MARKET LAVINGTON PARISH UPDATE

Winter 2026 / ISSUE-5

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR FIRST "BLOSSOM DAY" : SATURDAY 25 APRIL !

On Saturday 25 April, the Community Park in Canada Woods will hold its first big event – marking Orchard Blossom Day, a national celebration of the season when fruit trees are heavy with spring blossom.

This will include a traditional village fete – with games, artisan and rural crafts, music, competitions, special guests, a 'bear hunt' through the woods and lots of surprises.

It is being made possible thanks to the creativity and talent within the village. So the organisers would love to hear from the widest mix of talented residents, along with other community groups who would like to display/ demonstrate their talent/creativity/rural skills.

YOUR PHOTOS OF BIODIVERSITY

Blossom Day traditionally celebrates fruit trees, flowers and food, with a strong nod to pollinators. A photographic competition with the theme 'Biodiversity' is open to all amateur photographers, with a prize for the winner of each group and an overall winners' trophy.

DONATIONS & INFORMATION

Raffle and tombola prizes will be gratefully received. Along with competition entries, these can be left in The Old School lobby when open. A massive thank you to all who have already offered support.

If you have items to donate, want to participate, sponsor a competition, or get involved on the day, all the details and competition application forms can be found on our website.

CONTACTS:

www.friendsofcanadawoods.co.uk
CWCPCommunityGroup@outlook.com

Memories are made of this, and this, and this …

THINKING AHEAD TO REMEMBRANCE DAY …

The Parish Council is inviting the community to take part in a special project for Remembrance Day 2026. We will be creating a handmade poppy display to honour those who have lost their lives in conflict, and we would love as many people as possible to get involved.

All skill levels are welcome. Poppies should be knitted or crocheted, using red yarn with a black centre (purple for animals or white for peace). Any size or pattern can be used, with guidance that will be made available on our website and flyers in the near future. Please submit poppies by 1 October 2026. Contact the Parish Clerk to arrange collection or drop-off at designated locations.

More details: *poppies4remembrance@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk*.

NEXT TIME YOU NEED A MEETING ROOM OR TO ORGANISE AN EVENT …

How about booking The Old School on Church Street? Built in the 1840s, the school served through to the early 1970s. It was left empty for a decade but then transformed by the community into its present uses in 1982. It features two large rooms, one of which has a modern kitchen/dining area. The larger main hall can be used as an open space for activities such as exercise classes or it can be laid out with comfortable modern chairs and folding tables. This room can be isolated from the smaller function room and fully-fitted kitchen area by shutting the glazed dividing partition. Wi-Fi is available throughout the building and a projector + AV equipment is available for use in the main hall. Prices are very reasonable and can be booked by the hour.

For more details, go to: *www.mloldschool.org*

OR IF YOU WANT SOME EXERCISE, CHOOSE THE ELISHA FIELD …

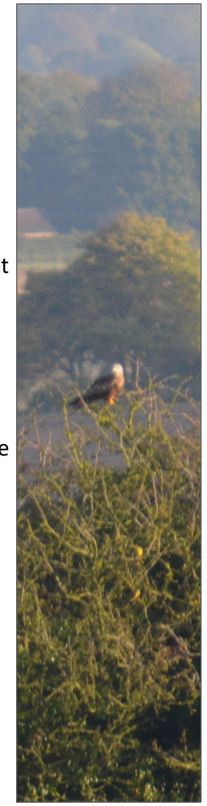
Just past St Barnabas Primary School is Elisha Field, owned and maintained by the Parish Council. As well as two football pitches, a cricket pitch and a basketball practice net, it also offers a full open-air gym-style work out with calisthenics set, cross trainer, rowing and running machine. And there's an enclosed children's play area with swings, climbing frame, tunnel etc. There is plenty of parking space and the fully-equipped pavilion is available for hire. For more information contact the Parish Clerk.

USELESS BUT INTERESTING FACTOID …

Wiltshire is very rural. It has a total road network of 4,554km (2,830 miles), 2,000km (1,243 miles) of footways and 6,047km (3,757 miles) of other public rights of way!!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE STORIES, PLEASE CONTACT PARISH CLERK TANYA WEST: 07770 679697 / clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE …



There's a hint of sunshine as I write this, and the snowdrops are coming out in force, so maybe this issue should be early Spring rather than Winter! At least we may start seeing some welcome sunshine and warmth in the weeks ahead …

Over the autumn and winter months, the Neighbourhood Plan steering group have been working hard on the detail of the new Plan. This follows the consultations we had in the autumn.

The next stage is to be clear on how we see the Parish developing and evolving in the years ahead – and how we can best achieve that for our future and that of generations to come. Our centre spread focuses on the draft Vision and Objectives that will underpin everything in the Plan. The Steering Group invites as many comments as possible, so please do engage!!

The Parish Council has also been busy planning a range of new initiatives, designed to bring people together to enjoy and celebrate the past and future of this very special village community. You will hear more in the weeks ahead.

In the meantime, the April 'Blossom Day' fête being organised by the Friends of Canada Woods on Saturday 25 April (see inside) will be a great way to recognise the glories of Spring.

In the meantime, if you'd like to get more involved in the journey ahead, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or our Clerk, Tanya West (details on the back page).

CHLOE STEVENS, Chair, Market Lavington Parish Council
c.stevens@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

IN THIS ISSUE …

INSIDE: The draft Vision and Objectives for the new Neighbourhood Plan.
ALSO: Celebrate Orchard Blossom Day at a traditional village fête on 26 April!

A ROBUST VISION FOR OUR FUTURE …

Every plan needs a clear idea of what it wants to achieve and our Neighbourhood Plan is no different.

Based on feedback from residents, public meetings, national guidelines, and examples from other Plans, the NP Steering Group has put together a draft **VISION** and a set of **OBJECTIVES** for how our Parish could develop in the future.

PLEASE GIVE YOUR VIEWS!

These will further help decide on sites suitable for development – and how green spaces and heritage sites can work for everyone. For now, the Steering Group would like to hear what people think of the draft Vision and Objectives. Please share your comments at **www.marketlavingtonnp2.org.uk**, the Plan website. The more feedback, the stronger our Plan!

THE DRAFT VISION

Our vision for Market Lavington is an aspirational view into the future, building on and enhancing its friendly and thriving village community and rural character. Proud of its distinctive rural setting and heritage, the plan sets out to protect and enhance these valued assets during the Plan period to 2038.

- Nature is woven through daily life as the parish contributes meaningfully to nature recovery on a local and regional scale. Green and blue spaces create a living infrastructure, helping to shape the health, climate resilience, water management, biodiversity, accessibility and beauty of the parish.
- Additional green space provision offers extra scope for relaxation, exercise and meeting friends, with improved recreational opportunities benefitting the whole community and particularly young people.
- New housing, built to high environmental standards, will be well designed, and located to integrate with and respond sensitively to the surrounding built environment and open countryside. The plan seeks to preserve the magnificent views that help give our village its 'sense of place.' Housing will reflect local needs by including affordable starter homes and homes for downsizing, as well as sufficient parking.
- New homes will be conveniently located to encourage the use of shops and other village facilities, boosting economic prosperity and promoting a strong sense of community. Facilities and services for health, education, well-being and cultural activities will be supported to match the needs of the growing and vibrant population. Appropriately located business and employment opportunities will be encouraged.
- The plan supports sustainable travel through improvements to community and public transport and the provision of accessible and safe routes for non-motorised travel, both inside the parish and to neighbouring villages. The introduction of traffic management schemes to bring improvements to pedestrian and road and safety are also supported.

THE DRAFT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The objectives set out what needs to be achieved to help make the vision a reality

CLIMATE CHANGE

1. To protect, reinforce and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity of the parish and its green spaces to the benefit of the community and wildlife, respecting the village's landscape setting.
2. To work with the natural environment, addressing water management in respect of flooding and water quality using nature-based solutions where possible.
3. To ensure development is climate resilient, contributing to tackling the causes and effects of climate change, through leading edge building technology.
4. To promote greener and safer travel around the parish and to neighbouring villages by the improvement of pedestrian and cycle routes and support for public transport.

HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT

1. To safeguard and enhance green and blue spaces, wildlife habitats, dark skies and valued environmental assets for the continued enjoyment of future generations.
2. To strengthen corridors for wildlife and the east-west stream valley to reinforce the village links to the countryside and the wider landscape.
3. To protect heritage assets, including historic buildings and features, landforms and settings, whilst enabling sensitive interpretation and stewardship.
4. To respect the long-held community identity as 'The Village under the Plain' with its attendant open southerly views.

HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1. To encourage and enable appropriate, early, proactive and positive pre-application community engagement in any development proposals.
2. To ensure new housing developments provide the mix of housing size, types and tenure to meet defined local needs, appropriately located to effectively balance traffic flows around and through the village.
3. To advocate new developments of high quality and sustainable design that respond sensitively to the heritage and distinctive character of the village and ensure sustainable land use.
4. To ensure developments provide sufficient car parking for modern family needs and support and improve safe pedestrian movements around the village.

ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. To retain and enhance facilities and services supporting health, education, wellbeing and cultural activities, with a focus on inclusivity, and especially for the young and elderly.
2. To support and encourage the continuance of existing businesses and the formation of appropriately located new business to enhance employment opportunities.
3. To introduce measures to invigorate and enhance the village centre – the ancient marketplace – as the heart of a thriving community.

COMMENTS : www.marketlavingtonnp2.org.uk

CLEARING THE RIGHTS OF WAY FOR ALL TO BENEFIT & ENJOY

The Rights of Way Working Group was set up to improve and manage a network of more than 50 footpaths and bridleways in the Parish, totalling more than 15 miles.

Many footpaths had been neglected, so our aim has been to cut back overhanging vegetation to fence lines, reinstating footpaths to a minimum 1.5m width. We are also gradually labelling all rights of way with countryside footpath waymarkers.



Where a Public Right of Way (PRoW) runs alongside a private boundary, the landowner is responsible for ensuring that vegetation growing from their land does not obstruct the path. This generally extends from the boundary to the centre line of the path.

Any vegetation cut back from private land remains the responsibility of the landowner.

Where appropriate, the working group may place cut vegetation back onto the land from which it originated. Where possible, this can be incorporated into an existing hedge, providing valuable wildlife habitats.

If you'd like to help in any way or spot a PRoW that needs attention, please send an email to *footpaths@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk* with the path number and as much detail as possible. Many thanks in advance from the team!