

# Issues Report

For

## Melksham Neighbourhood Plan

by

Lemon Gazelle Community Interest Company



# Contents

<b>Context</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Issue 1: Design, Development and Housing</b>	<b>3</b>
Plans and Policies which relate to Design, Development and Housing	3
<b>Issue 2: Employment and Economy</b>	<b>5</b>
Retail	5
Economy	5
Plans and policies which relate to the issues of Employment and Economy	5
<b>Issue 3: Education and Lifelong Learning</b>	<b>7</b>
Plans and Policies which relate to the issues of Education and Lifelong Learning	7
<b>Issue 4: Transport</b>	<b>8</b>
Plans and Policies relating to the issue of Transport	8
<b>Issue 5: Health, Leisure and Wellbeing</b>	<b>10</b>
Plans and Policies relating to Health, Leisure and Wellbeing	10
<b>Issue 6: Environment</b>	<b>11</b>
The Canal and River	11
Outdoor Public Space	11
Flooding/Sewerage	11
Energy	11
Plans and Policies relating to Environmental Issues	11
<b>Action Document Issues</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1 – Comments from Public Engagement 27-28 March 2015</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2 - Shaw and Whitley Community Engagement, July 2015</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3 - Comments from Community Engagement Event 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015, Bowerhill</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>APPENDIX 4 - Comments From 1-2 July 2016 Open House Engagement Events</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>APPENDIX 5 - Public Comments – Berryfield Engagement Event 24 January 2017</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>APPENDIX 6 - Public Comments – East of Melksham Engagement Event 9 February 2017</b>	<b>46</b>

## Context

The aim of this Issues Report is to bring together the information gathered over the past two years of consultation and engagement, and to examine what it says about the aspirations of the people of Melksham for the future of their town and its surroundings. Information and views have been sought by means of a range of community events which have taken place throughout Melksham and Melksham Without. The table below shows where and how the community have been involved in the early stages of developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

As a result, it is hoped that people from all parts of the Parish and Town have been made aware of the Neighbourhood Plan and have been given the opportunity to make their voice heard in the process.

The information received has been collated into the following theme headings;

- Design, Development and Housing
- Employment and Economy
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Transport
- Health, Leisure and Wellbeing
- Environment

Under each topic heading, the report summarises the comments and views received and also sets out the relevant policies, plans and evidence, to guide the Neighbourhood Planning process in terms of the framework within which it will operate.

Full data with all the comments received can be found in Appendices 1-6 at the end of the document.

Date	Event
03.2015	Priorities Survey
27 / 28.03.2015	MNPSG Open House Event, Melksham Assembly Hall
07.2015	CAWS community event, Shaw
09.2015	Melksham 2015 Food and River Festival
09.2015	BRAG Bowerhill community event
12.2015	Melksham Christmas Lights Fair
02.2016	Public meeting on health issues
06.2016	Briefing of Melksham Town and Melksham Without Parish Councils
01 / 02.07.2016	MNPSG Open House Event, Melksham Assembly Hall
06.2016	Public meetings on health and community provision
07.2016	Melksham Senior Citizens event
09.2016	Public meetings on health
04.09.2016	Melksham 2016 Food and River Festival
05.11.2016	CAWS community event, Shaw
08.11.2016	BRAG Bowerhill community event

The plans, policies and evidence underpin Neighbourhood Planning in Melksham include;

- National Planning Policy Framework
- Neighbourhood Planning regulations
- Wiltshire Core Strategy (currently under review)
- Wiltshire Council's Local Transport Plan
- Wiltshire Council's Strategic Housing and Economic Land Assessment
- Wiltshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2018

The Issues Report, in the context of the surrounding policy framework, is the basis for developing options for testing and ultimately policies in the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan. Some of the issues which residents raised are not land use planning matters, and so in order to ensure that these are not "lost", they are collected and analysed with the intention of forming an "Action Document" which examines these issues and looks at ways they can be progressed or resolved, identifying the relevant agencies to take these on.

## Issue 1: Design, Development and Housing

---

This issue was raised by many individuals in Melksham, since the town and surroundings have seen considerable growth in recent years. The detailed comments have been broken down and analysed, and the following summarises the key concerns raised by residents.

The need for affordable houses and a mix of development types was raised by many residents, who felt there was unmet housing need within the area. The loss of greenfield sites and the need to prioritise brownfield land was also a concern for many. High quality design, incorporating plenty of green space for wildlife and for recreation and play were priorities for some.

Many of those who took part in the consultations felt that the provision of infrastructure such as roads, schools and medical facilities would be an essential part of any new development due to problems they identified with capacity of roads and other facilities at present. Some residents were concerned to preserve the identities of the various parts of Melksham and Melksham Without, including the villages, and felt that the character and separate identity of these places could be lost if extensive housing growth took place there.

### Plans and Policies which relate to Design, Development and Housing

---

#### **The National Planning Policy Framework 2012**

This document sets Planning Policy for England, and gives a presumption in favour of sustainable development. It provides high level planning policy across all areas of land use planning, including housing, employment, retailing, transport and environmental issues.

#### **Wiltshire Core Strategy, Adopted 2015**

The Wiltshire Core Strategy sets the housing numbers and allocates strategic housing sites, and is a document with which the Neighbourhood Plan must be in conformity, and so it is therefore an important document to look at next to the aspirations and concerns of residents, as raised through the community engagement.

#### **Core Policy 1: Settlement Strategy**

*“Market Towns*

*Outside the Principal Settlements, Market Towns are defined as settlements that have the ability to support sustainable patterns of living in Wiltshire through their current levels of facilities, services and employment opportunities. Market Towns have the potential for significant development that will increase the jobs and homes in each town in order to help sustain and where necessary enhance their services and facilities and promote better levels of self-containment and viable sustainable communities.”*

#### **Core Policy 15: Spatial Strategy: Melksham Community Area**

*“Development in the Melksham Community Area should be in accordance with the Settlement Strategy set out in Core Policy 1.*

*Market Towns: Melksham and Bowerhill village*

*Large Villages: Atworth, Seend, Semington, Shaw / Whitley and Steeple Ashton.*

*Small Villages: Beanacre, Berryfield, Broughton Gifford, Bulkington, Great Hinton, Keevil, Poulshot and Seend Cleeve”*

Policies 1 and 15 are of relevance to the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan as they set the settlement hierarchy for the town and the villages. Melksham has met (and exceeded) its housing requirement set by the 2015 Core

Strategy, and has no strategic housing sites allocated by Wiltshire Council. The Neighbourhood Plan can therefore propose some additional development to serve the housing needs of the town, provided it does not conflict with the other policies of the Core Strategy and is fully evidenced.

The Issues and Considerations noted in the Core Strategy for Melksham Community Area (Paragraph 5.83) echo many of the issues raised by residents, including affordable housing, accessible transport, sustainable growth, and the need for additional community infrastructure. This is positive and will help to maintain the Neighbourhood Plan's conformity with the higher-level policy, reinforcing and adding a layer of local level detail to the higher policy.

#### **Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA), August 2017**

The SHELAA replaces the previous Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, and it aims to evaluate the suitability, availability, and achievability of land for both housing and economic development. The information it contains is divided up by Community Areas and gives an appraisal of all the sites that came forward through this process. The inclusion of a site in the SHELAA does not determine whether a site is allocated for future development and therefore it will have very limited weight in decision making, according to the report itself.

## Issue 2: Employment and Economy

---

Issues concerning the town centre, employment and economic development were raised by many people in the community engagement events carried out. The key themes raised were as follows:

### Retail

---

Concern over the growth in out of town retail, and the impacts this has on the town centre and traffic

The desire for more shops, particularly comparison retail, to allow Melksham to be more self contained and reduce the need to travel elsewhere for good such as clothes, shoes, furniture and electrical goods.

Various people commented on the type of retail, with many supporting independent retailers whilst others feeling that large retail chains should be encouraged.

Many people were concerned about parking charges in the town centre and felt this was off-putting to shoppers

### Economy

---

Residents felt that job opportunities need to grow at the same rate as the town to reduce the need to travel elsewhere for work.

It was felt that changes should be made to make Melksham a more attractive location to investors and employers, including improving the road network and improving the appearance of the town centre and riverside areas.

There is a need for high quality and attractive workspace offering a range of job opportunities

### Plans and policies which relate to the issues of Employment and Economy

---

#### **The National Planning Policy Framework 2012**

Encouraging town centre retailing and improving the economic health of centres is covered by the NPPF, which sets a sequential test for the development of retail proposals, with the intention of guiding them towards the most sustainable central locations.

Economic growth which helps deliver more jobs and more investment is encouraged in the NPPF. Whilst the allocation of employment land which delivers investment is supported, the NPPF states that employment sites which there is no “reasonable expectation” of being developed for employment uses should be considered for other uses.

#### **Wiltshire Core Strategy**

As noted above, the Neighbourhood Plan must be in conformity with the Wiltshire Core Strategy, and so it is useful to check that community aspirations chime with the intentions of this document, as the process develops.

Core Strategy: Core Policy 34: Additional Employment Land:

*“Proposals for employment development (use classes B1, B2 or B8) will be supported within the Principal Settlements, Market Towns and Local Service Centres, in addition to the employment land allocated in the Core Strategy. These opportunities will need to be in the right location and support the strategy, role and function of the town, as identified in Core Policy 1 (settlement strategy) and in any future community-led plans, including neighbourhood plans, where applicable.”*

**Core Policy 35: Existing Employment Sites**

This policy seeks to protect employment sites from alternative development unless specific criteria are met.

**Core Policy 36: Economic Regeneration**

This policy seeks to maximise the use of brownfield sites within Market Towns,

*“Regeneration of brownfield sites will be supported in the Principal Settlements, Market Towns and Local Service Centres where the proposed uses help to deliver the overall strategy for that settlement, as identified in Core Policy 1 (Settlement Strategy) and in any future community-led plans, including Neighbourhood Plans, and/or enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre by introducing a range of active uses that do not compete with the existing town centre.”*



## Issue 3: Education and Lifelong Learning

---

Making provision for education was a concern for many residents who attended the consultation events. The key concerns expressed were as follows;

- The need for the growth in education (primary, secondary, further and higher) to keep pace with housing growth, to avoid students having to travel long distances to schools and colleges, and to avoid large class sizes.
- Provision for further education and informal education opportunities for adults.
- The use of school premises for community uses outside of school hours
- The need for schools to be well connected to residential areas, and safe walking and cycling routes to avoid peak congestion.

### Plans and Policies which relate to the issues of Education and Lifelong Learning

---

#### **Wiltshire Core Strategy**

The Wiltshire Core Strategy para 5.83 notes the importance of primary and secondary school provision in Melksham, and states,

“new primary and secondary school capacity is needed for the area and this will need to be met through extension and rationalisation of the existing schools or through additional schools”

#### **Wiltshire Council School Places Strategy 2017-2022**

Pages 81-85 concern school place provision for Melksham. The Strategy notes that although there have been a falling number of births in Melksham over recent years, new housing development means that the number

of children needing school places is likely to rise. The Strategy states that,

*“The impact of housing development will further increase demand for primary school places in Melksham town over the coming years. Assuming the birth rate continues at the average rate for the past four years and the housing in the town is delivered as planned there will be a shortfall of places by 2021. The existing schools in Melksham are unable to expand due to site constraints, however, a new primary school site has been secured to the South of the town and will be developed as housing progresses.”*

*“The Local Authority intends to expand Melksham Oak secondary school by 300 11 to 15 places to meet the demand from additional housing. We are currently in discussion with the school as they wish to combine these works with an expansion of post 16 places and intend to seek ESFA funding for this element.”*

The medium term implementation plan (the next 3-5 years) for the School Places Strategy is to provide a 420 place primary school in line with housing development, and 300 additional secondary places at Melksham Oak School.

## Issue 4: Transport

---

Residents had many concerns about traffic and transport which they raised at the community engagement events. The main issues raised are summarised below.

- There were many concerns raised over the capacity of the existing road network to cope with the additional traffic generated by new large-scale housing development. Concerns over road safety, congestion, pollution and public transport provision were raised. In particular the need for bus services to access essential facilities such as shops and doctors was a concern raised by many.
- The need for safe walking and cycling routes to help to ease congestion and allow for sustainable transport choices was felt to be important by some residents.
- Concern over “rat runs”; the use of small rural roads as cut through routes to avoid congestion at key junctions was an issue for some, and others felt that traffic calming measures and lower speed limits may help address some of the problems.
- The desire for improved rail services, and an upgraded station were commented upon by many individuals, who felt that greater frequency of journeys and a more inviting railway station could help to encourage people to invest in Melksham.
- Car parking, in the town centre and in residential areas, was raised as an issue by some residents, who felt that car parking charges were off-putting to visitors.
- The location of a possible, future bypass was commented upon by a large number of individuals, who felt

it would help to solve some of the congestion issues faced by the town. Many provided comments on possible locations for the bypass, and felt that environmental factors would influence its routing. The need for safe crossing points was also noted.

### Plans and Policies relating to the issue of Transport

---

#### National Planning Policy Framework

The Sustainable Transport section of the NPPF sets out the Government’s commitment to encouraging economic growth and improved travel options whilst cutting carbon emissions. Paragraph 32 of the NPPF states that,

*“All developments that generate significant amounts of movement should be supported by a Transport Statement or Transport Assessment. Plans and decisions should take account of whether:*

- *the opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure;*
- *safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all people; and*
- *improvements can be undertaken within the transport network that cost effectively limit the significant impacts of the development. Development should only be prevented or refused on transport grounds where the residual cumulative impacts of development are severe.”*

This is important in the context of Plan-making at the Neighbourhood Plan level, and these factors need to be integral to decision/policy making.

### **Wiltshire Core Strategy**

Paragraph 5.83 refers to many of the transport issues which have been raised by residents, including public transport provision, congestion, walking, cycling and car parking. The Core Strategy does not specifically mention a bypass for the town, and suggests that inward investment will help to resolve some of the issues.

### **Wiltshire Local Transport Plan, 2011-2026**

The Local Transport Plan sets out the high-level strategy for transport over the Plan period, rather than planning for specific road schemes. It prioritises supporting economic growth and reducing carbon emissions (also national priorities), and provides a strategic direction for the following;

- Freight
- Walking
- Cycling
- Maintenance
- Public Transport
- Road Safety
- Smarter choices
- Network management

## Issue 5: Health, Leisure and Wellbeing

---

Residents expressed a wide range of views on the health, leisure and wellbeing topic;

- A large number believed that additional health care facilities are required for the town. Residents observed that medical facilities seem to be currently stretched to capacity and were concerned about how further new residents who came to live in the recent housing developments would be cared for. There were views about all levels of health care, from clinics, hospices, walk-in centres to hospitals.
- Leisure and recreation facilities for people of all ages were raised as an issue. People wanted more open space, outdoor play areas and sports facilities, which it was felt should be well maintained and have public toilets.
- The Hub/Campus was mentioned as a possible location for indoor leisure and recreation for the future. Art exhibitions, a museum or a gallery were also suggested as possible cultural opportunities for the Campus and the town centre.
- The river and canal were felt by some to be important opportunities for leisure and recreation, though work is needed to improve both.

### Plans and Policies relating to Health, Leisure and Wellbeing

---

#### National Planning Policy Framework

Chapter 8 of the NPPF provides policy on promoting healthy communities and proposes that provision is made for the social, cultural, and recreational facilities needed by the community, and that planning has a key role

to play in building strong and resilient communities.

#### Wiltshire Core Strategy

Paragraph 5.83 mentions many of the issues raised by residents through the community consultation. Provision for future health facilities will be sought from developer contributions, and opportunities sought to make the most of the river and canal as destinations for leisure and recreation. Core Policy 16 makes provision for the Melksham Link Project, and safeguards its route from development.

#### Wiltshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2015-2018)

This multi-agency document sets out a commitment to *“support and sustain healthy, independent living, this is described in the strategy within two key aims:*

*Healthy lives: encouraging communities, families and individuals to take on more responsibility for their own health*

*Empowered lives: personalising care and delivering care in the most appropriate setting at or as close to home as possible”*

It is recognised that with increasing life expectancy, greater pressure will be put on health services which will be used in different ways, particularly focused on older people's services as the population ages.

## Issue 6: Environment

---

The most commonly raised environmental issues through the public consultation were as follows;

### The Canal and River

---

Mixed views were expressed about the canal improvements, with the majority of those who responded being in favour of the new route. Many saw it as an opportunity for more leisure and recreation visits and trips, for example cycling, walking and wildlife watching. Some individuals proposed a visitor centre, toilets and café to encourage people to spend more time in this area.

### Outdoor Public Space

---

Residents wanted more open space, for informal and formal recreation, and for the sake of wildlife and biodiversity. Increased tree planting and protection for woodlands and individual trees was mentioned by some people. Others commented on the appearance of Melksham and felt that litter, poor signage and empty buildings detracted from the character of the town.

### Flooding/Sewerage

---

Several residents commented on the need to avoid development in areas of flood risk, due to the need to protect existing and future properties from damage. Comments were also made on the need for upgrades to the sewerage system ahead of further development.

### Energy

---

The creation of small scale renewable energy was raised as an issue by several residents, who identified solar power, wind turbines and hydro power as potential options for the town.

## Plans and Policies relating to Environmental Issues

---

### National Planning Policy Framework

Sustainable development is an underpinning principle of the NPPF, which has sections on the natural environment, historic environment, climate change, flooding and good design. Each of these policy statements will need to be reviewed in more detail as the Neighbourhood Plan develops to ensure conformity with all parts of the NPPF.

### Wiltshire Core Strategy

As with the NPPF, sustainability and environmental concerns underpin the policies and the overarching strategic direction. There are also specific policies on the protection of the natural and historic environment, renewable energy, biodiversity, air quality and landscape which the Neighbourhood Plan will need to be mindful of throughout its development. Policy 16: Melksham Link Project specifically safeguards the route of the canal and encourages its development. The issue of sewerage system upgrades is noted in Paragraph 5.83 of the Core Strategy as something needing addressing over the Plan period.

### Natural England Resources

MAGIC map resources will be used to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan develops in a way that is consistent with local and national designations such as local nature reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

### Environment Agency Resources

Flood zone mapping will be used to ensure that areas of highest probability of flooding are not allocated for development in the Neighbourhood Plan.

## Action Document Issues

---

The comments listed below are those which do not directly relate to the development of a Neighbourhood Plan but which are of importance to some Melksham residents. As further comments and issues are received through the community engagement process, these issues will be considered to examine whether there are ways of addressing them outside of the Neighbourhood Plan process.

- Bus services to the Royal United Hospital
- Litter/emptying of bins
- Bus fares
- The amalgamation of Melksham Town Council with Melksham Without Parish Council
- Parking of business vans and buses in residential areas
- Parking charges
- Disabled car parking
- Replacement/upgrading of play equipment at existing playgrounds
- The need for lollipop crossing patrols at schools
- Tree planting

## APPENDIX 1 – Comments from Public Engagement 27-28 March 2015

---

The following comments were submitted the Steering Group's snapshot 'priorities' survey or on post-it notes left by visitors to the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan Open House drop-in event held on 27th-28th March 2015 at the Assembly Hall.

### Housing

Development near bungalow 'estates' needs to take into account small bungalow gardens and risk of being overlooked by 3 storey houses / flats etc

More houses = more cars = less parking = more traffic jams

We need proper community facilities in E Melksham to support housing.

What happened to the Community Centre? I understand there will not be one!?

Build on old sites not on our green fields

Leave space for parking at new homes

Get our Leisure Centre built before all these houses

More planning needed for town centre. Many people go out of town because there is so little choice apart from supermarkets.

Fill in the gaps 1st eg: Bowerhill to Spa before spreading wildly!!

Whitley 312(12) Objection to planned housing as existing houses along Corsham Road flood with heavy rains along ditch behind the houses & require pumping out regularly. This site flooded in 2012 and 2014

No planning permission for housing on site opposite site of George Ward School to south of Bath Road

More affordable housing to buy or rent

Small properties for starter homes, more sheltered housing to buy or rent

Identify the health (and education) needs of the anticipated population before planning the new housing

More health facilities, community hospital, surgeries before houses

We do need more health centres ie Accident and Emergency if we are to have even more housing

Will need another doctors' surgery to cope with the number of houses to be built and the number of people this will involve as the current surgeries are up to capacity without any extra people

Better parking so cars are not on streets on estates

More education needed owing to increased housing.

By-pass before more houses

If you are increasing the number of houses in the area, please make sure there is an adequate supply of well surfaced roads, and that public transport is well provided for

Wider roads for large transport and emergency vehicles to access homes and businesses.

More sites must be ear-marked for employment to cope with extra housing.

Please consider housing developments that won't make flooding worse

New housing estates need green areas for families to enjoy – for play and education. Not just concrete and buildings

With the proposed additional housing, what other facilities need to be considered such as school, surgeries?

Melksham has had a rapid growth of houses being built do we need more

Careful consideration of a mixture of different types of houses is needed

We approve of the Wilts and Berks Canal development plan; it is well thought out, sustainable and would bring much needed £ to the area + lots of leisure opportunities

No 3 storey houses / flats in bungalow areas. More bungalows needed

Affordable 'upgrade' homes required for those looking to move on from their starter home to a family home but funds are still limited ie: 3 / 4 beds in modest sizes –we don't all have lots of money but we need homes to suit our families!

We should be encouraging more buy to live not buy to rent – rental costs are crippling and prevent many from getting on the property ladder themselves. More help is needed

Maintain buffer between Bowerhill and Melksham

Developments should include good landscaping schemes with plenty of trees, shrubs – ie: tree lined streets

When housing is build by bungalows please ensure it is not too high ie: 3 / 4 floors or blocks of flats

We need to Think about green space and about wildlife. Also infrastructure already can't cope. Also need to think about flooding and social problems. This supposed to be a rural area. A purpose built clinic / hospital would help a lot

Please balance housing development in Melksham rather than making huge housing development in one area of the town – it causes too much congestion on roads in & out of the estates + main roads!

Remember not to build on flood plain

What is the plan for the cemetery? More people > more bodies!

Mixed estates with green wildlife corridors

Houses to be built with most up to date low carbon standards. They will be there for a long time, so need to be environmentally friendly

Too much housing with no facilities such as health care (doctors / dentists) considered – existing facilities are struggling/

No development along any flood plain please until the Wilts Council does major work to stop our town and villages from flooding – Top Priority

We need smaller starter homes not only 3 / 4 bed so that young people can stay in Melksham, not only commuters

Reduce the 'cram a large no. Of houses in' approach and make ther developments more attractive – open spaces & plenty of tree planting – all new developments seem to be concrete, and more ugly concrete – depressing

Housing to go hand in glove with increased employment opportunities so work related travel isn't increased

More bungalows please "Older people" can stay in their own homes more if they don't have stairs

With the extra housing we need more facilities – health – hospital – doctors - A + Emergency facility

Retired people in Melksham looking for bungalows – build some. It need not be 'too expensive' – small courtyards. This would free up family homes for the market

Build on brownfield sites before green

Maintain green buffer between Melksham and Shaw / Whitley



No big housing estates. Break up into community clusters of mixed housing – no more than 70 houses split up by trees / play areas / green space

Thought must be given to strategic building plots allowed in clusters which will then protect against any future extensions in that vicinity & protect any further countryside spoilage

“Brown field” or post agric land. Avoid through routes

Builders to build more bungalows

Mixed estates so no one group isolated

Estates in moderate proportions

More houses mean more traffic.

Sort out the health facilities ie: new hospital; another school; employment land first and then see what’s left for housing or green land

Note to Planners: Please take a long term look at all the plans you pass so that we are not bulldozing buildings every 20 years to make room for more housing

I would support the following areas for building – 265, 280, 3123 – but not support these – 1006 and 1006 – these are the ‘lung’ of Bowerhill!

Good when houses have two parking spaces, gardens and sheds. Williams Close is good example with green area also near

Housing should be in keeping with existing (ie: complimentary). Ensure sewerage and surface water drainage are adequate to receive increase input. Flood issues to be adequately dealt with at planning stage NOT AFTER THOUGHT!!

The environment of the centre of the town should have a concentrated "up grade" e.g. Improving the use and maintenance of the buildings by utilising the upper floors as residential flats or offices.

A place where housing development is undertaken as a number of smaller developments to create a sense of belonging to smaller communities within the overall Melksham community.

I think Melksham would be spoilt if it became too developed and enlarged. The charm of Melksham is that it is large enough not to be claustrophobic but small enough to have a village atmosphere.

No more houses in the eastern side

More social housing for first time buyers. Good infrastructure for new houses - eg a new secondary school and primary schools. More doctors, Adequate roads shops and facilities to accompany new housing estates

I believe it should be mandatory for all new houses and commercial buildings to have solar panels

LESS HOUSING - MORE GREEN FIELDS –

I think it would be improved if planners did not give permission for cramped estates of lots of small houses with inadequate roads. They should also first ensure that there enough schools, doctors surgeries etc. and take account of areas prone to flooding.

It's no good building more and more and more houses unless more and more schools and medical services and other services are available near these houses

Improve availability of affordable housing without building huge, characterless housing estates; keep Melksham as a small, friendly market town with sufficient facilities to encourage people to stay in the area.

Brownfield sites and infill should be explored first before green fields are built on and lost forever.

more housing less work.

All these new "affordable" housing estates will be ghettos by 2025, like the council estates built in the 1950s and 1960s. The

answer is to create local jobs, road, healthcare and other infrastructure needed to support local people and build houses within logical boundaries that are not on flood plans.

housing density should be increased so that less land is required, and for the same reason more flats should be built. The spare room subsidy has shown there are insufficient smaller properties to allow those who are willing to downsize and avoid the subsidy.

Town centre brown sites should be used for high density, one or two bedroom social housing, with larger properties being built out of town, (so that those most likely to not have their own transport and need access to facilities can be housed closer to town).

Any development of more than ten dwellings should be on sites identified by the local plan and have solar panels.

Restoring the Wilts and Berks Canal could be a wonderful thing for Melksham. Not only will it improve the amenity of the town, and make it a more attractive place to live, but it will also stimulate development in riverside areas. This could then help meet Melksham's housing allocation for the next decade through a mixture of green and brownfield sites.

Go for more housing but not just small or all in blocks but mixed size and types including larger and modest detached, some semis and smaller terraces with some apartments and plenty of parking facilities to give people maximum benefit and CHOICE. There need to be adequate green spaces WITHIN the housing areas (not along the main roads). Keep to the edge of the town as much as possible or you end up with the Turners Court/Foundry Close type lumps of overcrowded inner-city type homes lacking adequate parking and amenity especially for children to play safely. Priorities: choice, good parking and green spaces/play areas inside housing

ideally west of river ensure new development not 3 storey, and is environmentally sensitive...minimum of impermeable surfaces.

maintenance of separate communities in Bowerhill, Berryfield Beanacre Shaw and Whitley

Fill in the gaps between our existing communities (eg Bowerhill / Spa, Bowerhill / Berryfields, Beanacre / Melksham, etc) before looking at new areas but avoid areas that are known to be prone to flooding (eg Shurnold, Broughton Gifford, Challeymead, etc)

I would like to see the large gardens/farmyards on the south side of Shaw Hill included in the planning area. This would avoid large scale development and enable affordable housing in small numbers for local people. This is not a special area any longer with many modern buildings and numerous businesses operating out of former farms.

It's no good building more and more and more houses unless more and more schools and medical services and other services are available near these houses

I do not support house building to finance the canal – where would the wildlife be if the banks are all hard brick & people mass along them. However if the canal were rerouted to the east, houses may [?] put [??] the river would not be destroyed

## **Employment and Economy**

Create proper links to new developments; do not repeat the mistakes of Bowerhill!!

Fill in between Bowerhill and Berryfield

Attract national chains – hotels, DIY, Electrical / IT, furniture / carpets. They will large stores + free parking

Definitely more industry is required for Melksham. A Training College for young people to develop their skills ie: engineering, building, electrical & code development for computing which is sorely lacking

No more supermarkets required, we have more than enough, all clustered together too

Employment development essential if more people

NO to out of town retail areas – we need to be supporting and developing our town centre more, not giving people more reasons to go elsewhere

More planning needed for town centre. Many people go out of town because there is so little choice apart from supermarkets.

When ? will the campus be started? It was supposed to be 2012 now they are saying 2017. Will I be dead by the time it is ready?!!

Areas 182 & 264, convenient to railway station, should be primary focus for new employment land. Allow for people to travel here for work. Residents can use local bus service if it continues as recently

Relocate Cooper Tires to Bowerhill. Riverside park in place of Coopers. Clean up river

Is there any proposal in planning for an upgrade of major roads? ie: the north – south route with a large number of vehicles – many heavy goods

Need to make better use of natural advantages / features eg the river to create a better atmosphere and retail experience

Surely we have enough supermarkets!!

Further education facilities would be fantastic to encourage mature students to further their skills that could benefit out town in turn

A better transport network can only be a benefit. If there is investment in transportation in and out of Melksham that will drive investment from other businesses. Having a train service will help employers and employees.

At least an element of free parking needs to be considered by Wiltshire Council – our town centre struggles enough when bigger

Wiltshire towns charge much less. It not about needing more spaces.

Free parking helps local business

There is a dire need for national business to move to Melksham ie: similar to Chippenham and Trowbridge. Big town – no shops!!

Free parking – no point in charging, as we can park in the supermarkets for free! Free parking will encourage more trade.

Are there any proposals for large landscaping ie: trees and woods. This use to be / appear a much greener place but due to the loss of elm trees the overall landscape is very open. From any higher ground this area of Wiltshire appears semi-industrial ie: large commercial sheds and of course the large electric relay station

More sites must be ear-marked for employment to cope with extra housing.

Ask what brands, names that would like to be attracted into the town. Similar to last year but more detailed

Improve the appearance of the entrance to the town – bridge etc.

Use the river more as an attraction with riverside shops cafe etc

Exploit the opportunities the canal extension into the town will bring. We have a real chance to put Melksham on the map as a tourist venue

Already too many eateries in Melksham!

Melksham needs to be hub for people to meet, socialise, and then shop. Good eateries, bars, restaurants, coffee shops. It is worth completing an additional survey

To provide undercover shopping area as Chippenham has Emery Gate and Trowbridge The Shires

Need to attract proper jobs to Melksham

Jobs in tourism and catering are too low-paid for people to buy their own homes

We need more than retail. Production / manufacturing industry could well be encouraged. Thank you

No (!) to edge of town retail – it diminishes the town centre use & puts people out of business

No more supermarkets please!

More town centre reinvigoration for retail (too many estate agents etc)

Perhaps more leisure services – (look how popular is the new Italian restaurant)

Try to keep on / new existing brownfield sites

Create space for more local employment. Need to help business expand or attract new employers to area

No more supermarkets needed

Build on areas where we have firms already – expand there

Can the gateway to our town ie bridge not be cleaned up & investment made to use of the riverside for leisure use - pavement cafes – it could be lovely

Get better shops in town

Melksham needs a shoe shop selling good quality fashionable shoes that are not too expensive

Housing to go hand in glove with increased employment opportunities so work related travel isn't increased

Shops need to be encouraged with the one hour parking

Get a supermarket south of the town so less cars in town

We need more employment and more public transport ie: more taxis?

A place where there is a wide range of employment opportunities including non-skilled, skilled and professional.

More needs to be done for those living in poverty, whether employed or not.

Better shops needed, to stop people travelling to Chippenham etc

Should seek to attract more businesses which provide skilled work opportunities

Low carbon economy driven by local investment opportunities in local renewable energy projects

Provide more "up-market shops etc. Take the new cinema complex and restaurants in Trowbridge as an example. What do we have? Asian restaurants and numerous takeaways! Yes we have the Kings Arms and Weatherspoons, and shortly an Italian, but more fashionable restaurants would change the face of Melksham.

Better grade shops and tidier streets and pavements a limit on fast food outlets estate agents and charity shops free parking for the first hour to entice people into the shops they might visit more often

It should have a large store ( eg M&S or John Lewis) on the edge of town

A town centre to be proud of with no empty retail premises which in turn will attract out of town shoppers.

**MORE HIGH STREET RETAIL SHOPS - LARGER WELL KNOWN STORES.**

Encourage a wider range of shops, local and national (not just supermarkets) to provide job opportunities for youngsters and our ageing population.

Ideally by 2025 Melksham should be prosperous, vibrant and a pleasant place to live in the best traditions of an English Market Town. Notwithstanding the requirement for the country as a whole to be economically sound, the town itself needs an effective and

efficient economy with the people and businesses capable of achieving and maintaining it.

Clearly there must be something about Melksham that will encourage the entrepreneurs to live in or near the town and site their businesses here. This will not be achieved by covering the countryside in solar farms and greenfield developments but a train service to London would help.

Encouragement for companies to come to Melksham to provide meaningful, stable and permanent employment for local people.

It's a shame that so much money has been invested into Trowbridge and other towns have shops which people need so the travel to. As a small business's manager, and someone who does as much for the town as I am able to, I would love to find ways to make our town great.

we can live in melksham and commute

Currently there are many major supermarkets (all in direct competition) in Melksham which has brought many employment opportunities and consumers from further afield.

Creation of employment opportunities should be the highest priority - we don't want Melksham to become a commuter area, that just increases traffic.

Over the years Melksham has become one of the top spots in the list of the five West Wiltshire towns. There are individual shops and generally the town centre is very good.

The town lacks attractive shops to retain those visitors so this needs encouraging.

it should provide better quality shops to build up the town centre too many take-aways / hairdressers

Improve the appearance of the Avon Enterprise Park and entice more tenants.

We need more hotel rooms and a decent restaurant or two

Improving the image of the town centre, with landlords being encouraged to update their properties while keeping the feeling of a small market town. Get rid of Avon Place, difficult but does it enhance Melksham at all.

Encourage a vibrant town centre which offers adequate parking and a better variety of shops.

Priority for creation of new jobs.. safeguard employment land adjoining Bowerhill Ind estate.

we need more quality shops in melksham

## **Health, Leisure and Wellbeing**

### **Health**

Typical Wilts Council close local hospitals and force patients to go to the RUH then cancel the Hopper Service that takes patients there. Double whammy!

Shaw + Whitley + Atworth – large enough community for doctor's surgery?

Local support groups for health with good information

More treatment should be available at Melksham Hospital, but it also needs more parking

GPs and Dentists - Need more facilities located in different parts of the town – eg Forest, East Melksham, Bowerhill. 3 weeks to get an appointment is crazy! Trying to get emergency almost impossible. Open a walk-in centre

The hospital should be refurbished or rebuilt and an outpatient facility is needed. With increasing housing this is essential. + pharmacy needed on East side – there are time restrictions on Gompels at Snowberry Lane

Retain the Hopper bus to RUH

With the extra housing we need more facilities – health – hospital – doctors - A + Emergency facility

We need a Community Hospital or clinic for minor injuries + surgery plus respite etc

The Community Hospital must be restored to a fully operational unit. We need a 24hr A&E unit and some post-hospital recovery wards. In fact the hospital should never have been closed as it was. I feel it was a disgrace. Thank you (DV)

A purpose built clinic / hospital would help a lot

Find space for another GP surgery / pharmacy for Melksham, leading perhaps as part of an integrated Medical Centre campus with minor injuries / assessment beds / convalescent facilities

More doctors surgeries and use the use hospital in a better way!!

Please make provision for a GP surgery on the Leekes side of town. The balance is over-weighted to the Spa Road / Snowberry Ln side. There's a shortage of available GPs as we speak.

A health campus would be a good idea!

Need more health facilities / GPs for growing population

More GP surgeries and dentists needed

Hospital – useful range of services in there. Surely all needed. Too much planning seems to increase the need to travel

Have a Children's' hospice in Melksham – perhaps a part of a Melksham Medical / Care campus

Good health facilities for the growing population and increase in elderly people

Support for social care mental health care

Perhaps a designated Health Campus Centre with health related issues in one place

Increase in hospital capacity -A& E; convalescent beds

Identify the health (and education) needs of the anticipated population before planning the new housing

Awareness of palliative care services – full integration into health remit

Think to re-open the hospital would be a great help and asset

Melksham Hospital should revert to what it was – a 'cottage' hospital re-cooperation [recuperation!] and minor injuries. This would relieve pressure on large hospitals

Need a community hospital with minor injuries in medical centre 24hrs.

GP surgery to west of Melksham

More health facilities community hospital surgeries before houses

Redevelop the hospital for use as Minor Injury Unit, Out of hours GP, and short stay beds

More GPs needed, possibly dentists too

Already need more medical provision.

The hospital is still there waiting to be used

Bring back Melksham Hospital as a fully working hospital

GP surgery to move to other end of town. All GPs seem to be at one end

We do need more health centres ie Accident and Emergency if we are to have even more housing

Great shame that Melksham Hospital A&E closed especially due to the recent population increase

More GPs – even locums.

Improve GP appointment waiting time – now 2 – 4 weeks. You will either be better or dead

Reopen MIU in Melksham Hospital

More GPs either in existing surgeries or another site

Will need another doctors' surgery to cope with the number of houses to be built and the number of people this will involve as the current surgeries are up to capacity without any extra people

Dorothy House Transition Project. Young People moving to adult hospice.

Collaborative working with possible Children's Hospice in the area

Given the problems people have with the RUH, particularly post-operative, would it not make some sort of sense to revert the hospital site to its previous 'cottage hospital' status, at least providing a staging post for recovery?

Location of a new doctors surgery – on one of the new developments (ie Shurnhold) so is more accessibility for people who do not want to drive

Please may we have a Minor Injury Unit in Melksham Hospital, per petition several years ago when 67% of Melksham requested it

Reopen hospital – a priority

On west side of Melksham there are no doctors' surgeries

Too much housing with no facilities such as health care (doctors / dentists) considered – existing facilities are struggling/

My second is utilizing Melksham Hospital for minor injuries; we have a fantastic resource here so why don't we use it?

Improve health provision, new surgery on north or west of town,

health and welfare facilities (we need the old hospital to be reopened, and at the very least, for accident and emergency services),

still waiting weeks to see a dentist or doctor.

you need to have the doctors, schools etc in place before getting any bigger

### **Leisure**

Sustainable and local activities that don't need to be reached by cars

No big housing estates. Break up into community clusters of mixed housing – no more than 70 houses split up by trees / play areas / green space

Local leisure facilities that is sustainable

We need a Senior Centre within the hub. It should have sport; reading – preferably a library that pertains to all things that affect the elderly; respite care; transport for disabled; benefits; probate; befriending services; meals on wheels etc etc.

There are not enough football pitches, and sports facilities for the young people and old alike. Organisational clubs for health.

We need to encourage the young to Melksham so it is not seen as primarily for the elderly

Parking and toilet facilities near places to walk

Get our Leisure Centre built before all these houses

Start new canal A.S.A.P. Clean up river through Town

We have wonderful areas for leisure but need planned means of joining them up. Eg Having to walk over town bridge is a nonsense

When ? will the campus be started. It was supposed to be 2012 now they are saying 2017. Will I be dead by the time it is ready?!!

Protect current green spaces – playing field areas. Do not infill!

We approve of the Wilts and Berks Canal development plan; it is well thought out, sustainable and would bring much needed £ to the area + lots of leisure opportunities

Relocate Cooper Tires to Bowerhill. Riverside park in place of Coopers. Clean up river

Leisure for residents and tourists. Key targets for our area must be – cycling; fishing; walking. These imply free long term parking with accessibility to specific areas and cycling / walking safe crossings of busy roads.

I am hoping the sporting facilities that are provided will be affordable for everyone not just those with the larger incomes

Need to make better use of natural advantages / features eg the river to create a better atmosphere and retail experience

Every park needs a toilet (resident aged 9)

The zip wire was broken then fixed. Now it is rubbish and it does not go to the end and always scrapes the bottom. NOT FUN!!!

Make use of the riverside – with investment, effort it could be so lovely to access for leisure - footpaths, clean up, tidy up

Would definitely support the Wilts and Berks development plan. It will tie together a lot of other developments in the Town and Without

More public, free to use, green areas in new housing estates and 'sporting' areas, ie tennis courts, concrete all-weather areas

Need to recognise that much of the land surrounding Melksham is privately owned farms that are not open to the public

Canal Link needs to be built A.S.A.P

River through Town needs cleaning up with leisure facilities.

Having art exhibitions in any empty shops' windows.

A place that takes full advantage of the opportunities offered by the proposed Melksham Link canal project. By doing this, Melksham will attract not only tourism but also new businesses into the area.

Make sure library is run by qualified staff

Get rid of the parking in the Market Place Area and make it a pedestrian zone with seats, trees etc and can be used for Markets, special events etc

Population about the same as it is now with recreational facilities built in areas which are intended for new housing

Build on cultural diversity by providing appropriate facilities to bring visitors in to the town.

The Melksham Link needs to be finalised ASAP so that's its impact on potential housing land can be determined.

More larger area should be made available for dog owners to safely exercise their dogs (similar to the King George V playing field zone).

The river avon cannot take any more water and the weather is getting worse as time goes on. Therefore if new homes are to be built we really need a large lake to buffer all that water, and that lake could double up as a summer time leisure facility plus a winter time water buffer, The developers are not interested

I think it has potential with the proposed canal improvements which will bring more visitors.

By 2025, the Melksham link of the canal should be finished. Landscape the banks making the Avon a pleasant place to be.

Restoring the Wilts and Berks Canal could be a wonderful thing for Melksham. Not only will it improve the amenity of the town, and make it a more attractive place to live, but it will also stimulate development in riverside areas. This could then help meet Melksham's housing allocation for the next decade through a mixture of green and brownfield sites.

Also provision for the youth to meet intergrated into the community as a whole.

protect historic built environment



Add museum & art gallery to campus site

50 + leisure opportunities do not consider people who work eg times are usually in the day.

## Education and lifelong Learning

There should be a secondary school on the other side of town (resident aged 9)

The Action Group at Shaw and Whitley have started to discuss the need for a path / cycle path from Dunch Lane via the fields leading to Shaw School. This is due to the new housing to be built at George Ward School

Another school back on old George Ward site not houses

Melksham is pretty much a further education desert. There was a satellite of Wiltshire College, but the College couldn't sustain it. Some encouragement for FE in Melksham should be worked out

Are there plans for another secondary school? Is the Oaks at full or nearly capacity?

Where will we put NF's promised grammar school?

Another secondary school will be needed with more family housing being built – it's only logical

An old fashioned technical school (secondary modern) with emphasis on vocational training, engineering, building etc. Real skills. This could be placed on the old George Ward site as the building is already there

Another secondary school will be needed. There is a good site on the west of town – the George Ward site! There would then be accessible schools for all

School building programme – extend Oak - expand smaller schools

Please make sure that primary and secondary education places can meet the needs of the growing population. Thank you

Further education facilities would be fantastic to encourage mature students to further their skills that could benefit out town in turn

We only have one secondary school. Maybe another one would be a good idea

More education needed owing to increased housing.

Secondary school and further education college – looking forward to training more apprenticeships

There used to be adult education classes in Melksham. I attended some ( Typing, O Level Psychology, French ) but Wiltshire Council withdrew them all

Identify the health (and education) needs of the anticipated population before planning the new housing

More education needed owing to increased housing.

Secondary school – one well organised school rather than competition and potential conflict. (There has been tensions between primary schools in the past)

Spread the senior schools so that it reduces traffic going from one end of the town to the other

Either more primary schools / nurseries will be needed or encourage existing ones to expand to meet the demand that more families moving / being created will create

How about denominational schools? We thought we had choice. Our grandchildren go to St Patrick School in Corsham and St Augustine in Trowbridge. Council cut back on school transport – as grandparents we have to help to subsidise their transport. Our choice to send them to Catholic schools – is that wrong???

Additional secondary school required

## Transport

A series of transport related ideas prepared by Graham Ellis were on a single A4 sheet, which will be shared with the Task Group

My dream for Melksham –  
PEDESTRIANISATION

Bigger car park at Melksham Station

More cycle paths

Instead of bus timetable for town why not have several buses just going round, charging minimal amount for single journey for getting from A to B

Sort out A350 to avoid bottleneck between ASDA and Leekes

Extend Snowberry Lane to Lacock and Beanacre

Is there any proposal in planning for an upgrade of major roads? ie: the north – south route with a large number of vehicles – many heavy goods

More car parks. Car use is not sustainable

Improve bus services

If you are increasing the number of houses in the area, please make sure there is an adequate supply of well surfaced roads, and that public transport is well provided for

By-pass before more houses

Wider roads for large transport and emergency vehicles to access homes and businesses.

Please resurface the roads and not just temporary pot hole filling in that is useless

More cycle paths

Car park at the station and platform with waiting room

Leave space for parking at new homes

Typical Wilts Council close local hospitals and force patients to go to the RUH then cancel

the Hopper Service that takes patients there. Double whammy!

Retain the Hopper bus to RUH

More buses and coaches

Extend existing platform to bring full length into use behind tyre place. Put second platform to South of A365 bridge thus using that bridge for access to all

A separate cycle walk on the by-pass and around the Farmers Roundabout to make it safer for cyclists and motorists

Sustainable and local [Leisure] activities that don't need to be reached by cars

Too much planning seems to increase the need to travel

Leisure for residents and tourists. Key targets for our area must be – cycling; fishing; walking. These imply free long term parking with accessibility to specific areas and cycling / walking safe crossings of busy roads.

More law enforcement to stop cyclists riding on the pavement and to make them fit lights to their bikes

Current bus routes are good but could be better. The local metro buses could do with another working in the opposite direction at the same time for the convenience of the users

A better transport network can only be a benefit. If there is investment in transportation in and out of Melksham that will drive investment from other businesses. Having a train service will help[ employers and employees.

Spread the senior schools so that it reduces traffic going from one end of the town to the other

There has already been big increase in traffic on the roads in and around Melksham

Lower speed limits should be introduced on residential roads

Church Lane is a rat run

It is not easy access between bus travel and the station. The bus stops are not convenient for the station and are particularly bad for less mobile people

Car parking facilities essential for commuters

I feel for the benefit of all Melksham residents and shops – the hour's free parking would be an enormous benefit – who wants to pay parking to buy postage stamps / a pound of sausages etc

By pass before more houses

Fares structure needs to be simplified, and fares reduced to encourage more to choose rail travel

FOOTPATHS + CYCLEWAYS! To connect houses to schools, shops + industry

Traffic calming – especially in local communities / villages – but please NOT sleeping policemen. I have seen some very good schemes implemented in an area of Scotland – Tayside – where I was living until recently

At least an element of free parking needs to be considered by Wiltshire Council – our town centre struggles enough when bigger Wiltshire towns charge much less. It not about needing more spaces.

20mph speed limits + replace traffic lights (eg at Shaw Church) with roundabouts to ease traffic flow

Dedicated cycle paths, if only to get the cyclists off the pavements

Footpath from Clackers Brook to Snowberry Lane – needs to be properly done as a lot of school children walk there to go to Oaks School + we do a lot of walking towards that footpath – at the moment the footpath is rather dangerous – please have a man check what too be done

Station car parking may increase rail use there

Proposed campus access seems to be inadequate

What can be done for those who cannot drive – elderly, vulnerable, disabled?

Reopen the road to and from Bath under the A350. This will then ease traffic flow at the lights on the dual carriageway

More cycle paths – and education for cyclists, so that they do not use pedestrian pavements

Increase train services before 2019! They are well used now. Good bus services to the station all day – currently free bus only links in a.m and p.m rush hours. Good footpaths to and from town centre to station. Toilet facilities at the station

More trains and promotion would then require an expansion of the station which can only be a good thing

Town bus service need to go round the housing to south of town ie Kenilworth Garden area

Improve rail services to be truly Trans-Wilts with through services to Salisbury in both directions. Why is it cheaper to drive to Salisbury and park the car for the weekend to catch the train to Pembrokeshire / London than to go direct from Melksham

Please may we have a cycle way link from Broughton Road to the new canal complex - A SAFE ROUTE FOR CYCLISTS to come from Broughton to Melksham. The Farmers Roundabout is too dangerous for cyclists!

Free parking – no point in charging, as we can park in the supermarkets for free! Free parking will encourage more trade.

Trains need to link up with the Paddington / Penzance service that goes through Westbury

Wider roads for large transport and emergency vehicles to access homes and businesses.

We do need a by-pass round Melksham from A350 to A350 – Eastern by-pass soon please

Removing bus pass facility before 9.30 so early in the morning discriminates against elderly and disabled as not able to get to surgery to get emergency appointments

Restrict town centre access for vehicles to enable pedestrianisation

Bigger market & emphasis on community spirit

Housing to go hand in glove with increased employment opportunities so work related travel isn't increased

We need more employment and more public transport ie: more taxis?

Resurfacing the footpaths that lead into the High Street.

Concerned about traffic on snowberry lane without more houses,

Reduced use of vehicles, i.e., better public transport and improved facilities for cyclists etc.

I do not want to see any more traffic calming around the Town. It is dangerous and unnecessary - remember the cost of the speed bumps on the Town Bridge and the cost of quickly removing them

The survey was obviously put together before the increase to our train service.

Sort out the traffic problems around the Asda junction!

Need to repair the road infrastructure. Multiple poorly repaired potholes call for proper resurfacing

Hope I'll be able to cycle into town safely!

Get rid of the parking in the Market Place Area and make it a pedestrian zone with seats, trees etc and can be used for Markets, special events etc

With much improved rail services - to Bristol, London, Swindon, Salisbury, Southampton - Melksham could be a very important town in Wiltshire and thought of as a commuter town to many southern major cities.

Parking is a big issue in general in the town

Traffic free in town. Fine vehicle pavement/ double yellow line parking.

I would prefer there to be some control over the idiotic, dangerous and stupid parking by parents waiting for their children to come out of the Oaks School Cars are parked all the way up Falcoln Way making it very difficult should a fire engine need to get through and they are parking here on Bowerhill estate on Hornchurch and Belvedere Road making it difficult to access our properties.

FAR BETTER BUS SERVICES. FREE CAR PARKING.

IF WE HAVE TO HAVE SHARED CYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CYCLE PATHS - THEN THEY SHOULD BE WIDE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE BOTH - PROPERLY MARKED OUT AND WITH LIGHTING - AT PRESENT OUR FOOTPATHS ARE HAZARDOUS WITH CYCLISTS SUPPOSEDLY THINKING THEY OWN THE FOOTPATHS AND THAT IS THE PEDESTRIAN'S RIGHT TO STEP INTO THE ROAD TO MAKE WAY FOR THEM.

Pedestrians and cyclists should have priority in the centre (and elsewhere) - perhaps even a car free area. The current layout sees old folk forced to cross Bank St, Lowbourne etc. without a crossing as they are so few and far between. The car priority is 30 years out of date.

A true centre based on the new sports campus with traffic calming along the lines of Chippenham supported by public transport is needed to give the town a single focus.

The turning on of the christmas lights shows people are drawn to the town hall area but without the lights it is pretty pointless. The

market square market is a great idea but because the council allowed the needs of a taxi rank to take precedence the market can never develop - move the taxi rank on tuesday and let a market develop!

The town is often jammed by people parking on yellow lines but the traffic warden seems to just wait and give the offenders time - enforce the rules (all of them including dog poo collection and the like).

As the road from Chippenham is to be a dual carriageway, Beanacre should have a bypass.

Living on Beanacre road, we like most people here feel totally left out. The traffic is constant, fast and loud, and the road is filthy.

A place with improved bus routes and convenient timetables to encourage locals to travel by public transport.

Melksham needs to improve it's road infrastructure before it continues to attract people from surrounding villages further

Currently there are many major supermarkets (all in direct competition) in Melksham which has brought many employment opportunities and consumers from further afield. However this central hub is serviced by one small but ridiculously busy road - the A350 and surrounding village lanes!

Public transport and a bypass which takes the congestion and hazards away from residential areas such as Beanacre is a priority which should it be ignored!

More robust management of traffic flow through the town centre in needed - a bypass round the town and better rail services connecting to Salisbury and Swindon would be good. With all the recent housing development and still more in the pipeline,

The roundabout near Sainsburys and Waitrose should be improved though.

Improved pedestrian and cycle paths would make it safer for residents particularly the

increasing numbers of elderly we shall have by then.

There need to be adequate green spaces WITHIN the housing areas (not along the main roads)

I would like the centre of Melksham pedestrianised in a similar way to say Chippenham/Trowbridge.

Although we have enough supermarkets other shopping will continue to be done in Bath, Bristol or Swindon and so create more traffic/congestion on our roads.

Extend the rail services to have regular 2-way services direct to Salisbury / Southampton & Frome / Weymouth

I am concerned that the currently free bus service which services peak time trains is to be axed next month by Wiltshire Council; and that other bus services which pass by the station (heading for Chippenham and Bath) do not currently call at the railway station at all. The railway station is ideally placed to become a transport hub. It doesn't even have any taxis at present.

transport prices are inflated do not encourage transport use.

## **Environment**

Global warming is here and will get worse. We must plan to help mitigate its effects

Protect our river and its wildlife

Hedges growing so fast in the little roundabout by Snowberry Lane & we find ourselves anxious as we cannot see other vehicles coming around from the other side of the road when they turn to Snowberry Lane. Perhaps the hedges can be shortened to be able to see other vehicles

More tree planting as a criteria for being considering new developments (wildlife)

Renewable energy projects need to be encouraged - "eyesore" or not, it's the future

of household energy that is affordable and we should be on board with this

Environmental effect of proposed new development would mean huge impact on water resources, wildlife habitat, general impact of humans - litter disturbance +++

More green spaces. Recreate Melksham Forest

Safe play areas for children where they can climb trees and create dens

More reserves(?) for wildlife done by people not experts

Stop maize being grown on our flood plain – increases flooding

Make entrance to Melksham by town bridge more attractive – more greenery & trees

The need to have green spaces which cannot be developed on between each area so that we don't become one huge hinterland

Turn old golf course into green space at Bowerhill

The key environmental issue is the impact of humans – pollution of water courses and litter. Address these

The rural surroundings of Melksham are not endangered really

In view of the flooding of rivers when high rainfall. Please consider housing developments that won't make flooding worse

New housing estates need green areas for families to enjoy – for play and education. Not just concrete and buildings

Need to make better use of natural advantages / features eg the river to create a better atmosphere and retail experience

Make use of the riverside – with investment, effort it could be so lovely to access for leisure - footpaths, clean up, tidy up

Are there any proposals for large landscaping ie: trees and woods. This use to be / appear a much greener place but due to the loss of elm trees the overall landscape is very open.

Improve the appearance of the entrance to the town – bridge etc.

What has happened to the Archimedes Screw on the river?

I see that solar panels can be surrounded by wild flowers – good for bees (see this week's Waitrose magazine)

Remember not to build on flood plain. Make people aware that when building papers(?) are not let around(?)

Wild habitat should be protected by providing disturbance & pollution. The canal boat propellers stir up the sediment – create turbid water which obscures light (foliar?) plants. No plants means no shelter for aquatic insects & fish & no food either. Canal = wildlife loss, do not let it go through the river

Encourage Cooper Tires to relocate & make the town bridge / gateway more attractive and make the riverbank more attractive.

We are fortunate in having a lot of green spaces in our town – it will be very sad if we are unable to have these kept up + lose the flower displays which welcome us

The canal link will be great and an encouragement for people to walk / bike / barge + leisure facility

What is the plan for the cemetery? More people > more bodies! Bear in mind its use as a place for quite reflection and peace

Local volunteering for litter-picking around the Melksham environment

Tidy / clean up the whole image you are set entering the town by industrial units & excessive signage & grime

When is the campus going to start? Or the market place? Or the canal link? Not just houses.

Why link new build houses with Canal Link?  
Canal Link needs to be built A.S.A.P

River through Town needs cleaning up with leisure facilities.

CAMPUS NEEDS TO START BEING BUILT NOW

Community tree planting initiatives needed  
eg: behind the Avon factory close to riverside road

Litter is a real problem. Could there be more bins collected more frequently? Is it possible to implement fines? Out town and area is spoilt by the amount of rubbish around.

We need to keep green spaces. Also think about wildlife and endangered species. We should consult the wildlife experts on this to see what the long term effects of building projects would be

Sustainable development. Local activities.  
More cycle ways and paths

We need green spaces but these need to have financial provision to maintain them – cut grass, weed control, and tree / hedge trimming

Don't overfill the town – people need space to stay sane

Energy sources. Not everything in life can look pretty as we need to contribute to improved energy sources. Wind / solar. Some people complain about wind turbines but near Burnley it's become a walking area – they even sell postcards postcards of the site

I do not support house building to finance the canal – where would the wildlife be if the banks are all hard brick & people mass along them. However if the canal were rerouted to the east, the river would not be destroyed

We need to Think about green space and about wildlife. Also infrastructure already

can't cope. Also need to think about flooding and social problems. This supposed to be a rural area

Mixed estates with green wildlife corridors

Houses to be built with most up to date low carbon standards. They will be there for a long time, so need to be environmentally friendly

Melksham needs a shoe shop selling good quality fashionable shoes that are not too expensive

No development along any flood plain please until the Wilts Council does major work to stop our town and villages from flooding – Top Priority

Reduce the 'cram a large no. of houses in' approach and make the developments more attractive – open spaces & plenty of tree planting – all new developments seem to be concrete, and more ugly concrete - depressing

Providing fixtures so that individual premises can supplement the good flower displays provided by the Town Council.

Cleaning up the river banks as viewed from the Town Bridge.

Improving the environment of the open air spaces where workers can sit and eat their lunch

Low carbon economy driven by local investment opportunities in local renewable energy projects;

I believe it should be mandatory for all new houses and commercial buildings to have solar panels

I consider that a hydro power system across the river should be given high priority.

Melksham should pay more respect to environmental issues in and around the town

For an example to what can be achieved, go and look at Devizes. Melksham town's

appearance is scruffy and ugly compared to other market towns such as Devizes.

I walk every day so really notice this. We have to use the subway to get to town which is used by train users. What must they think of Melksham!!

Clearly there must be something about Melksham that will encourage the entrepreneurs to live in or near the town and site their businesses here. This will not be achieved by covering the countryside in solar farms and greenfield developments but a train service to London would help.

Any development of more than ten dwellings should be on sites identified by the local plan and have solar panels.

Persuade Asda to clad their supermarket in something more attractive.

Improving the image of the town centre, with landlords being encouraged to update their properties while keeping the feeling of a small market town. Get rid of Avon Place, difficult but does it enhance Melksham at all.

avoid areas that are known to be prone to flooding (eg Shurnold, Broughton Gifford, Challemead, etc)

The litter bins on the Manor Park and Dauntsey Gardens estate are not being emptied unless someone rings up the Wiltshire council. That may be because we are as yet unadopted - in which case it is the responsibility of the builders who do not want to know. The estate is prone to a great deal of litter dropping - probably by late teens and early twenties because of the number of cans, bottles (glass or plastic) and paper - including takeaway wrappings.

## **General Infrastructure and Miscellaneous**

Need to co-ordinate plans better.

Having 2 Councils for the town is crazy – COMBINE THEM.

This survey does not contain any of the important sustainable issues and these should be high priority

A connected community.....caring that all ages have support and access to education, leisure and a healthy happy lifestyle.

The infrastructure needs to be preplanned and in place before all the new housing is in place - should be in place by the end of 2015.

Melksham should have sufficient housing and work opportunities for everyone with adequate educational and health facilities to meet everyone's needs along with an abundance of recreational choices for the growing population

Our local community officers seem to be trying hard to create a pleasant and interesting town, but I wish they had the power to direct planning authorities decisions in order to reject massive new housing estates on green field sites

After moving here from out of the area I wouldn't like melksham to get to big to quick, you need to have the doctors, schools etc in place before getting any bigger otherwise you will find it harder to catch up

The town should maintain a sensible balance for employment opportunities, shopping facilities, health and welfare facilities (we need the old hospital to be reopened, and at the very least, for accident and emergency services), sport and leisure facilities. All of the above supported by good infrastructure ie, cycle ways, parks, buildings, roads, transport and a comprehensive and regular, rigorous maintenance programmes for each of them.

Melksham is disjointed in a number of ways. The town has no true centre as the development appears to have been planned ad hoc.

So many rules are routinely flouted that Melksham is seen as a place you can do what you like. Give it a central focus, make folk



proud and they will help in making sure rules are applied.

The council should stop pandering to developers and playing with vanity projects like the Canal etc, stop bowing to pressure from minorities who want traffic calming etc and start taking care of what it already has and the people who live here

It's no good building more and more and more houses unless more and more schools and medical services and other services are available near these houses

Clearly there must be something about Melksham that will encourage the entrepreneurs to live in or near the town and site their businesses here. This will not be achieved by covering the countryside in solar farms and greenfield developments but a train service to London would help.

Having been recently involved in the discussions concerning new developments, my biggest concern has always been the lack of plans to enhance health care, transport and schools in the area. So this is my highest priority.

Melksham needs adequate infrastructure in place ie healthcare, transport, schools before additional housing is forced onto the town and surrounding communities.

Melksham must now be one of the larger populations in Wiltshire so I don't see the logic of having two Councils - they should merge to give local people a more consistent approach to providing services and better value for money

Melksham will only develop in a united community when we have one local Melksham Council. The present structure is archaic and not fit for purpose in a true democracy

Vastly improve the Melksham infrastructure to service all the additional population.

Melksham Town and Melksham without should be 1 council as this would lead to unification of ideas and less of the attitude "Let's put it in Melksham Without" Also a larger town would lead to more revenue for all residents. Melksham Without could not exist if Melksham Town didn't work so hard at promoting the Town/Assembly Hall/ Sports facilities.

In 10 years time I can't imagine much will change. Still not enough jobs in Melksham, still waiting weeks to see a dentist or doctor. The infrastructure needs to be vastly improved to cater for all the new housing we have now let alone the thought of building more houses.

maintenance of separate communities in Bowerhill, Berryfield Beanacre Shaw and Whitley

It is crazy having 2 councils for such a small town. The councils should be combined so that the whole of Melksham and its small hinterland can be developed under one cohesive plan.

## APPENDIX 2 - Shaw and Whitley Community Engagement, July 2015

---

### Housing

Some housing required in Shaw and Whitley

30% housing and 2 bed bungalows / 20% one bed Flats / 35% three bed semi & detached / 15% four bed and three floors

Building on them (open spaces) simply further promotes a limited amount of fresh air & exercise

– which the government is fighting against with Changes for Life campaigns.

Infrastructure --- schools / GPs / play areas – all before more houses

Don't build on the flood plain. We flood now in Whitley

Can the sewerage cope with more houses?

I do not want to see further housing development in this area. We have no idea what the impact of the Shurnhold development will be so it would be foolish to add more Economy and Employment

No more supermarkets. It is only a short drive / bus ride / taxi ride to get to larger towns with a wider range. Sainsbury / Waitrose / ASDA / Lidl and Aldi are plenty.

### Health and Wellbeing

A GP surgery this side of Melksham (ie Shaw)

Melksham Hospital needs to be used more

It is imperative to protect & maintain the current playing fields / play areas for children. Building on them simply further promotes a limited amount of fresh air & exercise – which the government is fighting against with Changes for Life campaigns.

We desperately need a GP on this part of town

I'd like to see a minor injuries unit (Melksham Hospital)

Melksham Hospital needs to be used a lot more

Encourage activities not just 'play'

More cycle---routes around Shaw / Whitley / Melksham

As Witley grows we would benefit from more NHS facilities – doctors, dentist etc

We need more GP surgeries also dentists to cope with the housing we have now – also to use Melksham Hospital more

Who is going to do the maintenance of the equipment? Where is the money being sourced?

### Education

Bring back lollipop ladies for Shaw School

I definitely do not want to see Shaw School expanded as this will impact on its outstanding outdoor provision.

### Transport

Large roundabout near the old George Ward School

Speed limit in Top Lane

Extend A350 into a by-pass

Improved traffic speed control – the Bath and Corsham roads often have speeding traffic

Speed limit needs down grading – perhaps mark 30 on the road

Better transport link to Melksham especially expand the train station

More cycle routes around Shaw / Whitley / Melksham

Cycleway / wide footpath Dunch Lane to Christ Church, Shaw and Shaw School Environment and Climate Change Impact

Don't build on the flood plain. We flood now in Whitley

Can the sewerage cope with more houses?

Do not site picnic benches adjacent to my house. Noise! Intrusive! Perhaps you should have asked!

Consider local residents adjacent to the field.

Flood plains should not be built on!!

Shaw and Whitley & Melksham suffered massive amount of damage as the rainwater / burst brooks have nowhere to run off,

## APPENDIX 3 - Comments from Community Engagement Event 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015, Bowerhill

---

Need A&E and minor injuries in Melksham.  
The more people the more need.

Need minor injuries dept AT LEAST

All very well providing housing but we need  
more facilities – Doctors, Schools, Dentists

Bring back A&E at Melksham Hospital

Prior to additional housing in Melksham which  
is greatly needed the infrastructure should be  
improved for the area.

Better doctors facilities must be a priority

Additional schooling

Additional recreational facilities

Improved town centre

## APPENDIX 4 - Comments From 1-2 July 2016 Open House Engagement Events

---

### Design Criteria

Limit to those already planned / in pipeline until we have proper infrastructure

Enough, already! Leave the town alone! Increase the size of villages and see how they feel about it. Keep Melksham small & friendly

Nice sized houses should have more spacious gardens

Stress modern, high quality design and architecture, with green space around them

Stop gobbling up our beautiful fields, Keep green space between us and Trowbridge, Sandridge, Chippenham, Corsham.

Elderly people need more choice of housing. Bungalows, communal living apartments. No more 3 storey houses.

A community garden and a public woodland

Provide social and affordable housing for those young people who cannot move out of their parents' homes while starting families of their own.

A mixture of house styles, including retirement & starter with better parking

No more houses for commuters in our flood plains and green belt, build houses that are needed not houses to make a company richer

Retirement properties, flats, smaller affordable properties

Don't build houses so close together. No more chicken coops.

Property for older people is not being provided. We don't all want to live in retirement flats. Some of us would like to downsize to a bungalow with a little garden. Releases larger homes for families.

Build on brownfield sites

Surely this should be a COUNCIL plan? Based on facts and statistics?

We need more 2 bed houses for sale, not all given over to social housing

Ensure facilities are in place before building more houses: GPs, parking, school spaces etc

Ensure roads are wide enough for buses and emergency services

Please do not build another Bowerhill or Snarlton Lane estate - if anything, these house spoil the local economy because those who live there commute to other places and contribute there, while shopping only in the supermarkets and big business coffee shops. Also contribute more to town congestion. The style and type of house should not be a ToyTown estate.

Hold an architectural competition to generate the best possible designs for new houses that can be democratically voted on by the population rather than decided by Taylor Wimpey and others.

There are 5446 empty houses in Wiltshire. Why not utilise those?

Houses SHOULD be 3 storeys high

More smaller starter homes needed for people living alone

For new developments, design in more carbon reduction measures and sustainable drainage systems to manage floods

No three storey houses close by bungalows

A mix of houses need to be built, social housing as well as 5 bed mansions

Accessibility in our community is being overlooked

Starter homes and small houses in villages to keep them active

The A350 needs upgrading to a trunk road and bypass

The A350 must be properly screened from existing houses. Trees must be planted in large volumes.

Leave some room for parking on the new estates

start bus services before everyone has bought a second car

Build garages that are big enough to use as a garage. They are being built too small.

How about some 2 storey buildings and balconies and communal spaces?

Cycle ways need to be considered in any planning application

If the Woodrow application goes through Forest Rd and Church Rd need to be one way as the bus already has difficulty getting through

How about under-house parking to get cars off the roads?

East Melksham estate needs better sound proofing and planting from traffic noise and heavy lorry vibrations. Thyme Road is too close to homes and the town to be a "by pass" or relief road. Roads need to be further out.

More allowance for self-build or the ability to request the design of choice from sellers and architects. Lots more eco/environmental thought

More doctors surgeries. If we carry on building houses we will be on a par with Chippenham and Trowbridge where they have a hospital and two or three secondary schools. So what happens to us?

Reopen our local hospital, a dash to Bath in rush hour traffic could prove pointless

Houses to fit the needs of a large single population

Can we look to build housing like they have in Marshfield, for small business start-ups, offices with wi-fi in or near gardens

No new homes unless for social housing as very poor public transport

East Melksham Thyme Road speed limit needs to be 30 MPH even if duelled

The addition of any new houses should not impact on boundaries of village areas and be supplemented by services that can support these developments

This area is NOT served by adequate transport links!

New developments MUST have open spaces for community events and for children to play. Housing needs to be mixed to cater for local singles, couples, small families, growing families and the elderly. Price must range from low income to medium income i.e. £90,000 to £120,000 and £130,000 to £200,000

Can we sort out van parking. Too many large business vans and buses are being parked in residential areas.

If we must have new houses, can we use more local building companies and not the big nationals?

### **Population Growth**

More parking for disabled people

More / free parking for everyone

A Post Office in the new estate

More shops: clothing, shoes, pet shops

When I moved to Melksham 30 years ago we had a Hospital with a casualty department /

the hospital we lost could ease bed blocking in major hospitals

More footpaths and cycleways to easily explore the country from the town

Better and more frequent trains

Resolve infrastructure issues - roads, schools, doctors etc before any more development. Development is not in proportion to current infrastructure. Higher density housing is overwhelming schools, GP surgeries etc

Please push developers to contribute quality infrastructure and facilities such as open space and community areas

Get the campus built!

Our health services need to pull together for the whole community

New / additional doctors surgeries are long overdue. The service at Giffords is appalling. More health care locations for young and old.

Melksham is becoming a dormitory town. New residents work outside Melksham leading to more traffic jams.

Extra play areas on the new estates

Play areas need improvement

Consider facilities for children and people with special educational needs. They need housing and jobs too.

Our retail offer needs to be more varied. At the moment we lose one shop and see it replaced with something we already have.

A bigger train station

I would like to see more restaurants and cafes as most restaurants are small and won't hold many people

Too many cafes at the expense of other shops

No bypass near schools or housing off Cranesbill Road

Can we PLEASE promote quality of architecture and design

We need a green belt AND a defined hard edge to the town

The quality of the High Street should be improved with money from the developers

### **Generating Local Jobs**

Cinema & restaurant complex

Clean up Avon Tyres. Move the rubber factory out of town for green park near river. Develop land for cinema and food outlets

Shop fronts need to be improved

A hardware shop, DIY shop, a health food shop to encourage healthier living

Somewhere for long parking, instead of trailers and lorries left on the road making passing dangerous. Lorry park in Bowerhill.

Melksham Oak School students can now aspire to better and more technical jobs as they fulfill their educational potential. We should be providing this type of digital world job locally.

High Street should be attractive and visitors should want to come here

Build a Hotel

Something should be done to encourage retail development in Melksham to save customers having to go out of town to shop

Build housing with small offices and services within the house or area or road

Build a large office building to bring in large corporates

Good quality career jobs, proper opportunities

Encourage more companies like Knorr Bremse and Herman Miller to the town

Don't charge for parking!

Sort out the business vans parking in residential areas

Create many more jobs in Melksham, we are still largely a commuter town (resident of 34 years)

Room for more small businesses, DIY shops, Craft Shops

Part time jobs for mums

Locals should get preference for jobs

use Christie Miller site for industry not housing

A larger proper clothes shop in town as we've lost the small one in the High St

Town is not doing too bad. What we need is to see a policeman on the beat.

Seems OK for a town of this size and location. Well off for supermarket choice.

Need to clean up and enhance the river-side as it is just a disgrace to the town.

Create a 6th form college in Bowerhill

### **Schools**

Class sizes of 39 are untenable!

Why was it agreed to build on the old George Ward? Surely it would have made sense to have kept it as we need 2 secondary schools

Bridge the gap in special educational needs for children who do not need a special school but do need more 1:1 support in mainstream school

How about a technical college for those children who are more practical so they could join after year 8/9 and could become our plumbers, carpenters, toolmakers, hairdressers and carers of the future. Teach skills with academics attached. SIX HUNDRED children from Melksham commute to Chippenham College every day. That's mad.

The Council had land to build a primary school where the old George Ward was but chose to build houses!

New houses = new young families. At least 1 more primary school is needed - then in 10 years another secondary.

Why do you build the houses and then wonder where to put schools, hospitals etc? Should be planned the other way round.

Melksham Oak should be more community minded

Keep schools near houses to keep traffic off the roads

Why are we looking to build more schools when we're told the population is ageing? Shouldn't we be building more care homes?

Build a new secondary school on the west side of Melksham

Build new primaries south or east of Melksham

Where do you propose to find the teachers and doctors to cater for all this housing?

A secondary school has just been knocked down without any demographic planning in mind - build a new secondary school and academic grades will increase through competition

What is the current school capacity per school (primary and secondary)? What is the per school spare capacity?

Fund expansion of Melksham Oak linked to increased housing

Better planning for new schools to accommodate disabled children and staff. Melksham Oak is a failure in this respect.

### **Public Transport**

Bigger Better Train Station, Improve Melksham Station, a building with a waiting room



Continue to increase the rail timetable, more frequent trains

Bring back the 'Hopper'. We need a bus to get the elderly & sick to get to the RUH

More Cycle Paths, proper cycle routes

Integrate the bus times with the trains! Public transport should be COLLABORATIVE not COMPETITIVE

Safer pedestrian and dog / child walking facilities including litter bins. Motorists and cyclists are not good for pedestrians.

Regular affordable bus routes

Restore bus link to railway station, bus from station to areas of town needed

Remove the subway and replace with a junction that serves the station from the A350 not the Bath road and allows Town access / avoid road rage and accidents

Dual track the line between Thingley Junction and Bradford Junction and it would make part of the Electric Spine

Passing loop at least at Melksham station to allow more trains (passenger and freight) on the single line

Sunday buses everywhere

Trains getting good thanks

Use Community Rail designation to support buses and enforce connection contract (Option 247)

Longer platform at Melksham Station

Local parking facilities for buses

Evening bus services to Trowbridge need to be reinstated

Cycle safe routes not on roads

Rail services improved to as many destinations as possible. We are lucky to have a station.

More frequent trains and a café

Later buses to Bath

Better connections to Swindon by train

Any future health building needs to be accessible by public transport 7 days a week

Open up access to foot traffic from Spencers Gate /Macdonalds to the train station

Southbrook Road and Addison Road. It would be useful if the operator of this service used the same route. One waits at the bus stop in Addison Road and it goes to Southbrook Road. It uses several ways around the Green.

Better foot paths

Current station uses - 60K oper annum. Plan for 300 K.P.A. as that's the use level for same size town elsewhere in area.

More parking for the station and better access on foot. I wouldn't walk there esp. evenings etc

Station should be used a lot more for connections to main line stations

recommission the buses to run, local people need to from and to work! But now cannot because of the severe transport costs

No A350 Expansion

reinstate the Holt to Devizes rail link

Trim Trails

Whatever happened to the Badgerline from Bowerhill?

Make my bus pass a really viable option before I have to cease driving!

### **Planning Applications**

11. Land south of Western Way, Bowerhill (Pathfinder Way) - Stupid place to build it, floods every year!

11. Land south of Western Way, Bowerhill (Pathfinder Way) - is rather short sighted as it floods

### **Where should the by-pass go?**

By-pass yes, but consider from where to where and the impact on local residents. Needs to be well away from existing homes. A by-pass must be well away from homes. Too noisy.

East of Melksham

WEST! Countrywide to Beanacre, and widen the existing road

Lorries banned from town centre

By-pass needs to go south and east of Bowerhill, but not between Canal and Bowerhill, need to keep this open space

Out towards Seend

No new by-pass opposite new school in Cranesbill Road - walkways for kids to big school would no loner be safe

By-pass with due consideration for environment.

We are DESPERATE for a by-pass east of Melksham

Look at the original plan for the M4 at Chippenham to Poole. Relief for the A350.

Bypass east of Melksham taking traffic away from the Bowerhill development which is becoming a rat-run on Halifax Road. Which needs traffic calming on the southern side.

New school to existing secondary school at Bowerhill. PUT A BY PASS THROUGH THIS AREA. Really think about it. Please!

Costs point to west - no bridge! If east then FAR east avoiding new school and carefully planned housing estates with safe pathways linking

Extend A350 around Asda. Demolish Asda.

Do we really need a by-pass?

Before any new, sort out speed traffic management on the one we have. The new

one is used like a race track very dangerous bring back speed cameras

Eastern by-pass with plenty of noise screening and vegetation trees.

What assurances do we have that a by-pass won't become the new boundary for YET MORE housing?

Away from flood plains

A by-pass will not happen if suitable routes are overcrowded with too much housing

A similar route to Dunch Lane

East of Melksham and the canal with it - more room

No eastern by-pass as it will cut off wildlife tracks

It appears there is already a by-pass around Melksham the issue is around streamlining of traffic flow ( junctions prioritise main artery ) and increased lanes

We need an outer by-pass not an inner relief road

Bypass around WESTBURY needed. Please pass to Wiltshire Council.

The by-pass should alleviate the congestion on the A350 Beanacre and Beanacre Road

Upgrade the A350

Suspect cost will influence this so important to design in sound reduction measures for any affected homes. Think long term! Do asap!

Use the original Wiltshire Council plans for BP think early 1970s I have a copy

What happened to our surgery?

### **Enabling Development for the Canal**

Lovely café - make it a nice area people want to visit

Cycle paths

Marina and Canal Boat Moorings

Parking and facilities for tourists

Cycle Hire

Information / Map / Sign-posts / Nature sign-posts dotted around

Great idea - develop facilities in line with canal route: restaurants, café's, play areas, boat hire and wild areas

Local artisan shops

More health facilities

Press on the with canal link ASAP

a Visitor Centre for wildlife reserve

Owl boxes alongside the River Avon.

Education site.

Waterside park - our river is full of rubbish and NOT ATTRACTIVE

I would like to see local flooding risks being managed by the creation of wetlands. It's smarter and cheaper to use nature to mitigate flood risks rather than hard engineering. Better for residents, visitors, cost and wildlife

Good for town. Need car parks.

STOP CANAL WHEN IT JOINS RIVER.

Compromise please. KEEP OUR WONDERFUL NATURE RESERVE

Better canal footpaths. Some parts are hard to cycle on.

Some fields adjacent to canal restored as wildflower water meadow buffer zone

Sports and recreation facilities

Arts hub

Water splash park to replace outdoor swimming pool in the park

Really excited about canal development - must maximise opportunities for private investment where possible

Houses

Access from Hazlewood Road to footpaths and retail canalside development

Improved wetland

This is the only route no room for houses essential to fund this project inevitable increase in traffic route it east alongside new by-pass feasible and no damage to wildlife or river

TIC should be in Town Centre and not tucked away in Church Street. Greater footfall would result.

A well funded TIC as tourism in Britain is a main industry.

House of Lords judgement Dee 1992 said that no river can be dedicated because the water belongs to no-one. This need an act of parliament to establish a right of Navigation. Judging is relative to Attorney General as relates and Derwent Water Trust . Basthaton and others (not sure if this is abs. correct)

a School

What is being planned for rubbish left on towpath and security of residents with people on boats moving up canal in early hours avoiding prosecution?

### **Our Vision**

Hospital and Healthcare

Health care!

Support Services!

Dental Services!

Set a population level

Health and support services lag behind houses bad planning priorities first please

More health care

more consultation on housing, how big should Melksham become?

Lots of new houses without facilities will kill the community feeling of town

If more houses are built we need more doctor surgeries and another secondary school

we do not want a dormitory town or two be cut through by roads to elsewhere!

Not just a new housing estate

## APPENDIX 5 - Public Comments – Berryfield Engagement Event 24 January 2017

---

### Housing

None. We have already exceed the national plan.

No further housing

NONE Melksham has enough imposed on it - NO MORE unless you WANT IT TO BECOME ANOTHER MILTON KEYNES

660 (houses) should be a limit to what is still a semi rural area without also close amenities

The housing needs to be of a size of homes for 1,2,3+ people

No 3 storey houses

East of Melksham

No more ugly 3 storey houses

No rabbit warrens with cramped housing, small roads and gardens

Housing density to be decreased to give better living environment

### Economy and Employment

Where are the jobs for all these new people?

local shops for older / disabled people

Local well paid jobs

Better shops in town – less takeaways and coffee shops!

It would be nice to buy some shoes in Melksham

Shopping – more and free parking

Better shops – less cafes / coffee shops / food outlets

Lorry park needed

### Health and Wellbeing

Projected (patient) population @2.3 – surely too low?

GPs

Large estates should have leisure facility or green spaces included within estate boundaries

At present you need a car to get to GPs, hospital

Proper cycleways throughout the town and the surrounding area

Thought to provide public transport, locally, regularly to get to health facilities provided

More cycleways only routes

A village hall (Berryfield) and safe play area for children

Retain allotments locally (Berryfield)

Play area for children

Wilts & Berks Canal – how much use? Very limited traffic. Exorbitant cost and rising. Huge disruption to Berryfield CANCEL NOW

Retain allotments (Berryfield)

Provide facilities for children (play areas)

Toilet facilities

Love the idea (Canal) for Melksham but not across Berryfield Park. Why not use the fields bypassing it?

I cannot see any reason why the proposed canal goes right across the entrance to Berryfield. Why not route to the west.

Love the idea of canal + leisure facilities associated with it DON'T LIKE the mass of additional houses

(Canal) Not financially or environmentally viable. Shut five months of the year. Towpath under water.

Already grossly oversubscribed; GP surgeries and additional services are a must for early resolution – part funded by developers

Essential to have more access to another GP surgery – it is a nightmare now

Why has an expanding town like Melksham not got a functioning hospital with an A&E unit?

Medical facilities already at breaking point. New surgery required in the area (Berryfields)

Health services facility under severe strain.

New surgery / clinic required in Berryfield area close to A350

GP services needed in Berryfield areas at present all surgeries in one area and difficult to get to unless you have transport

Facilities for children.

A large proportion of the budget has been spent on only 2 sports. What about provision for many others outside of the campus if it ever gets built

Land should be accessible by all and large enough to accommodate facilities required. Funding should be boosted by all the developers amassing fortunes

### **Education**

(Schools) central town

How about having primary and secondary schools on same site?

Important primary school facilities need to be provided before any further expansion

Necessary facilities before even more houses

### **Transport**

How many cars per household?

My biggest concern is traffic congestion on Semington Road with extra cars associated with the new houses. It is already difficult getting out of the road on to the roundabout.

regular public transport

Space for cars would need to be included (in estate design) as already it can become congested

(Bypass) Eastern to alleviate the holdups in Beanacre

New bypass required east of Melksham

Definitely a new bypass to ease congestion

Bypass needed to stop the build up on the A350 (Semington Road area)

Traffic on A350 and in town centre already a nightmare.

Bypass definitely needed a.s.a.p

Semington Road should be closed at the Police Station to stop it being used as a rat run

Crossing by Lonsdale Gardens is very dangerous. The road should be restricted to 30mph and the arrows should be removed from the road – cause chaos!

A proper bus service to all – and affordable.

More parking (free) in the town centre

Decent roads locally to provide safe access and mobility for pedestrians around area (Berryfield)

Decent road for exit from Berryfields

### **Environment**

Some distance to farm land that is used. Too enclosed could make it unviable for the farmer to continue.

Effect on the environment and nature in the vicinity.

Paths and green spaces need to be considered

Space left so as not to enclose farm land.

Very important to have green spaces for health and recreation

General

No new infrastructure

(Design criteria) Agree in total

(Settlement Boundaries) Plan A preferable  
NOT PLAN B. Plan C as reasonable alternative to A

Local boundaries Plan C

To recognise our separate boundaries and what resources each area has to take account if you develop what services would be needed

## APPENDIX 6 - Public Comments – East of Melksham Engagement Event 9 February 2017

---

### **Housing**

(Development brief options) B (Berryfield) and C (East of Bath Road)

Limit housing to those already in system

(Adopt design criteria) This sounds like a good idea

600 – there are an excessive amount in the pipeline for 2026

### **Economy and Employment**

More shops please we are drowning in coffee!

More local jobs in manufacture etc

(Creating jobs) existing brownfield sites

Use brown site where the old hangers area would be good

Please give them somewhere to park

Lorries – it is an accident waiting to happen outside the GPlan etc

### **Health and Wellbeing**

Footpaths and cycleways

Single bus route from Melksham to RUH

(Locate healthcare) east of Melksham

(Locate healthcare) maybe Berryfield!

We do need more GPs and MI unit

The Bath buses could go on up the RUH – would be a great help

Green spaces at new developments are not fit for purpose. They need to be larger and not just soak aways!;

### **Education**

If you are going to build all these houses there must be schools to go with them

### **Transport**

(Eastern bypass) Something needs to be done about the already congestion early mornings

Revised / additional bus routes with cheaper fares