



MACS received a MPC Community grant of £7910 in **December 2023** and have spent **£2,300** to end of **March '24** to operate Melbourn Food Bank and Cozy Corner supporting residents through the cost of living crisis.

Both are located in Vicarage Close Community Hall and supported by a dedicated team of volunteers.

Food Bank provides non-perishable foods and essentials on a '*no voucher, no referral*' basis to Melbourn residents.

Open Mondays and Thursdays 10-12 serving an average of 17 customers per week.

MACS supports both MPS and MVC with breakfast foods and has developed a reciprocal relationship with period products.

MACS is a member of South Cambs Foodbank network.

MACS has Trusted Partner status for Household Support Fund applications for customers and have completed 42 applications to date.

Fund raising activities such as Craft stalls, 'DanceAthon' and Bingo sessions undertaken to raise funds.

Cozy Corner is open on Mondays and Thursdays 12-3 and has an average of 30 visitors per week. Hot lunch provided for 17 people per week.



Melbourn Squash Club

Half of our grant money is used to pay a monthly retainer to a professional coach, who offers mid-week sessions to juniors, so £1,200 is committed to that. We are using the other half to fund Level 1 English Squash coaching qualifications for around half a dozen experienced players to be able to support other structured sessions that the club either currently offer or plans to offer: for ladies, more casual / social players and for juniors. The cost of the coaching qualification is c.£200 per person; 2 players have completed the course and we expect a further 4 to do so over the spring and early summer.

We therefore expect to spend the full £2,400 spent over the course of the year.

Community Support for Dementia

To date we have not spent all of the money. Our aim is that it will last 12 months, as per the plan we presented with our application.

Please see below a copy of our plan. So far, we have had 4 Memory Cafes, 1 Dementia Workshop, have booked a trip to Felixstowe and are awaiting confirmation of a date for the Virtual Dementia Bus experience. Memory Cafes are booked for the rest of the year and Dementia Workshops are booked too.

Application for Funding re Dementia awareness project - Melbourn					Total requested as grant funding	£ 6,683.04
Nov- 2023 - Nov 2024						
Expenditure	Projects with costs	Frequency per Annum	Costs	Total	Anticipated Income	
	Dementia Friends Cafe	12	300	3600	1200	Refreshments/dementia champion/hire (45+)
	Dementia Cafe Entertainment	12	50	600	0	Event leader = entertainment Avg £50 (x12)
	Daily Sparkle Activity Coordinator	12	59	708	0	Monthly subscription for Dementia friendly activities
	Printing costs - Daily sparkle	12	10	120	0	30 copies - 59 colour pages per memory café
	Dementia equipment one off costs	1	300	300	0	This will include a varying array of dementia related equipment
	Coach Trip/lunch /the Hut, Felixstowe	1	1300	1300	400	Coach £800.00 - Lunch 50 @ 6.00 per head+ refreshments (20 @£20)
	Dementia Training Session/Carers	3	360	1080	300	Every 4 months/Hub meeting room/Forget me knot dementia (10 @ £10)
	Virtual Dementia Bus Experience	1	1200	1200	540	One per year/Training2u/(36 @ £15.00)
				0	0	
				0	0	
	Other grant Funding Sources				0	It will be the intention to approach other PC's as new members come from those parishes.
	Donations					
	Current monies held				1720.96	
				£ 10,844.00	£ 4,160.96	

Melbourn Parish Council Community Benefit Grant Report

Prepared for: Melbourn Parish Council

Date: 24 April 2024

We are so grateful for your funding in December 2023, which enabled us to provide crucial home-visiting support to two vulnerable Melbourn families, who were referred to us by the Community Nurse and Preschool.

The families' **diverse and complex issues** included:

- Poor Parental Mental Health
- Mother struggling with anxiety
- Attachment difficulties
- Difficulties managing children's behaviour
- Children with health issues requiring ongoing monitoring/treatment
- Child with possible autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and sensory processing disorder
- Child speech and language delay
- Child health issues – including delayed mobility with difficulty in managing physiotherapy exercises
- No car - difficulties in getting to medical appointments
- No local friends or family
- Bereavement

The Community Benefit Grant enabled our highly-trained volunteers to meet with the families for 2-3 hours every week, providing bespoke practical and emotional support, which was non-judgemental, confidential and free. This included:

- Providing a listening ear and emotional support
- Giving reassurance and positive feedback
- Reading stories and playing games
- Support with physiotherapy exercises
- Outings to the park
- Enabling parent to have 1-1 time with each child by spending time with each child individually
- Parental support with childcare decision, enabling a return to part-time work
- Talking through behaviour strategies to support child with ASD
- Signposting for more specialist support where appropriate.

cont./...

The positive changes as a result of our support included:

- Improved Mental Health, with mother feeling much calmer and able to do more with children
- Children less anxious around new people
- Better child/parent attachment – child less anxious about separation
- Improved mobility for child
- Mother able to go back to part-time work
- Mother managing child's multiple appointments better

The parents gave us the following feedback, regarding our support:

"Thank you so much for your support this year. I was feeling incredibly lonely when we first got in contact and have been touched by the kindness and generosity of time from the volunteers. Your help with the children takes the pressure off and allows me to enjoy my time with them more."

"Her visit brought me so much relief yesterday as I'd had such a hard morning"

John Impey Way Residents

A TV licence was purchased to allow residents to use the communal area at John Impey Way for watching television.



South Cambs District Councillor (SCDC) Jose Hales & Sally Ann Hart Report to Melbourn Parish Meeting

A summary of activity over the 12-month period to April 2024

Here is our report to Melbourn's Annual Parish Meeting. It's quite long because there has been a lot going on in the last twelve months, dealing with a wide range of issues. There has been a great deal of progress in which we both feel proud to have played a part.

SCDC Services

We thought it would be useful to remind everyone of the main (statutory) services that SCDC provides:

Benefits

Business support and development

Council tax collection and support

Environmental Health

Housing

Licensing (pubs, taxis)

Planning Services (a shared service with Cambridge City Council)

Waste collection and recycling (a shared service with Cambridge City Council)

You can find more details here: [Home - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.scambs.gov.uk)

SCDC's financial position

SCDC's accounts have been published as required by government and are up to date. In common with all other local authorities, SCDC has seen its government funding cut significantly in recent years. Unlike many other councils, SCDC is on a very sound financial footing. Commercial investments have been used to make up the shortfall of withdrawn government funding and, in this, SCDC has been very successful, bringing in around £7M per year. If it were not for the threat of the Government's Fair Funding Review, which threatens to strip district councils of business tax revenue and give it to bigger, unitary councils, SCDC would have a projected surplus all the way to 2029. Very few councils can say that.

When it comes to Council Tax, SCDC remains one of the lowest taxing authorities in the country, with a £5 per year increase – 42p a month - for the average band D home, equivalent to a below inflation rise of around 3%. It is remarkable that three parish councils in South Cambs have a bigger council tax precept than SCDC. The Council Tax relief threshold has been increased in line with inflation so that people on

the lowest incomes can continue to claim. SCDC is one of a diminishing number of councils still offering up to 100% relief for those residents in most need.

Councillors' allowances have been raised in line with officer pay. The basic allowance is now £5,800 out of which councillors are expected to cover certain costs such as telephone calls and internet charges.

Non-statutory services

SCDC provides a number of services that are not statutory – ones that the administration provides because it thinks they are important to its residents rather than because they are obliged to provide them by law and they include the provision of certain grant-funding and community initiatives. SCDC's healthy financial position has meant it has been able to continue to underpin these services, where many other councils have had to scale them back or discontinue them. Here is a brief commentary on some of them:

Cost of living support

The council's ongoing support for the cost-of-living crisis was extended into a second year. The initiatives included supporting mobile food and Community Hubs (offering advice on the support available) and delivering 500 electric blankets to residents struggling with the high cost of energy.

Mobile/Community Wardens

SCDC has injected an extra £1M of funding to keep the schemes going for another year, whilst work that we have commissioned continues to quantify the benefits of the scheme to the wider care system. It is hoped that with this data, extra funding will might come from organisations such as the County Council and the NHS to help underpin the schemes.

Homes for Ukraine scheme

Continuing Russian aggression in Ukraine means that this scheme is still very active. South Cambs supports one of the largest numbers of Ukrainian guests of any district and the council provides support such as funding for hosts, employment support for guests, and small grants for activities to help guests to integrate. The latest initiative is to provide support for guests moving on from hosts into independent accommodation via our landlord incentive scheme which encourages private landlords to accept Ukrainian guests as tenants. The council determines the priorities for the scheme but continues to receive financial support from the government to provide them.

SCDC Allotments toolkit

We appreciate the health and wellbeing benefits of garden allotments and is trying to promote them by offering grant funding and signposting to advice.

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-action/allotment->

[toolkit/](#) There are also small grants in the pipeline to encourage new community growing clubs – look out for further details soon.

Grants

Here are examples of grants that have been made available through the year:

- Community chest (small community projects) - £80K (in 2023/24)
- Service support grants (for the voluntary and community sector) £174K
- Long-term health - £13K
- Leisure Centre support (post-Covid) - £5K
- Council tenant community grants - £6K
- 6 Free Trees Scheme - £5K
- EV charge-points for local charities - £15K
- Zero carbon (larger grants to encourage carbon reduction) - £126K see below.

Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme 2024

SCDC's popular Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme has now been running for six years and the latest scheme is now open for applications. Since its inception, more than half a million pounds has been given to schemes across the district under two main themes: to lock-up carbon or reduce emissions and to increase community engagement on any matters related to climate change. Grants of between £2,000 and £15,000 are available to parish councils and community groups in the district and a total pot of £125,000 is available. Further information, help and advice is available by emailing zcc@scambs.gov.uk

Growth in Greater Cambridge

Michael Gove announced his plans for 'Cambridge 2040' in July 2023 but, since then, details have been slow to emerge. Gove's original figure of 250,000 homes has since been revised down to 150,000 and the 2040 target has been pushed back to 2050. Last month, the government announced that it intends to set up a 'growth corporation'. The administration had hoped and assumed that, as the local planning authority, it would have a seat on the board of this organisation and bring to it significant local knowledge and experience but it seems that local authorities will only sit on an advisory council alongside businesses and industry partners and without a vote or decision-making powers.

There is still a great deal that is unknown about the government's Cambridge 2050 plans. Even if there is a Labour government after the upcoming general election, we do not think that government policy will change much because large and powerful international high-tech businesses want to move here, especially those engaged in medical research, bioscience and medical sciences the pressure for growth will be intense. It is therefore vital that the local authorities use any power that the government allows to make sure that the infrastructure needed for such growth is in place, such as plans for a sustainable transport system, which is badly needed to prevent our roads from grinding to a halt due to congestion and to reduce the decline in air quality levels. New schools and health facilities are going to be

needed, water scarcity issues are critical and environmental protections must be put in place. Affordable housing is going to be vital.

What about the Local Plan?

As a partner (with Cambridge City Council) in the Local Planning Authority (LPA), SCDC has already put in a huge amount of work into shaping the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This is a key planning document which ensures that growth is delivered in a sustainable way both for people and the environment. The Cambridge 2050 proposals means that much more work will now have to be done and the existing timetable is no longer realistic. I will keep you up to date with developments as the emerging Local Plan develops.

Four-Day Week Trial

Ironically, just as the government's Cambridge 2050 vision places huge extra demands on the LPA's planning resources, they are trying very hard to hinder SCDC's attempts to recruit more planners! Under a four-day week, officers are expected to carry out 100% of their work, in 80% of the time, for 100% of the pay and the council has been conducting a four-day week trial since January 2023.

The reason for considering a four-day week is because of acute staff recruitment and retention problems especially for certain types of qualified people, such as planners (of which there is a national shortage) and HGV drivers for our waste collection vehicles. The problem is amplified in Greater Cambridge due to the high cost of housing but similar trials are taking place across the UK, Ireland, and USA and both the Scottish and Welsh Governments are giving consideration for such schemes. Four-day week working is becoming increasingly common in the private sector.

Initial data from the trial are encouraging. The Council has spent £434,000 less on expensive agency staff, who were needed to cover roles that are identified as hard to fill. There has been no statistically significant negative impact on services and in some areas, the Council's services have improved. Health and wellbeing surveys of staff show a significant positive impact on both their mental and physical health.

The government has been vigorous in its opposition to the trial and it issued a 'best value notice' demanding that the council regularly submit large amounts of data to the government. They have issued a threat to use "financial levers" to penalise the council which has had ramifications for the conclusion of the trial – because a consultation cannot be undertaken or a conclusive report on the trial produced until the government states what those financial penalties will be. Whilst this information is awaited from the government, the council's staff continue to operate a four-day working pattern.

Once we have clarity from the government, a resident consultation will be conducted and the trial data will be independently analysed. The council's elected members will then, at full council, decide whether or not to make the four-day week permanent.

More (and better) council homes

One of our business plan priorities, most 'affordable' housing is delivered by housing associations, often via S106 schemes. However, SCDC acquires social affordable housing in significant numbers and since 2018 we have more than doubled the council's stock. There are currently over 400 new council homes planned for the next few years, all of them built to high standard of energy efficiency. We are also well into a programme of upgrading the thermal efficiency of our existing council housing stock which will result in a significant reduction in energy running costs for tenants.

Jose and Sally Ann continue to liaise and work closely with our County Council colleague, Susan van de Ven, holding weekly Zoom Cuppa meetings. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if there's anything you think we need to be aware of or think we could help with.

Sally Ann Hart & Jose Hales.

County Councillors Report

Annual Parish Meeting 2024 - Cllr Susan van de Ven

As County Councillor I represent Melbourn, Bassingbourn, Whaddon and Meldreth.

My first role is to represent the interests of residents and communities, and to locate answers to problems. I work alongside my district council colleagues Jose Hales and Sally Ann Hart, and parish councils, in support of the community.

County Council make-up and responsibilities:

Make-up of the County Council is 23 Lib Dems, 22 Conservatives, 9 Labour, 3 Independents, 1 St Neots Independent, 3 non-aligned. The Council has completed its third year as a Joint Administration, which has seen a partnering of Liberal Democrats, Independent and St Neots Independent, and Labour. Collaborative working has been practical, sensible and encouraging.

My responsibilities include: Co-Chair of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board which works alongside the NHS Integrated Care System, and Vice Chair of the Adults and Health Committee. I serve on the South Cambs Community Safety Partnership and Education Transport appeals panels, and am a Partnership Governor at Cambridge University Hospitals Trust and a Trustee for the Trigg Charity, which supports Melbourn feeder schools.

The County Council is the statutory Local Authority for Highways, Social Care, Education, Waste and Recycling, Libraries and Leisure, Registration services (births, deaths, marriages), and Public Health. It also convenes citizenship ceremonies.

The County Council is a partner organization on the Cambs and Peterborough Mayoral Combined Authority, which was created in 2017. It assumed the Transport Authority remit that previously sat with the County Council.

Together with South Cambs District and Cambridge City Councils, CCC is a partner on the Greater Cambridge Partnership. The GCP is a time-limited body with the remit of dispersing government funding for infrastructure in this high growth area.

The Council key service committees also cover Environment and Green Investment, and Assets and Procurement. The council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and has developed a Cambridgeshire Net Zero 2045 action plan. The council has a Health in All Policies approach to all of its work, in an effort to address the wider determinants of health inequalities which are pronounced across the county and exist within all localities.

Local authority finance has become increasingly pressured everywhere, and through many years pre-Covid we saw many discretionary services fall away – for example support for post-16 transport. In the 16 years I have served at CCC, loss of discretionary services has had a big impact generally on daily lives as less practical assistance and support is available and local communities are asked to do more. At the same time, the County Council has shown huge resilience and creativity in adapting to changing times, for example in library services.

Social care is demand-led, with expenditure on a mixture of preventive and means-tested care; this accounts for 70% of the council's net budget. Good work has been done to bolster the social care workforce, both via rolling out the Real Living Wage and supporting our providers to do so; developments of the 'Care Academy'

supporting professional training and development, and the creation of new work around 'care micro-enterprises', which are small, localized care businesses that offer both new employment opportunities and also new choice in care provision for those who need it.

The council's most intensive social care responsibilities involve people with learning disabilities, physical and mental disabilities, and older people (65+). Though by law it funds older people's social care according to ability to pay, it commissions social care for many 'self-funders'. Self-funders make up the vast majority of the population.

The well-known 'managed decline' of the Highway Network over many years has left the network in very poor condition. Government provides 33 times more funding to the national highway network than it does to Local Authorities for their highway networks. Workforce is challenging too with a thin officer corps covering a massive brief; our Local Highways Officer covers some 25 villages, for example. Extra funding would be welcome, but we also need the workforce to be able to spend it. This is a predicament common to local authorities and there is competition with national transport projects.

When the current administration took over it became apparent that cyclical maintenance for key aspects of the public highways were absent. Efforts are underway to introduce cyclical maintenance where none existed, for example on gully emptying. Turning round a network allowed to decline so severely, with limited resources to do so, will take time.

Cambridgeshire's population is growing far above the national average. This trend is set to accentuate as national government is looking to expand the Cambridge area by a very significant degree, through a Development Company, in a scheme known as Cambridge 2040/50 depending on the speech of the day. 'Cambridge' in this scheme has not been defined though it is assumed to mean South Cambs at least.

Water scarcity and a poor public transport network are the headline factors of concern around growth, even at the rate laid out in existing local plans.

Income is via a combination of government grants and council tax. 75% of the Council's net spend is now being funded from Council Tax. Council tax is comprised of general tax and a social care precept.

County council agreed to a Council Tax rise of 4.99% (2% for Adult Social Services) – raising £17.5m of local income to help maintain and protect critical services for the most vulnerable communities. For the majority of our residents in Band A-D properties that will mean between an extra 99 pence to £1.48 a week.

The council has also prioritised key areas based on resident feedback through its 'Quality of Life' survey, aligned to the vision to make Cambridgeshire greener, fairer and more caring:

Sustaining critical adults & children's social care (£57m). This is not the case compared to many of our neighbouring councils in the East of England.

Record levels of highways funding (£23m) to strengthen and improve the standard of our roads and pavements, including tackling potholes, weeds and gulleys.

The council is prioritising support for vulnerable communities, with £3m to continue providing holiday supermarket vouchers for those children most in need; £2.2m to deliver anti-poverty initiatives; £1.3m into more accessible libraries.

Local initiatives as your councillor

I coordinate several transport groups to try and improve transport and access options:

- **Cam Vale Bus User Group** works to preserve our existing subsidized bus services – 17 and 26. These services depend on funding from the Combined Authority, which is the Transport Authority. We meet next at Bassingbourn Old School Community Centre June 6th, 10-11Am.
- **The Meldreth Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership** grew out of the Rail User Group set up in 2009. By setting up a Community Interest Company, the CRP was able to employ a paid project officer, who has transformed the breadth of work we are able to undertake. This post is funded by the Meldreth, Melbourn, Shepreth and Foxton Parish Councils, the Train Operating Company, and hosted by South Cambs District Council. We have established cheap or free parking at our local stations, and a nationally unique 16-18 student education and training discount fare at 50% off the adult fare. The provides a season ticket enabling young people to access education and training as well as employment. The CRP helps to lobby for very local infrastructure improvements, and train service improvements, including success on a direct stopping service to and from Cambridge South Station when it opens in 2025.
- **The A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign** was set up in 2013 with the aspiration of creating a safe off-road path between Cambridge and Royston. Where there was no off-road provision at all, there is now a link from Cambridge to Melbourn, via Dept for Transport grants to the County Council and more recently the Greater Cambridge Partnership. The Campaign raises funds for vegetation maintenance and commissions a grounds maintenance contractor to keep the network to a high standard, above what Cambs Highways can manage.
- This past year has seen built into the GCP budget an active travel link between Melbourn and Royston, including a bridge over the A505, which it is hoped will be delivered in 2-3 years' time. This project has involved extensive collaboration with our neighbours in Royston and the endeavour itself has already connected communities. June 9th is the Annual A10 Awareness Ride from Trumpington Park and Ride to Phillimore Melbourn.

Practical Solutions Group, Melbourn – With support from county and district youth and communities teams, as well as local schools and colleges, police and significant organizations in the community, this group exists to support constructive solutions to problems and new support for young people in the community.

Anglian Water annual liaison meeting: Together with my district colleagues, we convene a regular meeting with Anglian Water to bring forward any local concerns relating to foul water infrastructure. The most recent meeting was held in March. We identified key issues for improvement but see that AW is struggling to act upon these.

North Herts Citizens Advice – I am a member of NHCA. It's great to see the continuation of the drop-in service at the Melbourn Hub.

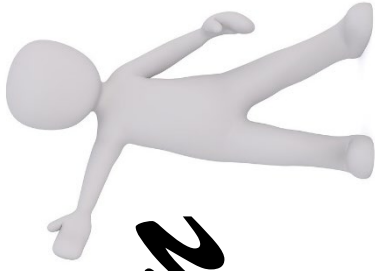
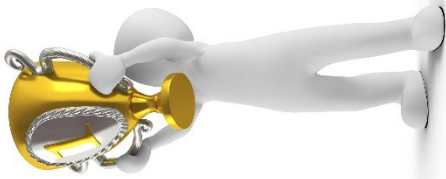
MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT!

AWARD MADE AT THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
13 MAY 2024



Grace Brown

In recognition of the amazing work Grace carries out for charity.

Mr Graham Clark

CHAIR, MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Abi Williams & Alex Coxall

PARISH CLERKS

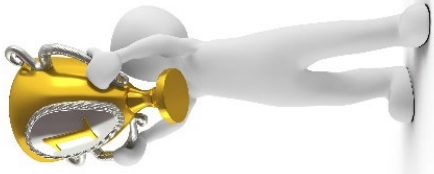
MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE



COMMUNITY SUPERSTAR

AWARD MADE AT THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
13 MAY 2024



Jay Coulman



In recognition of the hard work and commitment Jason has
shown towards engaging the youth of Melbourn through MixMusic.

Mr Graham Clark

CHAIR, MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Abi Williams & Alex Coxall

PARISH CLERKS