



## MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### Notice of Motion to Full Council 25/10/2021

**Title of the Motion for inclusion in the agenda:**

**To reconsider and reverse the decision of the previous Council of closing the small dog run in King George V Park.**

**What is the purpose of the motion?**

**To allow the dog owners who prefer, for whatever reason, to continue to use the small dog run. This would also have the benefit of leaving the habitat around the area intact.**

**Please provide details and background of the current situation:**

Please see separate sheet

**Are there likely to be any financial implications? If so, provide rough estimates:**

**No significant financial costs. Will need one dog poo bin on site. No change in ongoing maintenance cost. Savings will be made in not having to remove the small dog run.**

**Does this issue link with Melksham Town Council policies and core values?**

**Yes – Inclusive. Biodiversity.**

**Are there any obvious risks?**

**There have not been any risks that I am aware of in the use of small dog run to date.**

**Could there be any criminal and/or anti-social disorder implication.**

**There has been no ASB in the small dog run to date that I am aware of.**

**Are there any environmental concerns which should be considered?**

**Positive effect on the environment by leaving the habitat around the small dog run undisturbed. (See Photo 2 attached)**

**Are there any safeguarding concerns to consider?**

**None to date that I am aware off.**

**Does the motion impact/support any previous decisions of council?**

**Reversing decision made by the previous Council.**

**Please summarise any specific recommendations you have in relation to next steps.**

**I recommend that the small dog run is left open to be enjoyed by those that need and appreciate it.**

**Motion proposed by Councillor Sue Mortimer**

**Dated 4th October 2021**

## Details and background to current situation.

The previous town council agreed to take the small dog run down and give back the small area to the park once the new dog park was up and running.

Despite the huge success of the new dog park I can see that there is still a need for the small dog park as it appears still to be used daily. It is suitable for owners of small, shy, nervous, old, rescue or reactive dogs ie those who may not relate well with the other dogs in the main dog park. Not all dogs or, indeed not all owners, are highly sociable!

Owners who are disabled or partially sighted often prefer an enclosed smaller area where they can manage their dog off the lead. Being able to see where to clean up in a smaller area, when necessary, is much easier for them.

The small dog run is currently very secure and screened naturally by evergreen bushes and shrubs. We should allow these hedgerows to remain to continue the biodiversity and varied habitats for the wildlife of our park. It also offers some screening of Waitrose car park. (see Photo 1 below)

### Photo 1



The original small dog run is unobtrusive, takes up little space, and would be low

maintenance for the council. All that would be required to really improve this facility would be 1 dog poo bin on the site.

**Photo 2**

