**MELKSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

**All 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 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 hosing 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, llke 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.

maintence 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 the local 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 retails 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 opportunties 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 [riority

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 Melsham 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 as 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 cark 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 truely 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 opportunties 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

(Not sure what this comes under) 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, houses may [?] put [ ?? ] 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 ther 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, Challeymead, 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 adhoc.

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.

maintence 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.