

JOINT MELKSHAM AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Consultation Statement October 2020

Submission Version



**MELKSHAM
NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN**

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INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012¹ in respect of the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan. Section 15(2) of part 5 of the regulations requires that a Consultation Statement should:
- Contain details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed Neighbourhood Plan
 - Explain how they were consulted
 - Summarise the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted and
 - Describe how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 Section 1 (Pre-Regulation 14 Consultation) gives an overview of the various consultation events and activities held to date, that led to the production of the Draft Melksham Neighbourhood Plan and the policies contained within it.
- 1.3 Section 2 gives an overview of the formal pre-submission consultation, known as Regulation 14, that was undertaken on the draft Melksham Neighbourhood Plan and covered an 8 week period over **1 June 2020 – Monday 27 July 2020**. This section includes detail on the consultation; the comments received and resulting amendments made to the Plan, where appropriate.
- 1.4 Supporting information relating to this Statement is available on the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan website: <http://www.melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org/>

SECTION 1 PRE-REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION

Approach to Consultation

- 2.1 Throughout the preparation stages of the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan, the Steering Group have worked hard to engage with residents and various stakeholders on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.2 The Melksham Neighbourhood Steering Group was originally formed in 2012 following several meetings with both Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council to prepare a joint neighbourhood plan. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was originally made up of 10 permanent voting members as follows:
- Two representatives each from the Town and Parish Council
 - One representative from Melksham Area Board
 - One representative from the Melksham Community Area Partnership
 - One representative from the business community.
 - One representative from the health community.

¹ Localism Act 2011

- One representative for environmental and climate change interests
- One representative for the historic and built environment

In addition, two officers each from both councils, as well as a representative of the Wiltshire Council Spatial Planning Team attended meetings.

2.3 During the Plan preparation, the Steering Group created 5 topic groups, following feedback from members of the public on their priorities, to ensure they were fully examined and addressed in the context of the detailed guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Wiltshire Core Strategy. The topic groups were as follows and were made up of members of the wider community, the 'lead' of each topic group then joined the Steering Group:

- Employment & Economy
- Transport
- Housing
- Health & Wellbeing
- Education

2.4 In August 2017 consultants were appointed to help with public consultation and to help collate a housing site survey.

2.5 Meetings of the Steering Group were held monthly and open to members of the public and included a "public participation" section for residents to raise issues or queries. Agendas and minutes were published on the Neighbourhood Plan, Town and Parish Council websites. Notices were also posted on various noticeboards throughout the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Both the Town and Parish Council received the minutes of all Steering Group meetings at their respective Planning Committee meetings. Regular updates were provided by Council representatives of the Steering Group or the Clerks at Full Council meetings.

Consultation Activities

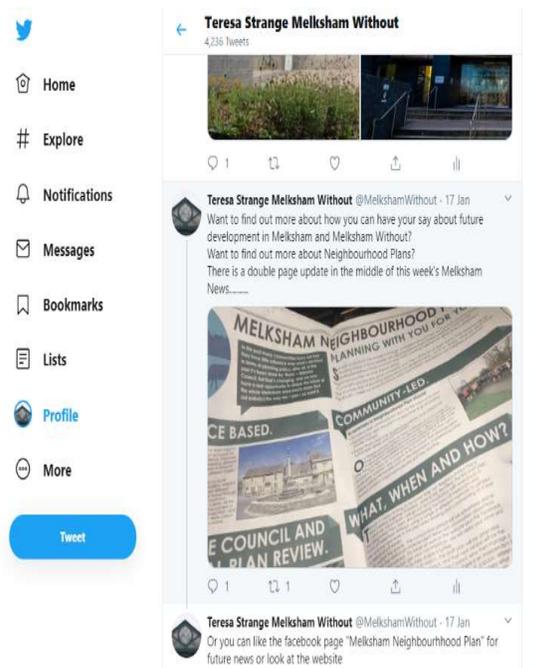
Online

3.1 A Website was created to keep residents up to date with progress and events promoting the various stages of the plan (see: <http://www.melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org/>). Both councils have links to the Neighbourhood Plan on their own websites.

3.2 Both councils also kept residents up-to-date on progress throughout the time of plan preparation via social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and newsletters. There is also a separate Neighbourhood Plan Facebook group.



Examples of Facebook Posts



Examples of Twitter and Instagram Posts

Local Newspapers and Magazines

3.3 Information on consultation events, as well as various articles on the Neighbourhood Plan were also published in the local Paper, Melksham Independent News which is circulated to over 13,700+ dwellings every two weeks, free of charge
<http://melkshamnews.com/2016/11/02/villages-to-get-say-on-neighbourhood-plan/>

<https://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=13635e85-0abe-483a-9978-144ba02e729b>
 (see page 16-17 for Neighbourhood Plan article)

and an article on protecting green spaces within the town:
<http://melkshamnews.com/2017/08/30/is-there-a-green-space-in-melksham-you-feel-needs-protecting/>

Updates were also provided via regular quarterly council Newsletters of both the Town Council and Parish Council published in Melksham News throughout the whole Neighbourhood Plan process and on social media. (Various links provided in Appendix 1).

Autumn Newsletter
MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL
 First Floor, Crown Chambers, 7 Market Place, Melksham, SN12 6ES. Tel. 01225 705700

HORNCHURCH ROAD PLAY AREA, BOWERHILL
 The Parish Council are about to sign the legal paperwork for the transfer of the play area at Hornchurch Road from Bower House to the Parish Council.

YOUTH CHAMPION AND SENIOR CHAMPION
 Following on from the recent "Age Friendly" meetings held in Melksham, the Parish Council are keen to find a Youth and Senior Champion for the parish.

TELEPHONE KIOSKS IN SHAW & WHITLEY
 CANWS Community Action, Whitley & Shaw have plans to refurbish and convert the two unused phone boxes in the villages.

ROADSIDE TREES, HEDGES AND DITCHES
 Trees, hedges and ditches are an important part of our rural landscape. They are also a vital habitat for wildlife, provide a valuable windbreak in open countryside and, in the case of ditches, help prevent flooding.

TREES CHARTER
 Melksham Without Parish Council have recently signed up to the new "Tree Charter" and before making trees available to all and planting for the future.

BOWERHILL SPORTS FIELD AND PAVILION
 The Pavilion and adjacent field makes an ideal facility for any groups or families organising picnics, children's parties or even an excellent venue for local businesses to hold meetings or training sessions.

ALLOTMENT VACANCIES
 There are still a few vacancies at the allotments. Please get in touch if you live in the parish and would like an allotment and the chance to grow your own.

PARISH STEWARD
 The Parish Steward programme is run by Withdean Council and is for discretionary works that will not be undertaken by Withdean Council under their statutory duties.

NEXT MEETINGS

Mon 13th Nov	Full Council Meeting
Mon 27th Nov	Planning Committee
Mon 27th Nov	H Ways & Streetscene Committee
Mon 11th Dec	Full Council
Mon 18th Dec	Planning Committee
Mon 8th Jan	Planning Committee
Mon 8th Jan	Finance Committee (Budget)
Mon 22nd Jan	Full Council (Precept Setting)
Mon 29th Jan	Planning Committee
Mon 29th Jan	H Ways & Streetscene Committee

MELKSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
 The Council continue to work with Melksham Town Council and volunteers from across the two parishes on the Neighbourhood Plan.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW YOUR OWN PRODUCE FOR FREE FOR TWO YEARS!!
 The Parish Council have two allotment plots on the Berryfield Allotment Site that are exceptionally overgrown and untended.

Quarterly Newsletter 9 November 2017 Edition of Melksham News

Autumn Newsletter clerk@melkshamwithout.co.uk

MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

Sports Pavilion, Westinghouse Way, Bowerhill, Melksham, SN12 6TL • 01225 705700




Clark Teresa Strangi & Choir Richard Wood

NEW MEETING VENUE & OFFICE PREMISES

The parish council office relocated to the Sports Pavilion at Westinghouse Way, Bowerhill during the Summer and has kept the same phone number, so please continue to contact us on 01225 705700.

This move has had no impact on the changing room facilities which remain the same. The office opening hours are now Monday-Thursday 10-12 and 2-4pm with a car park available for visitors.

All Council meetings (unless otherwise stated) are being held at St Barnabas Church in Beanaere (just off the A350 via the layby). Meetings will be held in the church hall which also offers disabled access and toilet facilities, a community defibrillator and car park for those attending the meeting.

MELKSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Melksham Without Parish Council and Melksham Town Council continue to work together on a joint Neighbourhood Plan, with the draft Plan almost finalised now that assessment work by independent consultants on sustainable housing sites has been completed.

To explain the Plan's policies and what it means to residents several short videos have been filmed over the last few weeks to explain the different policies and how they will affect you. These will be made available widely when the draft Plan is published for consultation so you can all have your say.

HORNCURCH ROAD PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, BOWERHILL

An additional 120m footpath has been built to ensure that there is a circular route around the public open space for all to enjoy, whatever the ground conditions underfoot.

This was paid for by Melksham Without Parish Council with a contribution from the Melksham Area Board with a "Pathways Improvement Grant".

FRIENDS OF SHURNHOLD FIELDS

The "Friends of Shurnhold Fields" has now officially formed and you can contact them directly by email on shurnholdfields@gmail.com.

Their first main job has been to plant trees in commemoration of those that fell in the Great War, which took place on 10th November.

GRANT AWARDS

Applications for grant aid are invited from organisations who can prove that they benefit residents of the Parish.

The closing date for applications is 31st January 2019, with awards to be made at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 1st April 2019. For application forms please contact the Parish Council Offices or download from www.melkshamwithout.co.uk

NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 26th November
PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday 10th December
FULL COUNCIL

Monday 17th December
PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday 7th January
FINANCE (BUDGET) COMMITTEE

Monday 14th January
PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday 21st January
FULL COUNCIL

Monday 4th February
PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday 11th February
FULL COUNCIL

Monday 25th February
PLANNING COMMITTEE

FRIENDS OF SHURNHOLD FIELDS

There are still a couple of vacancies at the Allotments. Please get in touch if you live in the parish and would like an allotment and the chance to grow your own. Both the Council's allotment sites are in Berryfield.

2019/2020 BUDGET

The Council will be setting the budget for the next financial year in January. If you have ideas and requests that you would like to be considered by the Council next year then please let us know before the end of November.

MAINS DRAINAGE FOR BEANAERE?

Some residents have requested that Wessex Water consider putting in mains drainage for existing properties in Beanaere.

Wessex Water want to see how many residents are interested in taking this further before they consider starting preliminary investigations. Whilst this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council, it is acting as a facilitator between the various parties to initially gauge the interest of those residents in the Parish living in Beanaere. At this stage the parish council is just seeking the level of interest for Wessex Water to consider taking it forward to the next stage, it is in no way binding or committing households. A survey has been conducted by the parish council, with an almost 50% response rate, and the information gathered has been passed to Wessex Water for them to consider their next steps. We will be in touch with residents as soon as we hear more.

ALLOTMENT VACANCIES

There are still a couple of vacancies at the Allotments. Please get in touch if you live in the parish and would like an allotment and the chance to grow your own. Both the Council's allotment sites are in Berryfield.

PARISH STEWARD

The Parish Steward programme is run by Wiltshire Council and is for discretionary works that will not be undertaken by Wiltshire Council under their statutory duties.

The Parish Council provide a list of jobs for the Steward (who is 3 days a month in the parish when not undertaking other roles) with their top 5 priorities highlighted. Please continue to report work that need doing via the Wiltshire Council app <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/my-wiltshire> online reporting and let us know if the "App" says the work will not be done as not a statutory duty and the parish council can consider adding it to the list for the Parish Steward.

ROUNDAABOUT SPONSORSHIP

Are any local businesses interested in sponsoring a roundabout in Bowerhill?

There is a roundabout that has already been planted up and maintained well over the last few years (previously sponsored by Carson Tyres) and is now available for sponsorship. It's on the A350 on the through road to the A365 and town. Please get in touch if you are interested in sponsoring this roundabout or any of the others in the parish.

Quarterly Newsletter 22 November 2018 Edition of Melksham News

Winter Newsletter clerk@melkshamwithout.co.uk

MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

Sports Pavilion, Westinghouse Way, Bowerhill, Melksham, SN12 6TL • 01225 705700




Clark Teresa Strangi & Choir Richard Wood

NEW MEETING VENUE

Melksham Without Parish Council evening public meetings will now be held at a new venue in Bowerhill Industrial Estate, and no longer at St Barnabas Church in Beanaere (unless otherwise advertised).

The new meeting space is just a couple of minutes walk from the parish council offices in Westinghouse Way. To get to the new meeting space:

From the Portal Road entrance to the industrial estate turn right into Westinghouse Way (you will pass the parish council office in the Sports Pavilion and the Sports Field on your right) travel to the end of the road (you will see Knot Brewe to your right) TURN LEFT and pass the Fire Engine transport depot and turn into the entrance for 1 Swift Way on your right, and park in the car park.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This year, the parish council's Annual Parish Meeting is being held at the Rugby Club at Oakfields Stadium on Monday 1st April, refreshments and networking from 6.30pm, with the meeting starting at 7pm.

This is the chance for residents to come along and hear from councillors, groups and organisations on their activities during the past year, and their plans for the coming year. You will be able to hear about support available for the lonelier and more isolated in our community, and how the Area Board works in our area. The meeting will finish with the presentation of grant choices to local groups.

ALL PARISH COUNCIL RESIDENTS WELCOME

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

BERRYFIELD WARD	
	Richard Wood (Council Chair) 106 Barnington Road, Melksham, SN12 6JZ 01225 704618 • richard.wood@melkshamwithout.co.uk
	Stuart Wood 19 Wilshire Road, Berryfield, Melksham, SN12 6ED 01225 690709 • stuart.wood@melkshamwithout.co.uk
BLACKMORE WARD	
	Alan Baines 18 Westinghouse Way, Melksham, SN12 6TD 01225 704618 • alan.baines@melkshamwithout.co.uk
	Paul Taylor 47 Spawford Close, Melksham, SN12 2TE 07994 001440 • paul.taylor@melkshamwithout.co.uk
BEANAERE, SHAW & WHITLEY WARD	
	Terry Chivers 7 Easton Grove, Whitley, Melksham, SN12 6GL 07994 001440 • terry.chivers@melkshamwithout.co.uk
	Gregory Coombes gregory.coombes@melkshamwithout.co.uk
	Mary Pile mary.pile@melkshamwithout.co.uk
BOWERHILL WARD	
	Paul Carter 52 Middle Home Park, Melksham, SN12 6DS 01225 703220 • paul.carter@melkshamwithout.co.uk
	John Glover (Council Vice Chair) 15 Melksham Dr, Bowerhill, Melksham, SN12 6GW 01225 120749 • john.glover@melkshamwithout.co.uk
	Nick Holder nick.holder@melkshamwithout.co.uk
	Kaylum House 33 Sandford Ct, Bowerhill, Melksham SN12 6TJ kaylum.house@melkshamwithout.co.uk
	David Pafford 29 St Barnabas Close, Bowerhill, Melksham, SN12 6WS 01225 703270 • david.pafford@melkshamwithout.co.uk
	Robert Shea-Simonds 19 Berne Way Ct, Bowerhill, Melksham, SN12 6AU 01225 703081

COUNCILLOR CO-OPTED

On Monday 11th March, the parish council considered two applicants from Berryfield, for the councillor vacancy on the Berryfield Ward. Cllr Stuart Wood was co-opted following a ballot of the councillors present, and joined the meeting after signing his declaration of office.

BOWERHILL SPORTS FIELD

The project to sell a small proportion of Bowerhill Sports Field has been put on hold by the potential purchasers for the current time.

If the project becomes live again, the search for replacement land will commence, which has already had input from local Bowerhill residents on the type of space they would like to see in the future. Fields in Trust will have the final say on whether the replacement land is suitable to be dedicated as a Field in Trust and they have been in discussions with the parish council out of the outset of this project.

NEXT MEETINGS

All at new venue 1 Swift Way, off Westinghouse Way, Bowerhill Industrial Estate

Mon 18th Mar - Planning Committee

Mon 18th Mar - Highways & Streetscene Committee

Mon 1st Apr Annual Parish Meeting at Melksham Rugby Club

Mon 8th Apr - Planning Committee

Mon 15th Apr - Full Council

Mon 29th Apr - Planning Committee

Mon 13th May - Annual Council

Mon 20th May - Planning Committee

Mon 20th May - Finance Committee

TREE WORK

Following a regular tree inspection, the parish council has undertaken tree works by professional tree surgeons in all the public areas it maintains; the play areas, playing fields and allotment sites. The green waste was removed and collected for use as a biomass plant which generates domestic electricity.

FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORK

The Community Emergency Group in Shaw & Whitley continue their excellent work to regularly monitor the water courses, ditches and drains in the village to ensure that the surface water flows without impediment.

This includes some working parties to clear any blocked ditches, and regular equipment checks to ensure that they are ready to act with pumps, gas rucks and saws if there is another flood event in the area. Last year they clocked up some 150 wet weather hours in this way. As the weather improves, and you are out and about more in your gardens, please ensure any grass out-edges and other garden waste does not end up in the water course.

Wiltshire Councillor - Melksham Without South Ward
ROY WILEY • roy.wiley@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council Cllr - Melksham Without North Ward
PHIL ALFORD • phil.alford@wiltshire.gov.uk

Quarterly Newsletter 14 March 2019 Edition Melksham News

A WORD FROM TOWN CLERK, LINDA ROBERTS

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the Newsletter of your Town Council. My name is Linda Roberts, I was recruited at the start of this year to be your Town Clerk (I have explained a little about what a Clerk does in the panel on the right – but in short, I lead a team of people who deliver on the decisions made by your elected Councillors.) We hope you find this update interesting and informative.

I have now completed three months as Clerk to Melksham Town Council and so far I have thoroughly enjoyed the role. It has been great getting out and meeting the people who make this community so special. I have been impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm shown by the many community groups in our town. How lucky Melksham is!

I have a reputation for being a bit of a whirling dervish as a clerk. Being part of a new team, representing a town so full of possibility, I have found that I'm straining at the leash with an eagerness to get the wheels moving. I'm sure my team of officers, looking at the packed calendar, would agree! We are determined as a team to be as set up for success as we possibly can be. This means working on fun projects, and dull administrative slogging in equal measure. Ultimately we work for you, the tax payer.

Some of the things we have been working on include:

- A 'savings drive' including a review of all IT and office equipment, with contracts renegotiated and where necessary, equipment replaced. (see article on Savings below).
- Additional street cleaning has taken place to make-up for the gradual withdrawal of this service by Wiltshire Council.
- A review of the staffing structure is about to be completed. The review is to ensure we have the right people in the right roles with the appropriate equipment and training to enable the officer team to carry out the objectives of the council and continue to meet the needs of the community.
- A new governance structure has been proposed ready for implementation in the new Municipal Year, commencing on 13th May following the election of Mayor for 2019/2020. The governance review included, a revision of the council's standing orders (rules) and financial regulations, it proposed a new committee structure with terms of reference. This will enable the council to set objectives and continue to deliver important services to the community.
- Engagement the people of Melksham – industry, business, volunteers, educators and all manner of other partners. Getting out and about is a fundamental part of building a community that works together.

The Future

As this newsletter lays out, we are busy working towards a cleaner, brighter, better equipped, more efficient and better 'linked up' Melksham. This is being done structurally within council governance and the staffing review, for example. We're doing it through community development, as we take over responsibility for play equipment, begin works on the splashpad, tackle flyposting, recruit children to make art about dog litter and by making swift repairs to equipment ourselves rather than waiting for the county to step in. We're working towards more sustainable changes in our approach through our move towards a paperless Council, our research into getting on a path towards being a plastic free community, and our recently updated in office recycling system.

Part of the Neighbourhood Planning process has meant examining how the town centre should develop and how to ensure it is protected so that it develops in a manner which supports our expanding community as well as making sure it retains a good mix and selection of retail and leisure facilities, adequate employment and appropriate town centre housing.

Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan will soon be completed, The Town Council has decided to embark on a separate and more concentrated piece of work relating to the town centre. We will shortly be undertaking a visioning exercise and extensive community engagement so that together we can shape and plan on the future of our town centre to ensure it remains vibrant and continues to meet the community's needs both now and long into the future.

Lots to do. It's my honour to be on board. Let's get to work!

Linda

Extract from Quarterly Newsletter 9 May 2019 Edition Melksham News referring to the Neighbourhood Plan



MELKSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

PLANNING WITH YOU FOR YOU!

In the past many communities have felt that they have little influence over what's decided in terms of planning policy, after all, in the past it's been done by 'them' - Wiltshire Council. But that's changing, and now we have a real opportunity to shape the future of the whole Melksham area much more (but not entirely) the way we - you - us want it.

So how to do that? The answer is through a Neighbourhood Plan. As many of you may know, a Steering Group of local people with representatives from Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council have been working together for some time to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for their shared areas. It's a lengthy process but, once complete, your Plan will have full legal status. That means it will be used to ensure that all planning applications for developments - such as, where, what for, what things look like etc - meet our local standards which have been specified in our Neighbourhood Plan.

EVIDENCE BASED.

Because the Plan has legal status in planning law it must be based on very thorough evidence. Members of the community representing different topics/interests have been involved in collecting evidence at different stages over the last few years. The Plan must also build on local views, opinions and aspirations, which is why we have also created different ways for your voice to be heard through our engagement and consultation events held over the last 5 years. All this information has shaped the content of our emerging Neighbourhood Plan, and will continue to do so with more consultation and engagement to come.



COMMUNITY-LED.

In summary a Neighbourhood Plan should:

- Provide a clear, community-led vision for the future of its area.
- Translate that vision into practical objectives (e.g. to address a specific change).
- Express those objectives as planning policies (e.g. criteria for sustainable design and construction).

Our Neighbourhood Plan will make a difference by focusing on things the planning system can genuinely influence (protection of open space, housing development etc.). But it can also cover other things to help make Melksham an even better place to live, work and visit in the future. So, as well as the formal policies, our Plan will include some 'priorities' and projects to try to ensure that developments deliver community benefits such as the importance of addressing infrastructure provision, improved footpaths and tree planting.



WILTSHIRE COUNCIL AND THE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW.

We have been working with Wiltshire Council on the preparation of the plan and support from Wiltshire Council officers has been invaluable. We need to do this as our Plan has to accord with Wiltshire planning policies and add positive local detail that will shape and direct future development. Wiltshire Council are currently preparing a review of their planning document, the 'Core Strategy' (to be replaced as the Local Plan) and, as of now, it looks likely that the Melksham area will need to accommodate some additional new houses in the next plan period 2016 - 2036. The Wiltshire Local Plan will be a strategic document, beyond the scope of our Neighbourhood Plan, but Wiltshire planners will be working with the Parish and Town Council on where any new development will be located and the scale of any development our Neighbourhood Plan will then shape much of the detail that will follow. Wiltshire are aiming to informally consult on aspects of the revised 'local plan' later this year.



WHAT, WHEN AND HOW?

Though it's been ticking on for some time, our Neighbourhood Plan is now coming together. In March, date to be decided, the first draft plan (and we mean draft!) will go out for consultation with everybody in the designated Plan Area, encompassing the Town of Melksham and Parish of Melksham Without, using a range of different methods to get people who live and work in the plan area reading and commenting on it over a period of 6-8 weeks. So, watch this space: the consultation period will be advertised and reported in the Melksham Independent News with information about how you can get involved. Do keep an eye on the website and the Facebook page. Don't miss out, get your comments in - we will need your views and input on the draft plan to help shape it further. Following the consultation in March, the draft plan will be amended based on the comments we get back, and that next version will be the Neighbourhood Plan we submit to Wiltshire Council, who then manage a second formal consultation... following which there is an independent Examination and then, if approved, there is... wait for it, a public referendum to check you all support it. All this bureaucracy is precisely what ensures that your Neighbourhood Plan will really make a difference, so stick with it so you can genuinely play a key role in shaping the future of Melksham and Melksham Without.



www.melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org

[f /MelkshamNeighbourhoodPlan/](https://www.facebook.com/MelkshamNeighbourhoodPlan/)

Advert in 16 January 2020 Edition of Melksham News

SPRING MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The 1st January 2020 marked my first completed year of service with Melksham Town Council and the Melksham community and what a year it has been; it's gone so quickly and I cannot count how many wonderful people I have met, all doing amazing things to make Melksham great.

The Woody - Queensway
As I write this article, work has begun on replacing the Parrot in The Woody, the open space just off Queensway. Turfboards and improvements are being made to this recreation area, including the installation of a teen shelter. This will reinvigorate the play value and will be just in time for the lovely spring/summer weather.

The Neighbourhood Plan
The Neighbourhood Plan is progressing well and the time to have your say will begin on 6 April for eight weeks. Please keep a look out for details of the consultation process where members of the Town Council, Melksham Without Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be ready to talk to you about it. This is an opportunity for you to read the Neighbourhood Plan

of events to be held in the Market Place, so if you have any ideas for markets or events please get in touch.

Our horticulturalist, Richard, has been busy creating some 'characters' who will be planted on the Market Place roundabout. The display this year will have an Olympic theme and we really hope it becomes a "wow" factor for Wiltshire.

Melksham In Bloom
Melksham is so lucky to have a such a hard-working team who go above and beyond to make Melksham look so pristine, colourful and tidy. Even during the cold wet winter months they work tirelessly to keep on top of the gardens and open spaces.

Flag-Making
A big thank you and shout out must go to Councillor Terri Welch (one of our longest serving councillors) who was responsible for making the beautiful banners which adorned our Market Place and town last year, marking the 800th year of our Market Charter. They were loved so much that Terri has very kindly agreed to make some more for this year to complement our summer planting scheme. They certainly added a lovely vibe to our town last year.

We are hoping to increase the number

Quarterly Newsletter 26 March 2020 Edition of Melksham News (due to Covid and the Country going into Lockdown on 23 March 2020 there was a delay in starting Regulation 14 until June)

- 3.4 Information was also provided in several community magazines such as Bowerhill Villager and Shaw & Whitley Connect newsletters.

Consultation Events

- 3.5 A Public consultation Group, was set up on 14 December 2014 reporting to the Steering Group. The brief for the group was to agree a suggested calendar of engagement activities, budgetary requirements for hall hire costs, advertising etc. Various stakeholders were invited to join this group, such as community groups, schools and charitable organisations. The group early on purchased floor banners to help promote public engagement events.
- 3.6 A number of drop-in events were held in the earlier stages of Plan preparation (2016/17). Care was taken to hold events at various locations within the Neighbourhood Plan area. (See Table 1 below of the various sessions held). Consultation also took place at various community events, such as the Christmas Lights Switch on and Melksham's Food Festival.
- 3.7 Consultation events involved members of the steering group posing questions for members of the public to write comments on against various topics, such as transport, education, housing, health & wellbeing and employment/economy.
- 3.8 In order to engage with the younger generation the Steering Group used Instagram. In order to engage with the older generation, flyers for some events were also produced. The Steering Group approached Christie Miller Sports Centre, who distributed flyers with receipts on the group's behalf advertising consultation events.
- 3.9 Consultation events were held on different days and different times of day in order to attract a wider audience. One of them was timed specifically after the Remembrance event at 11am on 11 November, as residents would pass the drop in event on leaving the War Memorial. A summary of all the consultation events is presented in the evidence base Melksham Issues Consultation Report.
- 3.10 In November-December 2017 with the assistance of public engagement consultants, housing sites community engagement took place using an online survey, hard copies were available in various locations, such as the Town Hall, Melksham Without offices and the library, for those without access to a computer, with over 200 people responding to the consultation on future housing growth with over 1,200 individual comments made. In addition, drop-in sessions were held to give residents the chance to ask questions and view maps etc in a large scale. Detailed feedback is available in the evidence base: Community Engagement Survey on housing sites (2017).
- 3.11 Feedback from the consultation events was also always given via local newspapers and social media. The Chairman quoting in the local press *"It is fantastic that so many people got involved in this engagement, as the Neighbourhood Plan must express the views of the local people and how they see their area developing in the future"*.



Public consultation events 1 & 2 July 2016
at Melksham Town Hall

Examples of posters, leaflets and advertisements in the local press

MELKSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Come to one of our DROP-IN EVENTS

CHRISTIE MILLER SPORTS CENTRE
Friday 10th November 4.00pm-7.00pm

or

MELKSHAM GUIDE HQ
(entrance to Waitrose Car Park)
Saturday 11th November 11.30am-2.30pm

A Neighbourhood Plan covering housing, transport, shopping, working, environment and health/leisure is being prepared for Melksham and Melksham Without; let us know what you think of it by completing the online survey and attending an event, and have your views heard.

Melksham Neighbourhood Plan is led by Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council. Neighbourhood Planning is a government initiative to involve local people in land use planning for the community.

More information: www.melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org
or contact: Melksham Town Council: 01225 704187 • Melksham Without Parish Council: 01225 705700

MELKSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Housing in your area - make a difference

Come to one of our Drop - In Events

Christie Miller Sports Centre
Friday 10th November 4.00pm-7.00pm

or

Melksham Guide HQ
(entrance to Waitrose Car Park)
Saturday 11th November 11.30am-2.30pm

A Neighbourhood Plan covering housing, transport, shopping, working, environment and health/leisure is being prepared for Melksham and Melksham Without; let us know what you think by completing the online survey and attending an event, and have your views heard.

Melksham Neighbourhood Plan is led by Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council. Neighbourhood Planning is a government initiative to involve local people in land use planning for the community.

More information: www.melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org
Or contact: Melksham Town Council: 01225 704187
Melksham Without Parish Council: 01225 705700

Complete the survey which will open on 16th November 2017:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MelkshamHousingSitesConsult>

Summary of Events and Activities

Table 1

See 'Description of Events and Activities' below for more detail

Date	Location	Activity/Event
27 March 2015 2.00pm-7.00pm	Assembly Hall, Market Place	Open House Launch event
28 March 2015 10.00am-2.00pm	Assembly Hall, Market Place	Open House Launch event
11 July 2015 12.30pm-3.30pm	Shaw Village Hall	Community Action: Whitley & Shaw (CAWS) Community Event
6 September 2015	King George V Park	Stall at Food & River Festival
19 September 2015	Bowerhill Village Hall	Bowerhill Residents Action Group (BRAG) Community Group event – Community Engagement
February 2016	Assembly Hall	Public Meeting on health issues
6 June 2016		Briefing of Melksham Town Council & Melksham Without Parish Council
30 June 2016	Assembly Hall	Melksham Seniors Community Event
1 July 2016 4.30pm-7.30pm	Melksham Town Hall	Open House

2 July 2016 10.00am-2.00pm	Melksham Town Hall	Open House
July 2016	Assembly Hall	Melksham Seniors Event
4 September 2016	King George V Park	Food & River Festival
6 September 2016	Assembly Hall	Public meeting on health issues
5 November 2016 10.00am-12 noon	Shaw Primary School	Open House
8 November 2016 7.00pm-9.00pm	Bowerhill Village Hall	Open House
3 December 2016	Market Place	Xmas Lights Switch-on event
24 January 2017 6.00pm-8.00pm	Berryfield Village Hall	Engagement Event
9 February 2017 6.00pm-8.00pm	Melksham Rugby/Football Club, Oakfields Stadium	Engagement Event
2 March 2017 6.30pm	Assembly Hall	Health Meeting
18 May 2017	Whitley Reading Rooms	Update at Melksham Without Parish Council's Annual Parish meeting
10 November 2017 4.00pm-7.00pm	Christie Miller Sports Centre	Drop-in consultation on housing sites

11 November 2017 11.30pm-2.30pm	Guides Hut, King George V Park	Drop-in consultation on housing sites
6 January 2020 7.00pm	Oakfields Stadium	Update on Neighbourhood Plan at Area Board Meeting

Description of Events and Activities

3.13 The Steering Group felt it important that all settlements within the neighbourhood plan area had an opportunity to be involved therefore various consultation 'open house' events were held in both the town and the parish.

27 and 28 March 2015 'Open House' Launch events held in the Assembly Hall

3.14 These events were the first events held to inform residents and seek their views. These 'Open House' events were held between 2.00pm-7.00pm and 10.00am-2.00pm respectively.

3.15 The hall was laid out as a theatre style arrangement for the 'launch' events with a semi-circle configuration of display panels with various topics on such as education, housing, transport, health & wellbeing and economy/employment. Residents provided their views using posit-it notes. Several members of the Steering Group were on hand to discuss queries.

3.16 Feedback from people who attended indicated that it was generally well received. This event generated 'Next Steps', such as collating the various comments under the various working group topic headings.

1 and 2 July 2016 'Open House' Event, Town Hall held 4.30pm-7.30pm and 10.00am-2.00pm respectively

3.17 Again several consultation boards were available, with people able to add comments using post-it notes. Several members of the Steering Group were also on hand to answer any questions.

3.18 Approximately 400 comments were received from those who attended these events. With a table being drawn up and divided into various subject headings, such as housing, transport, education, health & wellbeing and economy/employment

5 and 8 November 2016 'Open House' Events held 10.00am-12 Midday and 7.00pm-9.00pm respectively

3.19 These events were held in Shaw Primary School and Bowerhill Village Hall from 10.00am-12 noon and 7.00pm-9.00pm respectively. The events were held in

conjunction with the local action groups CAWS (Community Action: Whitley & Shaw) and BRAG (Bowerhill Residents Action Group).

- 3.20 These events were promoted with a half page advertisement in Melksham Independent News, with articles in various local media, as well as articles in community newsletters, such as Bowerhill Villager and Connect (Shaw & Whitley Newsletter) and through the action groups' networks.
- 3.21 Both these events were well attended and followed a similar information format used previously. These events generated plenty of questions and discussion about various issues, such as health care, employment, education and transport to name but a few, with people leaving comments and questions on post-it notes provided.

24 January and 9 February 2017 held 6.00pm-8.00pm and 6.00pm-8.00pm respectively

- 3.22 These events were held in Berryfield Village Hall and Melksham Rugby Club, Oakfields Stadium, respectively.
- 3.23 Whilst both events were well publicised, with flyers for the event at Oakfields Stadium in particular being available at various locations, including the fish & chip shop, Verbena Court (local community centre) and in the local press. The Rugby Club event was poorly attended, despite the Steering Group's best efforts, which was disappointing, as in choosing this venue, it was hoped to attract a lot of the residents who had recently moved into the East of Melksham estate (approximately 800 houses). The Berryfield event was held in conjunction with BASRAG (Berryfield and Semington Road Action Group).
- 3.24 Again various display boards were available, covering the various topic headings, with post-it notes being available for people to leave any comments.

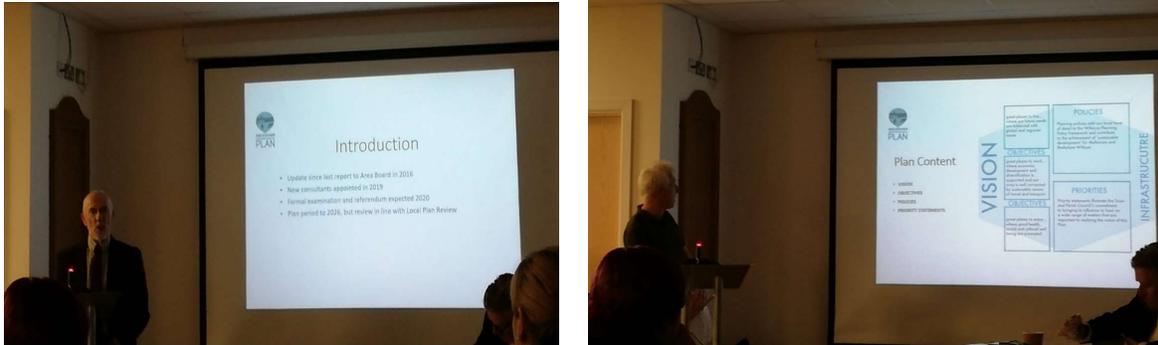
10 November 2017 – Christie Miller Sports Centre & 11 November 2017 – Melksham Guides Hut held 4.00pm-7.00pm and 11.30pm-2.30pm respectively

- 3.25 Consultation events on the various sites were held at both the Guides Hut, King George V Park and Christie Miller Sports Centre, Bowerhill. Community Engagement Consultants, as well as various members of the Steering Group were in attendance to answer any questions.
- 3.26 The event at Christie Miller, despite being well advertised in the local press, social media and patrons of Christie Miller being provided with a leaflet advertising the consultation events with their receipts, unfortunately the consultation was poorly attended.

Community Area Board

- 3.27 ***6 January 2020 – Melksham Rugby Club, Oakfields Stadium at 7.00pm***
Both the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Steering Group attended the meeting to a

packed audience to address various stakeholders of the wider Melksham community area and local residents on the progress of the plan.



Chair and Vice Chair of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Councillors Richard Wood and Councillor Tony Watts at the Area Board presentation on 6 January 2020 at Melksham Rugby Club

Community Events

3.28 The Steering Group also had stalls at various community events within the town during the plan preparation period, such as the Food & River Festival, Carnival and Christmas Lights Switch on. These events are extremely popular with 500+ people of various age groups at each event, making it a good opportunity for Steering Group members to keep people up to date on the progress of the plan and to seek their views.

3.29 Steering Group members also attended various community events within Melksham Without during the plan preparation period to update from the Neighbourhood Plan and take back key information to the rest of the Steering Group. These included Bowerhill Residents' Community Action Group event and CAWS Community event in Shaw, which are also very popular and well supported by their respective communities.

Public Meetings

3.30 Several Members also attended various public meetings and specific groups, such as over 55s and health meetings to make them aware of the plan and seek their views.

Questionnaires

3.31 A questionnaire was also sent to local estate agents seeking their views on the following with regard to industrial units:

- What size units are you experiencing demand for?

- Do you foresee a change in demand as businesses expand or working practices change?
- What specifications and requirements are your enquiries demanding?
- How can Melksham 'win' business to this area under a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats)
- What industry does the proximity of the railway attract?

With regard to retail the following questions were asked:

- What size are you experiencing demand for?
- As people change their shopping habits and move online how will this change high street property demand and usage?

Business Survey

- 3.32 A business online survey was undertaken in late 2015. Various businesses within the Neighbourhood Plan area were asked to complete the survey. The survey included various questions such as, sustainable growth of the town and what the local community could do to encourage local businesses to employ more local people, how many people were employed by them, what attracted them to base themselves in Melksham, what facilities did they wish to see provided locally that would contribute to business life in Melksham.

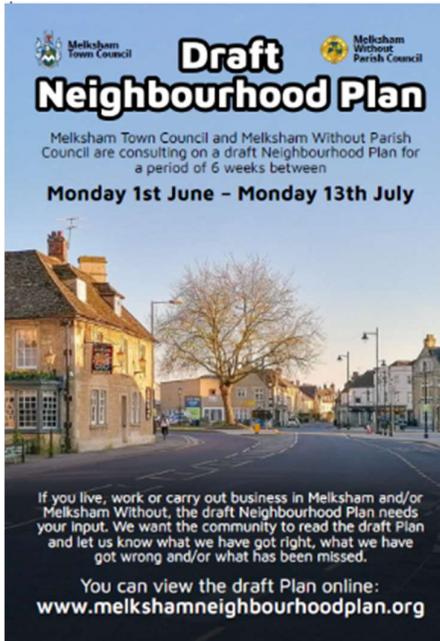
SECTION 2 - REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION

Pre-Submission Publicity and Consultation

- 4.1 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 states that before submitting a plan proposal to the local planning authority, a qualifying body must publicise in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area:
- details of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan
 - details of where and when the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan may be inspected
 - details of how to make representations and
 - the date by which those representations must be received, being not less than 6 weeks from the date on which the draft proposal is first publicised
 - consult any consultation body referred to in paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 whose interests the qualifying body considers may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood plan and
 - send a copy of the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan to the local planning authority.
- 4.2 This section of the Consultation Statement outlines the approach taken by the Steering Group to consult on the Draft Melksham Neighbourhood Plan at the Regulation 14 stage of the process. Several methods were adopted to ensure that all relevant bodies and parties were informed of the consultation period, as well as ensuring that local residents were made aware of the consultation period and provided with opportunities to give their views and comments.
- 4.3 The Regulation 14 consultation period was initially planned to begin in early April 2020, however the national lockdown due to Covid-19 necessitated a temporary pause. Consultation was finally launched on 1 June 2020 and ran for 8 weeks until 27 July 2020. The consultation was extended by 2 weeks (over the statutory requirement of 6 weeks) to Monday 27 July to ensure that people had sufficient time to respond during the pandemic. The draft Neighbourhood Plan, draft Consultation Statement and associated draft evidence base reports were included in this consultation.
- 4.4 The decision to proceed with the consultation was given considerable thought given the situation with coronavirus pandemic and associated restrictions. Though it was not possible to hold public events nor have hard copies of the Plan available throughout the consultation period, the Steering Group ensured that people who lived, worked or carried out business in the area were aware of the consultation, how to comment and when by.

This was done through a multi-channel approach, from posted leaflets via Royal Mail, delivered to 12,854 properties, including businesses in the Neighbourhood Plan area (SN12 6, 7 & 8 postcode areas), to social media and radio. A full outline of the approach is set out below in paragraph 4.7. People were invited to call or email with any questions or for support to access the plan and/or comments form with the offer to post hard copies to those who would prefer to

receive the documents in that format. Once the publication of the Melksham Independent News recommenced on w/c 22 June, 13,500 homes and businesses in the Plan area received the free newspaper and within it, information about the consultation and the extension to the consultation deadline.



Above: Leaflets, delivered to over 12,000 properties, including businesses in the Neighbourhood Plan area

- 4.5 **Viewing and Commenting on the Documents.** The draft Neighbourhood Plan, Consultation Statement and associated draft evidence base documents and feedback forms were available to view and download on the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan website <https://www.melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org/> during Regulation 14 consultation.

People were directed to this page via the Town and Parish Council's websites: www.melkshamtown.co.uk and www.melkshamwithout.co.uk

There were over 3,000 visits to the Neighbourhood Plan website by 2,100 different people.



Notice of Regulation 14 Pre-submission Consultation and Publicity on the Draft Melksham Neighbourhood Plan

Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council are consulting on a draft Neighbourhood Plan for a period of 8 weeks between: **Monday 1st June - Monday 27th July (Note: extension of closing date)**

Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council have prepared a draft Neighbourhood Plan for the Melksham Neighbourhood Area. The Plan proposes a number of planning policies which, once adopted, must be used in the determination of planning applications within the Parishes.

In accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan (General) Regulations 2012, Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council are required to publicise the draft Neighbourhood Plan and invite comments.

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents can be downloaded from the links at the bottom of this page. Comments on the Draft Plan can be made using a Comments Form that can also be downloaded below. Comments can be emailed or posted back and must be received by midnight on Monday 27th July.

The decision to proceed with this consultation has been carefully considered given the current situation with Covid-19. Though we are currently not able to hold public events or have hard copies of the draft Plan available in public locations, people are invited to call or email with any questions or for support to access the plan and/or the comments form.

With the publication of the Melksham Independent News w/c 22nd June, which is delivered free of charge to 13,500 homes and businesses in the Plan area, the consultation has been extended by 2 weeks to Monday 27th July to ensure that everyone has had a chance to respond.

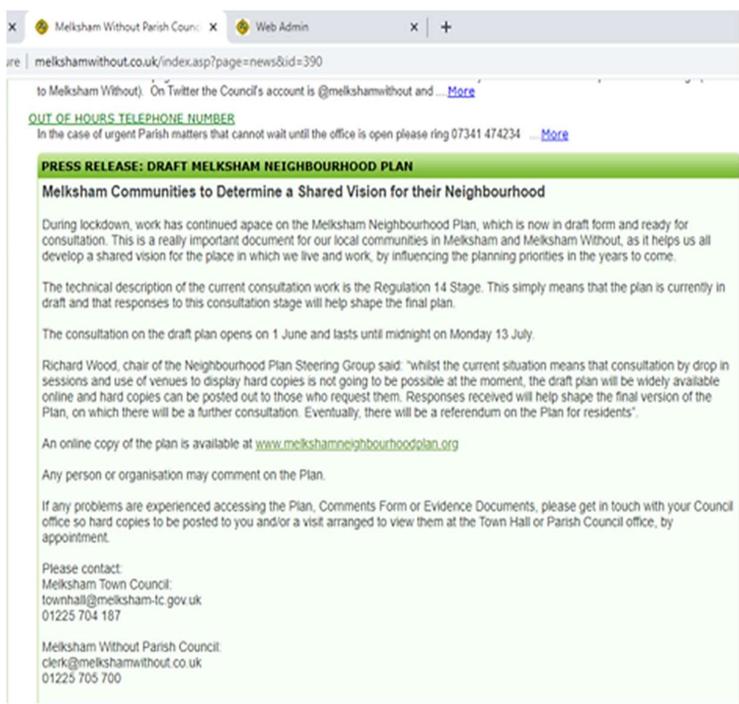
As we move through July there may be the opportunity to hold some public drop-in sessions if the lockdown measures ease, so please keep checking the website for updates.

Melksham Town Council
townhall@melksham-tc.gov.uk
Tel: 01225 704187

Melksham Without Parish Council
clerk@melkshamwithout.co.uk
Tel: 01225 705700

An Introduction to the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan

Above: Screenshot of the Neighbourhood Plan Website advertising Regulation 14:



Above: Screenshot of Melksham Without Parish Council's Website, advertising Regulation 14 Consultation:

You are here: / Home / News / Intention to consult on Draft Melksham Neighbourhood Plan

Intention to consult on Draft Melksham Neighbourhood Plan



Notice of Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Consultation and Publicity on the Draft Melksham Neighbourhood Plan

Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council have prepared a Draft Neighbourhood Plan for the parishes of Melksham Town and Melksham Without. The Plan proposes a number of planning policies which, once adopted, must be used in the determination of planning applications within the Parishes.

In accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan (General) Regulations 2012, Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council are required to publicise the Draft Melksham Neighbourhood Plan and invite comments. Copies of the Plan will be available for public inspection for six weeks commencing **Monday 1st June 2020 and ending at midnight on Monday 13th July 2020.**

The decision to proceed with this consultation has been carefully considered, given the current situation with Covid-19. Though we are currently not able to hold public events or have hard copies of the draft plan available in public locations, people are invited to call or email with any questions or for support to access the plan and/or the comments form. Please keep checking the website for updates.

The draft plan will be available for inspection online at www.melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org a comments form is also available to download.

Above: Screenshot of Melksham Town Council's website, advertising Regulation 14 consultation:

You are here: / Home / News / CONSULTATION EXTENDED BY 2 WEEKS UNTIL MONDAY 27TH JULY

CONSULTATION EXTENDED BY 2 WEEKS UNTIL MONDAY 27TH JULY

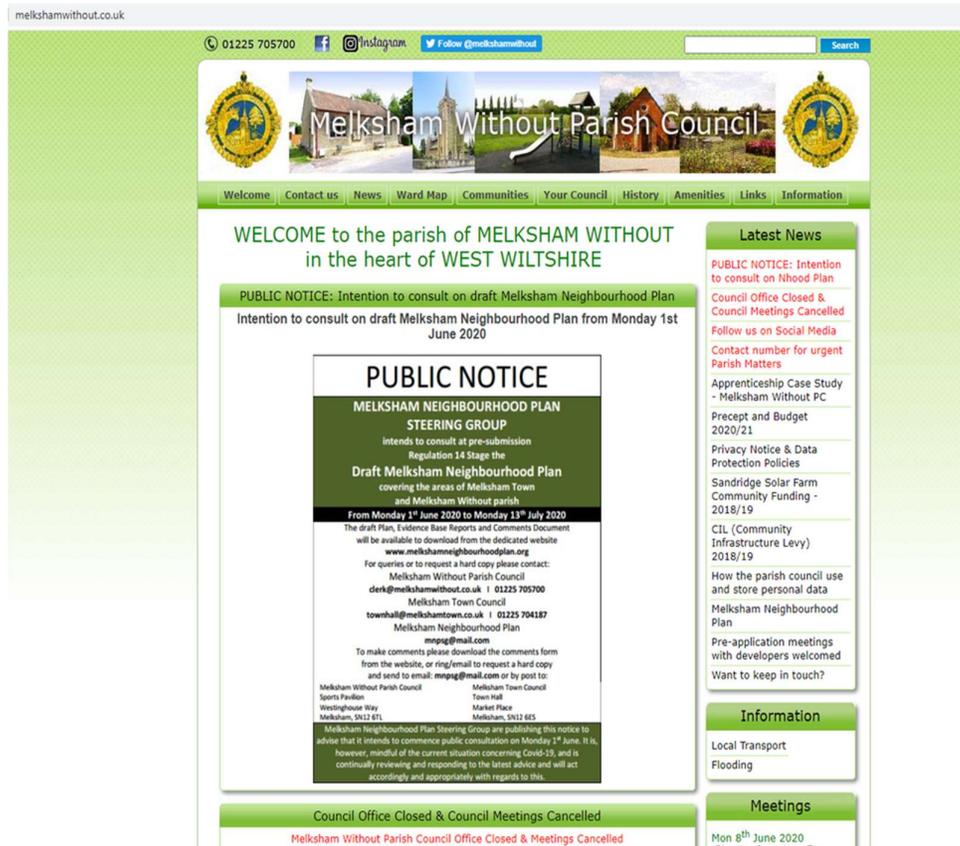


The decision to proceed with the Draft neighbourhood plan consultation has been carefully considered given the current situation with Covid-19.

With the publication of the Melksham Independent News this week, which is delivered free of charge to 13,500 homes and businesses in the Plan area, the consultation has been extended by 2 weeks to Monday 27th July to ensure that everyone has had a chance to respond.



Above: Screenshot of Melksham Town Council website advertising extension to consultation:



Above: Screenshot on Melksham Without Parish Council’s website showing the Public Notice:

- 4.6 **Contacting Statutory Consultees.** The draft Plan and associated documents were shared with a list of statutory consultees in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended. A copy of the notification sent to statutory consultees, along with the list of contacts to which it was sent is available in **Appendix 2**. Others who expressed an interest in being kept informed on progress of the Plan were also notified.
- 4.7 **Publicity.** The Regulation 14 consultation was publicised through a range of methods, as detailed below.
- Leaflets were delivered to over 12,000 properties by Royal Mail, including businesses in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

- Articles appeared in Melksham Independent News on 25 June (first edition after lockdown in March) and 23 July. (Distributed to 13,700+ households in the Neighbourhood Plan area)

Help create a shared vision for your neighbourhood

DURING lockdown, work has continued apace on the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan, which is now in draft form and ready for consultation.

Melksham Town and Melksham Without Parish Councils say, "This is a really important document for our local communities in Melksham and Melksham Without, as it helps us all develop a shared vision for the place in which we live and work, by influencing the planning priorities in the years to come.

"The technical description of the current consultation work is the Regulation 14 Stage. This simply means that the plan is currently in draft and that responses to this consultation stage will help shape the final plan.

"The consultation on the draft plan opens today [1 June] and lasts until midnight on Monday 13 July."

Richard Wood, chair of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group said, "Whilst the current situation means that consultation by drop-in sessions and use of venues to display hard copies is not

going to be possible at the moment, the draft plan will be widely available online and hard copies can be posted out to those who request them.

"Responses received will help shape the final version of the plan, on which there will be a further consultation. Eventually, there will be a referendum on the plan for residents".

An online copy of the plan is available at www.melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org

Any person or organisation may comment on the plan.

If any problems are experienced accessing the plan, comments form or evidence documents, please get in touch with your council office so hard copies can be posted to you and/or a visit arranged to view them at the Town Hall or Parish Council office, by appointment. Please contact:

Melksham Town Council: townhall@melkshamtc.gov.uk; 01225 704 187

Melksham Without Parish Council: clerk@melkshamwithout.co.uk; 01225 705 700.

TURN TO PAGE 28 FOR MORE DETAILS

Above: Article 25 June edition of Melksham News
(First edition since Lockdown in March)

Still time to create a shared vision for your neighbourhood

THERE is still time to have your say on the proposed Melksham Neighbourhood Plan.

The plan - which is in draft form and under consultation - helps to develop a shared vision for the communities of Melksham and Melksham Without, for people to live and work, by influencing the planning priorities in the years to come.

The deadline for responses to the draft plan is midnight on Monday 27th July - and responses received will help shape the final version of the plan, which will also be presented for public consultation, prior to a referendum on the plan.

Parish officer at Melksham Without Parish Council, Lorraine McRandle, told *Melksham News*, "We have had a great response so far to the consultation - the community is engaging well with the proposal and sharing their comments on the policies within the plan.

"We would encourage everyone in the community to

have their say - there is still time to do so!"

Melksham Without Parish Council and Melksham Town Council has been working together on the project, alongside a whole host of community members who form the steering group.

An online copy of the plan is available at www.melksham-neighbourhoodplan.org

Any person or organisation may comment on the plan.

If any problems are experienced accessing the plan, comments form or evidence documents, please get in touch with your council office so hard copies can be posted to you and/or make an appointment to view them at the Town Hall or Parish Council office. Please contact:

Melksham Town Council: townhall@melksham-tc.gov.uk; 01225 704 187

Melksham Without Parish Council: clerk@melkshamwithout.co.uk; 01225 705 700.

See more details on n6

Above: Article Front Page of Melksham News 23 July 2020 Edition

Great response to public consultation on draft Neighbourhood Plan

THE Melksham Neighbourhood Plan steering group would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that took the time and effort to read and submit comments on the draft Melksham Neighbourhood Plan.

The 8-week public consultation took place during June and July and closed at midnight on Monday 27th July. The steering group made up of members of Melksham Without Parish Council, Melksham Town Council, Wiltshire Council and local community members, have already met virtually a couple of times in August to begin the process of reviewing each and every comment.

Nearly 100 different people, organisations and statutory consultees submitted comments, with almost 300 individual comments against different policies and evidence documents. In addition, there were over 3,000 visits to the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan website, from over 2,100 different people during the 8-week consultation period.

Despite the consultation being undertaken during the current Covid-19 social isolation measures, which meant public drop-in sessions were unable to be held, the response to the consultation has been good, and definitely on a par with other similar consultations undertaken in comparative areas before the pandemic arose.

Wiltshire Council has congratulated the group on the way that the consultation was conducted and the response it received. The website has also provided some interesting statistics such as 1,500 people viewed the plan by a desktop computer, 1,200 by mobile phone and 275 by tablet. The website had been specifically upgraded before the consultation to ensure it met accessibility standards, and for ease of viewing by different devices.

You may have seen some of the many "talking heads" videos that were on the website and on local social media sites, that utilised local people to explain different aspects of the plan and the process. Nearly 800

people watched the videos from a link on the website, but there were over 26,000 people reached by Facebook with nearly 14,000 videos watched from that link. This is exactly the sort of access that the steering group wanted to achieve, to reach out and engage with members of the public that may not normally be interested in planning policies!

For those not online, members of the public could ring either the town or parish council and ask for a hard copy to be posted to them, and the consultation was initially advertised by a leaflet delivered to every dwelling (business and domestic) in the plan area.

During September, the comments will all be reviewed and assessed, with recommendations being made to amend policies and the draft plan where appropriate. There will also be recommendations on what to do about issues raised by residents that are out of the scope of the plan, which has to reflect planning policy and land use only.

The final version of the plan is then submitted to Wiltshire Council who undertake their own formal consultation, this will give you as local people who live, work and run a business in the plan area, another chance to have your

say. Once those comments have been assessed and any adjustments made, then the plan is submitted to the government's planning inspection for their assessment. Once that has been tested for soundness by the inspector and any adjustments made, then you all get your say again, by a majority vote at a referendum. Under current over-arching national government Covid-19 policy, no elections or referendums can be held until May 2021, but because of that ruling, neighbourhood plans that have gone through the consultation and inspection process, take on more weight in determining planning applications before they can finally be voted on. Then, with a favourable majority, it will become an adopted plan to determine future housing developments and other planning policy issues in the Melksham area.

Look out for more updates in the Melksham News as the plan progresses, you can also visit the dedicated website <https://www.melksham-neighbourhoodplan.org/> and Facebook page.

A big thank you again to all of you that took part in shaping the future of Melksham and Melksham Without.

Have your say on Beanacre solar farm

A PLANNING application has been submitted to Wiltshire Council for the proposed new solar farm in Beanacre.

The Wick Solar Farm proposes to build a 50-megawatt solar farm on approximately 200 acres of land at Wick Farm, Beanacre – between Westlands Lane to the south and Folly Lane to the north.

The consultation is open for comments until Thursday 24th September, and a decision on the plans by Wiltshire Council is expected by the end of November.

Prior to submission of the planning application,

JBM Solar conducted a public consultation. Initial concerns raised by residents about the plans included the impact on their view from their properties, its impact on local wildlife, and its impact on flooding in Westlands Lane.

In response to the concerns, JBM Solar revised their plan, explaining it will have 'less impact on the local environment'.

To comment on the planning application visit the Wiltshire Council planning website and search using the reference 20/06840/ FUL. www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-applications-search

Above: Article 3 September Edition of Melksham News



MELKSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council are consulting on a draft Neighbourhood Plan for a period of 8 weeks between **Monday 1st June – Monday 27th July**

If you live, work, or carry out business in Melksham and/or Melksham Without, the draft Neighbourhood Plan needs your input. We want the community to read the draft Plan and let us know what we have got right, what we have got wrong and/or what has been missed.



YOU CAN VIEW THE DRAFT PLAN ONLINE:
www.melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org

PLANNING WITH YOU FOR YOU!

In the past many communities have felt that they have little influence over what's decided in terms of planning policy, after all, in the past it's been done by 'them' – Wiltshire Council. But that's changing, and we now have a real opportunity to shape the future of the whole Melksham area much more (but not entirely!) the way we – you – us want it.

COMMUNITY LED

Our Neighbourhood Plan will make a difference by focusing on things the planning system can genuinely influence (protection of open space, housing development etc.). But it can also cover other things to help make Melksham an even better place to live, work and visit in the future. So, as well as the formal policies, our Plan will include some 'priorities' and projects to try to ensure that developments deliver community benefits such as the importance of addressing infrastructure provision, improved footpaths and tree planting.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Comments on the draft Plan can be made using a form downloaded from the website. Comments can be emailed or posted back and must be received by **midnight on Monday 27th July**.

The decision to proceed with this consultation has been carefully considered given the current situation with Covid-19. Though we are currently not able to hold public events or have hard copies of the draft Plan available in public locations, people are invited to call or email with any questions or for support to access the Plan and/or the comments form. You should have received a leaflet through your door the first week in June, but we have extended the deadline by a further two weeks, now that we have been able to make you aware through the Melksham News, to ensure that everyone has had a chance to respond. Please keep checking the website for updates.

There are lots of documents, and we do not expect you to look at everything, so please don't feel overwhelmed but look at the key documents – the draft Neighbourhood Plan and then any evidence reports on topics that interest you. You don't need to comment on everything, just the things that are important to you.

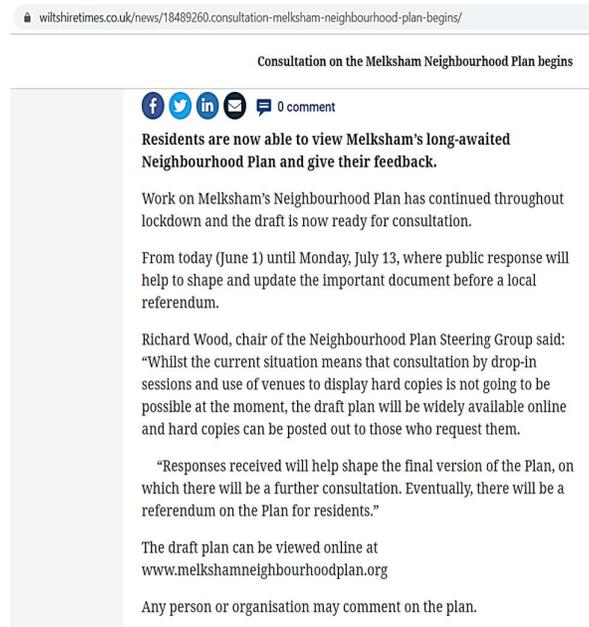
If you are not online, then please contact us and we can make arrangements to send you a copy of the plan or arrange a time to view it, by appointment.

Melksham Town Council
townhall@melksham-tc.gov.uk
 01225 704187

Melksham Without Parish Council
clerk@melkshamwithout.co.uk
 01225 705700

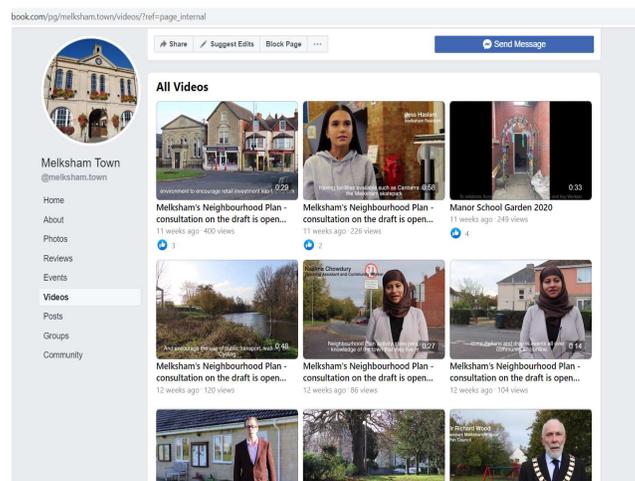
Above: Advert 25 June & 23 July Edition of Melksham News

- Article in the Wiltshire Times 1 June.



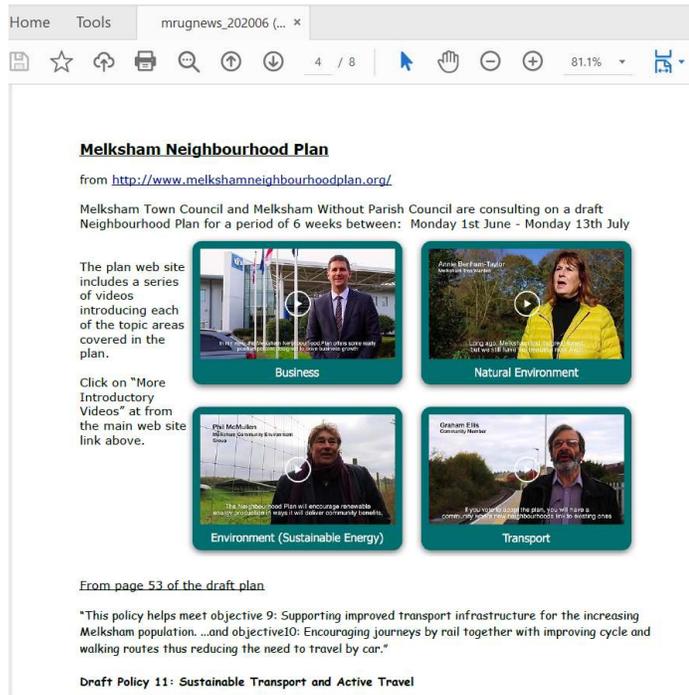
Above: Screenshot of article in Wiltshire Times Online:

- Via Neighbourhood Plan Facebook Page
- Leaflets in various locations, throughout the Neighbourhood Plan area such as Cooke Automotive in Bowerhill, Whitley Golf Club, The Pear Tree in Whitley and in the Whitley adopted phonebox/lending library.
- Through both the Town Council and Parish Council's websites.
- Via Social Media ie Facebook, Twitter and Instagram of both Councils



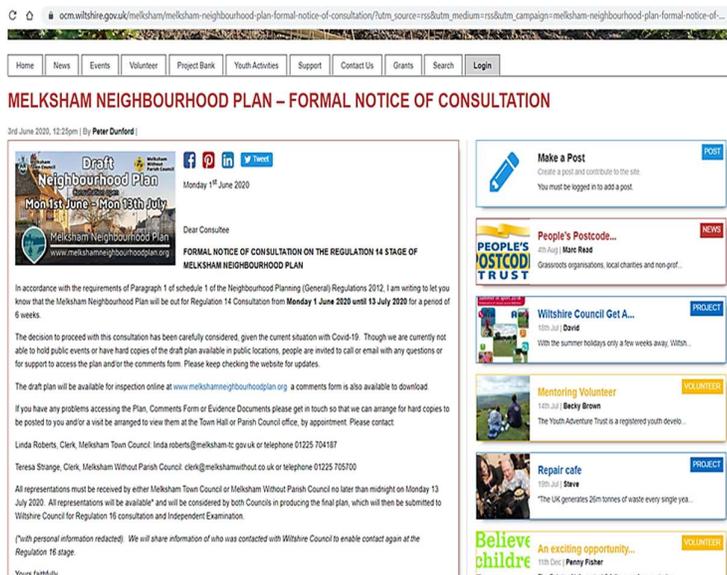
Above: Screenshot from Melksham Town Council Website

- Information circulated to various community groups such as BASRAG, BRAG, Beanacre Community Group and CAWS
- Melksham Rail User Group Newsletter 1 June 2020:
http://www.mrug.org.uk/mrugnews_202006.pdf



Above: Extract from Melksham Railway Users Groups Newsletter 1 June 2020

- Wiltshire Council's Community Matters (3 June 2020 Edition):



- Press Release sent to local news stations such as BBC Wiltshire, Points West and West Country and local radio such as Wiltshire Radio.
- Various local community groups were contacted.
- Businesses where email addresses were available (as well as via leaflet drop in SN12 6, 7 & 8 postal areas).
- Those who had expressed an interest in being kept up-to-date on progress of the plan, after attending public events or Neighbourhood Plan meetings (162 individuals)
- Shared via social media with other local groups: George Ward Garden Residents Group, Sandridge Place Residents Group, Sham Shout Outs, Sham Shout Outs Group, Spotted: Melksham Town, Spotted Melksham Town, Melksham East Residents Group, Sandridge Place Residents Group, Shurnhold & Roundpond Residents Group, Melksham Community Group, Melksham Oak School Information Page, Melksham Discussions, Historic Melksham, Melksham Now and Then, Woodrow and Local Community, Melksham Frugal Families, Wiltshire Women in Business, Melksham Mums and Dads Social Group, Primrose Drive, Conigre Mead Nature Reserve, Rewilding Melksham Area, Shurnhold Fields, Melksham Memories, Melksham Families, Forest Community Centre and Melksham Business Club
- Melksham Town Council Business News Bulletins 4 June, 18 June & 7 July:

7486ad68/business-news-from-melksham-town-council-4923118	
No. 6: 18 June 2020	measures improved flexibility to bring furloughed employees back, part-time, in July and a new taper requiring employers to contribute to furloughed employees' salaries from August.
<p>Need any advice? Call or email us:</p> <p>Editors: David McKnight Miriam Zaccarelli</p> <p>01225 704 187</p> <p>Melksham Town Council www.melkshamtown.co.uk</p> <p>Market Day every TUESDAY 9am - 2pm The Market Place SN12 6ES</p> <p>Social Media Hashtag: #Melksham Keep the profile of #Melksham high</p> <p>Melksham Neighbourhood Plan Consultation open 1 June until midnight on 13 July www.melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org</p>	<p>New Website to Support the Reopening of Melksham High Street Melksham Town Council is shortly launching a new website to support businesses reopening on the High Street. Inclusion on the site – www.onthemelkshamhighstreet.co.uk is straightforward, easy and free for businesses. Local residents can find out which businesses are open, when and how to contact them. Just call or email the Town Hall for a chat. townhall@melksham-tc.gov.uk or 01225 704 187</p> <p>COVID-19 Business Re-opening Pack This pack has just been launched by Wiltshire Council to help businesses re-open their premises as safely as possible and in line with government guidance.</p> <p>An digital version of the pack is available here: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/downloads/22985</p> <p>Melksham Town Council is Refreshing its 1-hour parking charge redemption scheme To coincide with the High Street re-opening, post lockdown, Melksham Town Council is refreshing its 1-hour parking charge redemption scheme. Visitors to the town centre, paying for parking, buy a ticket in the normal way and take the duplicate to a participating</p>

- Melksham Town Council Community Newsletter 23 July - Screenshot below (link to page circulated to 68 community Groups)



- Stall at Tuesday Market on 21 July in the Market Place towards the end of the consultation:



Above: Notification on Melksham Without Parish Council's Facebook Page advertising stall at Melksham Market Place

- Notices on various noticeboards within the Neighbourhood Plan area (Approx 15), such as outside both the Town Hall and Pavilion (Melksham Without offices), Library, Shaw, Whitley, Beanacre, Berryfield and Bowerhill.

4.8 As part of the publicity, videos involving various local people and businesses

were created to promote the plan. These were available to view on the Neighbourhood Plan website and uploaded to the Town and Parish Council's Facebook pages, as well as other social media platforms and attracted the following views:

Video Name	People Reached	Video Name	People Reached
What is a Neighbourhood Plan?	74	Housing	3696
How Does it affect me?	3117	Business Retail	5061
Who is Doing It?	88	Business	4039
How can I be heard?	136	Natural Environment	4478
What Next?	103	Environment (Sustainable Energy)	2743
Health & Wellbeing	132	Transport	196
Youth & Wellbeing	420	How Does this Plan Affect Me	216
Childrens' Facilities	1943	TOTAL	26442

Regulation 14 Consultee Comments and Responses

- 5.1 Comparison with Regulation 14 responses from other Wiltshire Market towns² illustrates that the response levels are comparable to formal consultation undertaken under usual circumstances.

Wiltshire Council congratulated the group on the way the consultation was conducted and the response it received, given the current pandemic.

- 5.2 The number of individual responses received to the Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan was as follows:

Number of Statutory Consultee responses received	11
Number of responses received from developers/landowners	11

² Calne had a total of 72 respondents (with around 150 individual representations) and Corsham had 75 (with 221 individual representations) at the Reg 14 stage

Number of responses received from local organisations	5
Number of written responses received from residents	69
Total number of responses received	96

The individual responses sometimes referred to multiple policies, therefore the individual number of representations was just under 300.

5.3 Some of the key general points and suggestions raised during the consultation included:

- Make it as reader friendly as possible: produce an Executive Summary and Glossary of Terms
- Include paragraph numbers
- Plan Period should be extended (Wiltshire Council suggested - 2030)
- Wiltshire Council consider that the draft Plan has been prepared positively with a proactive attitude to achieving the desired outcomes of the parish, and that care has been taken to understand how the NDP can support the strategic development needs set out in the WCS and plan positively to support local development.
- The main issue for residents of Melksham and Melksham Without was the allocation of housing at Whitley (Draft Policy 7) and the By-pass which is included as a local priority to engage with but outside of the scope of the Plan, and many commented on issues related to services, facilities (concern related to housing growth and facilities such as GP surgeries and schools) along with Green Infrastructure.
- Developer and landowner representative comments principally related to the allocation of housing sites around the edge of Melksham with some highlighting that the neighbourhood plan does not have to wait for the local plan to make allocations it just needs to demonstrate that there is a need for the sites and that it is in accordance with the spatial strategy.
- Statutory Consultees were broadly supportive, highlighting points of detail to improve the Plan content.



Above: Facebook Post – 18 August, showing Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (via Zoom) taking a first look at public consultation comments received

All comments were logged, along with any suggestions/proposals made by respondents and can be seen in Appendix 4 (all personal information is redacted) and Appendix 5. The responses were considered by the Steering Group, and where appropriate, amendments were made to the Plan and evidence base.

See Appendix 4 for the complete log of comments made and the Steering Group's responses where appropriate. The appendix also includes a table to show the Regulation 14 policies and amended Regulation 15 policies.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Articles in the Melksham News

Appendix 2 - Regulation 14 Consultation Material

Appendix 3 – Post Reg 14 Policy Revision Table

Appendix 4 - Overall Responses Table (separate document)

Appendix 5 - Full Responses where Summarised in Overall Table (separate document)

Appendix 1: Articles from Melksham News

Links to articles on the Neighbourhood Plan:

03/09/20 Edition – digital version: <https://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=89c500b0-58e1-4b06-be35-1af067351331>

Great Response to Public Consultation Article

<http://melkshamnews.com/2020/09/02/great-response-to-public-consultation-on-draft-neighbourhood-plan/>

23/07/20 Edition – digital version: <https://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=c0cd215e-4916-4803-920e-003f9d36570a> Neighbourhood Plan Advert - Page 6

Still Time to Create a Shared Vision Article on Front Page -

<http://melkshamnews.com/2020/07/22/still-time-to-create-a-shared-vision-for-your-neighbourhood/>

Neighbourhood Plan Advert - Page 6 – see digital version.

25/06/20 Edition – digital version: <https://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=cfd640dc-8aac-45c8-9fde-bb3627d93991>

Article - Page 11 – Help Create a Share Vision for Your Neighbourhood – see digital version.

Neighbourhood Plan Advert - Page 18 – see digital version.

Melksham Without Parish Council Newsletter - Page 27 – see digital version.

16/01/2020 Edition – digital version: <https://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=13635e85-0abe-483a-9978-144ba02e729b> Neighbourhood Plan Advert Pages 16/17

Residents make their views known over Melksham Neighbourhood Plan – 14/02/18

<http://melkshamnews.com/2018/02/14/residents-make-their-views-known-over-melksham-neighbourhood-plan/>

‘We need to think outside the box’ Resident sparks debate over neighbourhood plan – 13/02/19

<http://melkshamnews.com/2019/02/13/we-need-to-think-outside-the-box-resident-sparks-debate-over-neighbourhood-plan/>

What’s important to you in Melksham? – 04/07/18

<http://melkshamnews.com/2018/07/04/whats-important-to-you-in-melksham/>

‘We need a vision for Melksham!’ Council to create visionary document for town’s future – 25/04/18

<http://melkshamnews.com/2018/04/25/we-need-a-vision-for-melksham-council-to-create-visionary-document-for-towns-future/>

Still time to add your views about future housing in Melksham - 13/12/17
<http://melkshamnews.com/2017/12/13/still-time-to-add-your-views-about-future-housing-in-melksham-3/>

Is there a green space in Melksham you feel needs protecting? – 30/08/17
<http://melkshamnews.com/2017/08/30/is-there-a-green-space-in-melksham-you-feel-needs-protecting/>

Neighbourhood plan gets council approval - 04/01/17
<http://melkshamnews.com/2017/01/04/neighbourhood-plan-gets-council-approval/>

Villages to get say on neighbourhood plan – 02/11/16
<http://melkshamnews.com/2016/11/02/villages-to-get-say-on-neighbourhood-plan/>

Neighbourhood Plan Open House meeting – 18/05/16
<http://melkshamnews.com/2016/05/18/neighbourhood-plan-open-house-meeting/>

Help shape Melksham's future with the neighbourhood plan – 13/01/16
<http://melkshamnews.com/2016/01/13/help-shape-melkshams-future-with-the-neighbourhood-plan/>

New film about Melksham Neighbourhood Plan – 12/08/15
<http://melkshamnews.com/2015/08/12/new-film-about-melksham-neighbourhood-plan/>

Neighbourhood Plan website goes live – 15/07/15
<http://melkshamnews.com/2015/07/15/neighbourhood-plan-website-goes-live/>

MELKSHAM 2026: Task Groups tackle Neighbourhood Plan issues – 03/06/15
<http://melkshamnews.com/2015/06/03/melksham-2026-task-groups-tackle-neighbourhood-plan-issues/>

Open House to share ideas on Melksham Neighbourhood Plan – 25/02/15
<http://melkshamnews.com/2015/02/25/open-house-to-share-ideas-on-melksham-neighbourhood-plan/>

Design a logo for the Melksham 2025 Neighbourhood Plan – 14/01/15
<http://melkshamnews.com/2015/01/14/design-a-logo-for-the-melksham-2025-neighbourhood-plan/>

Community will get their say on Neighbourhood Plan – 22/10/14
<http://melkshamnews.com/2014/10/22/community-will-get-their-say-on-neighbourhood-plan/>

Neighbourhood plan delay as Melksham councils try to agree terms – 09/04/14
<http://melkshamnews.com/2014/04/09/neighbourhood-plan-delay-as-melksham-councils-try-to-agree-terms/>

Melksham's councils join forces to plan town's future – 29/01/14
<http://melkshamnews.com/2014/01/29/melkshams-councils-join-forces-to-plan-towns-future/>

Appendix 2: Regulation 14 Consultation Material



Friday 29 May 2020

Dear Statutory Consultee/Consultee

FORMAL NOTICE OF CONSULTATION ON THE REGULATION 14 STAGE OF MELKSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

In accordance with the requirements of Paragraph 1 of schedule 1 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, I am writing to let you know that the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan will be out for Regulation 14 Consultation from **Monday 1 June 2020 until 13 July 2020** for a period of 6 weeks.

The decision to proceed with this consultation has been carefully considered, given the current situation with Covid-19. Though we are currently not able to hold public events or have hard copies of the draft plan available in public locations, people are invited to call or email with any questions or for support to access the plan and/or the comments form. Please keep checking the website for updates.

The draft plan will be available for inspection online at www.melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org a comments form is also available to download.

If you have any problems accessing the Plan, Comments Form or Evidence Documents please get in touch so that we can arrange for hard copies to be posted to you and/or a visit be arranged to view them at the Town Hall or Parish Council office, by appointment. Please contact:

Linda Roberts, Clerk, Melksham Town Council:
linda.roberts@melksham-tc.gov.uk or telephone 01225 704187

Teresa Strange, Clerk, Melksham Without Parish Council:
clerk@melkshamwithout.co.uk or telephone 01225 705700

All representations must be received by either Melksham Town Council or Melksham Without Parish Council no later than midnight on Monday 13 July 2020. All representations will be available* and will be considered by both Councils in producing the final plan, which will then be submitted to Wiltshire Council for Regulation 16 consultation and Independent Examination.

*(*with personal information redacted). We will share information of who was contacted with Wiltshire Council to enable contact again at the Regulation 16 stage.*

Yours faithfully



Linda Roberts
Clerk
Melksham Town Council



Teresa Strange
Clerk
Melksham Without Parish Council

Appendix 2 - List of Consultees

Organisation	Contacted at Reg 14? (Y/N)
Local Authority/Planning Authority/Town/Parish Council	
Local Authority/Planning Authority	Y
Wiltshire Council, Spatial Planning	Y
Melksham Town Council (MTC):	
Linda Roberts, Town Clerk	Y
Councillor Caroline Andrewes (Resigned)	Y
Councillor Pat Aves	Y
Councillor Sue Brown	Y
Councillor Vanessa Fiorelli	Y
Councillor Jon Hubbard	Y
Councillor Kathy Iles	Y
Councillor Clive Jefferies	Y
Councillor Geoff Mitcham	Y
Councillor Martin Pain	Y
Councillor Hayley Spencer-Illman	Y
Councillor Terri Welch	Y
Councillor Richard Wiltshire	Y
Councillor Tony Watts	Y
Councillor Adrienne Westbrook	Y
Councillor Mike Sankey	Y
Melksham Without Parish Council (MWPC)	
Teresa Strange, Clerk	Y
Councillor Richard Wood	Y
Councillor John Glover	Y
Councillor Alan Baines	Y
Councillor Paul Carter	Y
Councillor Terry Chivers	Y
Councillor Greg Coombes	Y
Councillor Nick Holder	Y
Councillor David Pafford	Y
Councillor Mary Pile	Y
Councillor Robert Shea-Simonds	Y
Councillor Paul Taylor	Y
Councillor Stuart Wood (Resigned)	Y

Area Board (other than MTC & MWPC):	
Councillor Jonathon Seed	Y
Councillor Phil Alford	Y
Area Board Manager	Y
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Members:	
Cllr Richard Wood, Chair (MWPC), Education	Y
Cllr Tony Watts, Deputy (MTC)	Y
Shirley McCarthy, Environment	Y
Colin Harrison (Chamber of Commerce)	Y
Mike Sankey, Community Member	Y
Cllr Adrienne Westbrook (MTC)	Y
Cllr John Glover (MWPC)	Y
Cllr Phil Alford, Wiltshire Council	Y
Rolf Brindle, Transport Lead	Y
Teresa Strange (MWPC)	Y
Linda Roberts (MTC)	Y
Lorraine McRandle (MWPC)	Y
Patsy Clover (MTC)	Y
Chris Holden, Community Area Partnership	Y
Mark Ashkowski, Housing Task Group Lead	Y
Nick Westbrook, Health & Wellbeing Lead	Y
Bruce Sanders, Business Group Lead	Y
Selwood Housing	Y
Other Parish Councils in Area:	
Broughton Gifford	Y
Seend Parish Council	Y
Atworth Parish Council	Y
Bromham Parish Council	Y
Lacock Parish Council	Y
Semington	Y
Hilperton	Y
Holt	Y
Bulkington Parish Council	Y
Great Hinton	Y
Keevil	Y
Poulshot	Y
Steeple Ashton	Y
Other Neighbouring Local Authorities	
BaNES	Y

Gloucester County Council	Y
South Gloucester District Council	Y
Swindon Borough Council	Y
Somerset County Council	Y
Hampshire County Council	Y
Dorset County Council	Y
North Dorset District Council	Y
Oxfordshire County Council	Y
West Oxfordshire District Council	Y
West Berkshire Council	Y
Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP)	Y
Coal Body	Y
Homes & Community Agency	Y
Natural England	Y
Environment Agency	Y
English Heritage	Y
Historic England	Y
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	Y
Strategic Highways Companies and those adjoining NP area	
Highways England	Y
Western Gateway	Y
Marine Management Company	N
Cable companies ie Virgin	
Electronics Coms (generic email address available)	
BT	Y
BT Open Reach	Y
See the Light	Y
Mobile Networks:	
Virgin	Y
EE	Y
O ²	Y
Vodafone	Y
MBNL	Y
Mobile Operators Association	Y

Health	
Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group	Y
Wiltshire Primary Care Trust	Y
Spa Medical Centre	Y
Giffords Surgery	Y
Electricity (Licence gas been granted under Section 6 etc of Electricity Act 2006	
SSE	N
British Gas (Licence has been granted under Section 7 of the Gas Act 1986	
British Gas	Y
Wales & West Utilities	Y
Sewerage and Water	
Wessex Water	Y
National Grid	Y
Waterways	
Canal & River Trust	Y
Swindon, Wiltshire & Oxfordshire Canal Partnership	Y
Wilts & Berks Canal Trust	Y
BART Bristol Avon Rivers Trust	Y
Wiltshire Wildlife (Clackers Brook project)	Y
Wiltshire Wildlife	Y
SUSTRANS	Y
Education	
The Whitehorse Federation	Y
Wiltshire Police	Y
Wiltshire & Dorset Fire Brigade	Y
Air Ambulance	Y
Landowners	(29 Contacted)
Developers	(46 Landowner/ Agents contacted)

Housing Associations and Management Companies	
Selwood Housing	Y
Whitehorse Housing Association	Y
Housing 21	Y
Aster Housing Group	Y
McCarthy Stone	N
Greensquare	Y
Sovereign Housing	Y
Lopes Close Residents Association	Y
Voluntary Groups	
Melksham & District 55+ Forum	Y
BRAG	Y
CAWS	Y
BASRAG	Y
Melksham Railway User Group	Y
Melksham Chamber	Y
Melksham Community Area Partnership	Y
TransWilts	Y
Bowerhill Village Hall	Y
Shaw Playing Fields	Y
Whitley reading rooms	Y
Rachel Fowler centre	Y
ATC	Y
Melksham and District Girl Guides	Y
Shaw and Whitley toddler group	Y
Bowerhill Scouts	Y
Young Melksham	Y
Happy circle Day Centre	Y
Group five	Y
Relate Mid Wiltshire	Y
Melksham Community bus	Y
Shaw and Whitley connect	Y
Life Education Wiltshire	Y
AFC Melksham (Disabled Football)	Y
Melksham Rugby Club	Y
Melksham amateur swimming club	Y
Shaw and Whitley friendship club	Y

Melksham tourist information centre	Y
Shaw and Whitley Garden club	Y
Atworth youth group	Y
Age UK Wiltshire	Y
Army Cadets (Melksham Detachment)	Y
Badminton Association, Wiltshire Branch	Y
Bobby Van Trust	Y
Cactus & Succulent Society	Y
Carnival	Y
Christmas Lights Group	Y
Community Safety Group	Y
Conigre Mead Nature Reserve	Y
Country Dancers	Y
Crazy About Knitting Club	Y
Fitness and Friendship Club - run by Age UK	Y
Floral Arrangement Society	Y
Food and River Festival	Y
Friends of Melksham Hospital and Community	Y
Gardeners' Society	Y
Great Western Coffee Shop Forum	Y
Grecophiles Social Club	Y
Historical Association	Y
Hope Debt Advice	Y
Lions Club of Melksham	Y
Model Car Club	Y
Netball Club	Y
Palestinian Support Group	Y
Parent Carer Council	Y
Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of Melksham, in the Diocese of Salisbury	Y
People First	Y
Read Easy	Y
Reengage	Y
Remembers	Y
Rotary Club	Y
Shed Club	Y
Sight	Y
Singin' Group	Y
Spencer Melksham Bowls Club - Mens and Ladies	Y
Tennis Club	Y
United Church Mother and Toddler Group LITTLE GEMS	Y
Wilts Special Needs Fun Days	Y

Religious Groups	
Melksham Family of Churches:	Y
St Michael's & All Angels	Y
St Andrews	Y
St Barnabas, Beanacre	Y
St Anthony's	Y
Melksham United Church	Y
Melksham Baptist Church	Y
Other Churches/Groups:	
Christ Church, Shaw	Y
Core Church	Y
Good News Church	Y
Ebenzener Baptist Church, Union Street	Y
Queensway Chapel	Y
Christian Fellowship	Y
All Nations Christian Fellowship	Y
Redeemed Christian Church of God	Y
West Wiltshire Multi Faith Forum	Y
Racial Groups:	
Wiltshire Bangladeshi Association	Y
Wiltshire Ethnic Cultural Society	Y
Requested to be kept in Touch on NP Progress	
163 People who either attended Neighbourhood	Y
Plan meetings or consultation events were	
contacted at Regulation 14 with 9 people responding	

List of Businesses contacted*	
Art House Café	Y
Melksham Independent News	Y
Market Place Dental Practice	Y
Total Carpets and Flooring	Y
Lloyds TSB Bank	Y
Co-op Travel	Y
Tops Hair	Y
Five Star Nails	Y
West Country Jewellers	Y
Kingstons	Y
Melksham Insurance Brokers	Y
PSP Group/ Heywood Financial Limited	Y
Lock & Key	Y
Mind Charity Shop	Y
Dorothy House (clothing)	Y
JMS Carpets and Flooring	Y
Co-op Funeral Care	Y
The Acropolis	Y
Eagle IT Support	Y
Roundhouse	Y
The Post Office	Y
West Country Educational Agency	Y
Melksham Tourist Information	Y
The Melksham Tandoori	Y
AJB - Bewley and Merrett Funeral Directors	Y
South of Heaven Body Art	Y
Dorothy House (Furniture)	Y
I D Newman & Son	Y
Bliss	Y
Nationwide Building Society	Y

Kavanaghs	Y
The Hiding Place	Y
Grylls Adams	Y
Boots The Chemist	Y
The Coventry	Y
News Box	Y
Haine & Smith Opticians	Y
Greggs	Y
South West Amusements	Y
Iceland	Y
WJ Beavan	Y
Griffs Barbers	Y
Costa	Y
Cinnamon	Y
Gompels	Y
William Hill	Y
Bluebell Ladieswear (Now closed)	Y
Edwards Stationery	Y
Aziz Barbers	Y
The Works Hairdresser	Y
The Toy Shop	Y
Sports Bug	Y
D.J.Bewley	Y
Conservative Club	Y
Hairtek	Y
Revive CBD	Y
Inked	Y
Flowers in Focus	Y
Specsavers	Y
All Things Chic	Y
The Grapes	Y

The Peking Chef	Y
USA Nails	Y
The Bear (Wetherspoons)	Y
Goughs Solicitors	Y
Sultan	Y
The Fine Barber Co	Y
Cats Action Trust	Y
Wiltshire Framing	Y
Hair at 13	Y
Chop Suey House	Y
Sainsbury's	Y
Domino's Pizza	Y
Clarkies Unisex Hair Styling	Y
Libra Hair Studio	Y
Melksham Beauty Clinic	Y
Pets Town (Now closed)	Y
M & H Hair Salon	Y
Two Little Ducks	Y
Tile & Bathroom Centre	Y
Cobblers Bench	Y
Alba Restaurant	Y
CJ Dog and Cat Grooming	Y
Briggsy's Barbershop	Y
Feet First	Y
Andy York Photography	Y
Waitrose	Y
Antico Caffé	Y
Chicken Hut	Y
Beautique	Y
Fisheries	Y
Computer Hut	Y

Hale Veterinary Group	Y
Melksham Liberal Club & Institute	Y
Melksham Dental Practice	Y
Peacocks (Now closed)	Y
Card Factory (Now closed)	Y
San Marco (Now Casa)	Y
The Kebab House	Y
G Hatto Barber Shop	Y
Buds Bar	Y
Library	Y
Melksham Kitchen and Appliance Centre	Y
Nettl (Moved to Bowerhill)	Y
Marjo Fashions	Y
Card and News Centre	Y
Savers	Y
The Parsons Nose	Y
Harmony	Y
Barnet and Co Accountants	Y
Flower Care	Y
Poundstretcher	Y
Sound Marketing	Y
Angell Motors	Y
CM3	Y
Secondhand Emporium	Y
Bob Missen and SA Engineering	Y
S A Engineering	Y
Henry's Café	Y
Devlin Bridal Couture	Y
Belle of the Ball Bridal	Y
Nixon & Shaw	Y
Chick-o-land	Y

Kings Arms Hotel	Y
A.R. Jaffray	Y
Market Lounge	Y
LA Diner	Y
Super Gift Mobile and Accessories	Y
Rachel Fowler Centre	Y
Melksham Family Chiropractic Centre	Y
Wansboroughs	Y
Regency Dental Practice	Y
Backhouse Bet	Y
The Original Factory Shop	Y
Golden Falls Restaurant	Y
Monahans	Y
Kings Gourmet	Y
Bangladeshi Centre	Y
Strictly Angies Hairdresser	Y
King Street Curios	Y
Samovar	Y
Melksham Arcade	Y
Glow	Y
Refa Tandori	Y
Total QSR	Y
New Resource	Y
C.S Property	Y
Bailey Employment Services Ltd.	Y
Melksham Blue Pool	Y
Melksham Assembly Hall	Y
1st Choice Skips	Y
A B Gerrish Ltd	Y
ABC Nursery	Y
Absolute Power Tools	Y

Accord Office Supplies Ltd.	Y
Agrispare	Y
Arrow Radiators Ltd	Y
Artisan Hire Centre	Y
ATI Strellram	Y
Audi VW Cars	Y
Body Shop Accident Repair & Valet Centre	Y
Bodycare Accident Repair Centre (Dents)	Y
Boomerang	Y
Bowerhill Trade Centre	Y
Buildbase	Y
C & P Medical Trading Ltd.	Y
Checkmate Flexible Engineering	Y
Citaglen	Y
Claremont Automatics Ltd.	Y
D A Archive Solutions	Y
Dance Direct	Y
Denmans Electrical Wholesalers Ltd.	Y
DHF Engineering	Y
Dispak Ltd	Y
E & H Dry Lining & Plastering Ltd	Y
Garage on the Hill (part of JC Group)	Y
Genesis Manufacture	Y
GWF Nutrition	Y
Honeysuckle Garden Products Ltd.	Y
Ian Berg Plastics Ltd.	Y
JACS	Y
JC Cleaners	Y
Keith Lye Motor Vehicle Engineering	Y
Kens Cars	Y
Kristek Precision Ltd	Y

LH Artlett	Y
LHDA Ltd.	Y
Lowfield Ltd. (FAWT Greenhouses)	Y
Melksham Motor Spares	Y
Midwest Racing	Y
NRS Specialist Services	Y
Playforce Ltd	Y
Premier Form Tools	Y
Q Tech Auto Services Ltd	Y
Qdos Homes	Y
R S Precision	Y
Richmond Precision Services	Y
Roundstone Catering & Vending Equipment	Y
Smithpack	Y
Superior	Y
Swiftech	Y
Travis Perkins	Y
Universal Tool Hire & Supplies	Y
Valldata	Y
Western Mechanical Handling Ltd	Y
Wiltshire School of Gymnastics	Y
Asda	Y
Leekes	Y
Aldi	Y
Lidl	Y
McDonalds	Y
Herman Miller	Y
Artis	Y
Avon Rubber PLC	Y
Avonside Engineering	Y
Building Business Bridges	Y

Crossfit Civitas	Y
G Plan Upholstery	Y
Great Bear Distribution Ltd	Y
Greenearth Food Packing Co.	Y
Guys Magnets Ltd	Y
K9 Protector	Y
Morsecurity	Y
Plastic Engineering Solutions	Y
Prism Office Supplies	Y
Red Direct Marketing	Y
The Milk Churn Pub	Y
Weger Air Solutions	Y
Premier Form Tools	Y
Roundstone Catering	Y
Garage on the Hill	Y
G W F Nutrition	Y
Boels Rental	Y
A L King Roofing	Y
Lovejoys	Y
Knorr Bremse	Y
Grip It	Y
Il Vello d'Oro	Y
Beechfield House	Y
Shaw Country Hotel (Closed)	Y
Conigre Hotel	Y
Procol	Y
Old Mill Finance	Y
Coombe Diary	Y

Appendix 3 - Post Reg 14 Policy Revision Table

Regulation 14 Policy	Revised Policy for Submission
<p data-bbox="232 348 784 401">Draft Policy 1: Sustainable Design and Construction</p> <p data-bbox="232 432 743 590">We will support development and infrastructure proposals that contribute to the Wiltshire wide target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. To support this target all new development should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="280 621 776 716">i. designed to maximise green infrastructure to sequester carbon; <li data-bbox="280 726 776 873">ii. located where the proximity to services and facilities, or the mix of uses in the development, minimises the need to travel by private vehicle; <li data-bbox="280 884 776 1031">iii. designed and laid out to harness opportunities to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the effects of a changing climate. <li data-bbox="280 1041 776 1409">iv. designed and constructed in accordance with the Energy Hierarchy principle of reducing energy demand (e.g. through materials with high thermal capacity and good insulation), producing, supplying and using energy efficiently and cleanly, as well as generating energy through zero or low carbon means and use onsite or nearby wherever feasible. <p data-bbox="232 1440 776 1692">Applicants are encouraged to use appropriate sustainability assessment tools such as the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), Home Quality Mark for residential development and/or CEEQUAL (or equivalents) for infrastructure development.</p>	<p data-bbox="808 348 1404 380">Policy 1: Sustainable Design and Construction</p> <p data-bbox="808 411 1412 653">We will support development and infrastructure proposals that contribute to Wiltshire Council's aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The design and layout of any new development should therefore aim to meet a high level of sustainable design and construction and be optimised for efficiency, targeting zero carbon emissions. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="833 684 1328 779">I. maximising green infrastructure to sequester carbon and provide other benefits such as shade; <li data-bbox="833 789 1401 936">II. demonstrating good connections to existing services and facilities, or a mix of uses in the proposed development that minimises the need to travel by private vehicle; <li data-bbox="833 947 1409 1041">III. demonstrating opportunities to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the effects of a changing climate; <li data-bbox="833 1052 1401 1377">IV. illustrating application of the Energy Hierarchy principle of reducing energy demand (e.g. through materials with high thermal capacity and good insulation), producing, supplying and using energy efficiently and cleanly, as well as generating energy through zero or low carbon means (through, for example maximising south facing areas of roof space to collect solar energy) onsite or nearby. <p data-bbox="808 1409 1412 1692">For major applications, applicants are encouraged to use appropriate sustainability assessment tools as part of reaching of the process of reaching high levels of sustainable design and construction such as the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), Home Quality Mark for residential development and/or CEEQUAL (or equivalents) for infrastructure development.</p> <p data-bbox="808 1724 1412 1881">Innovative approaches to the construction of low carbon homes which demonstrate sustainable use of resources and high energy efficiency levels will be supported. For example, construction to Passivhaus standards</p>

<p>Draft Policy 2: Flood Risk and Natural Flood Management</p> <p>All new development will be expected to include measures to reduce the rate of rainwater run-off in order to mitigate flood risk. Development proposals will be supported where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. demonstrate how surface water and associated run-off can be drawn into the ground in a sustainable way for surface treatments in residential, commercial and public parking areas; ii. demonstrate, where applicable, that existing land drainage and ditches are safeguarded to ensure that any sustainable surface water outfalls are not lost, and iii. include water re-use measures, unless not reasonably practicable. <p>As part of a Natural Flood Management feature, all major development proposals must include provision of Green Infrastructure such as informal spaces for outdoor recreation and wildlife.</p>	<p>Revised Policy 2 (NOTE: now Policy 3 in the Submission Plan): Flood Risk and Natural Flood Management</p> <p>All new development must include appropriate measures to align modern drainage systems with natural water processes to mitigate any flood risk.</p> <p>Development proposals will be supported where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. are located where the risk of flooding (from all sources) is lowest; II. demonstrate how surface water and associated run-off can be drawn into the ground in a sustainable way for surface treatments in residential, commercial and public parking areas; III. demonstrate, where applicable, that existing land drainage and ditches are safeguarded to ensure that any sustainable surface water outfalls are not lost; IV. utilise re-use of rainwater wherever possible, but where discharged, should be done as high up the drainage hierarchy as possible by aligning modern drainage systems with natural water processes. V. demonstrate efficient water usage to no more than 110 litres per person per day for new residential development and all new non residential development of 1000 square metres gross floor area or more should meet the BREEAM 'excellent' standards for water consumption. <p>All major development proposals must include provision of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) as part of the Natural Flood Management approach and wider Green Infrastructure network delivering multiple benefits, such as improving water quality and water quantity, recreation and biodiversity.</p> <p>Major development proposals (full and outline) should also demonstrate that the SuDS comply with CIRIA Guidance, and to demonstrate that an adequate area has been reserved for storage volumes without requiring inaccessible slopes.</p>
<p>Draft Policy 3: Local Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation</p> <p>Renewable and low carbon energy generation projects that are led by or benefit</p>	<p>Revised Draft Policy 3 (NOTE: now Policy 2 in the Submission Plan): Local Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation</p> <p>Renewable and low carbon energy generation projects that are led by or benefit local</p>

<p>local communities will be supported subject to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the siting and scale of the proposal is appropriate to its setting; ii. the proposal does not create an unacceptable impact on the amenities of local residents, and iii. the proposal does not have an unacceptable degree of impact on a feature of natural or biodiversity importance. <p>Schemes where the energy produced can be used on or near the generation site/where energy storage is incorporated will be strongly supported.</p>	<p>communities will be supported subject to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the siting and scale of the proposal is appropriate to its setting; ii. the proposal does not create an unacceptable impact on the amenity and safety of local receptors, and iii. the proposal does not have an unacceptable degree of impact on a feature of natural or biodiversity importance. <p>Schemes where the energy produced can be used on or near the generation site/where energy storage is incorporated will be strongly supported.</p> <p>Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation not led by local communities will also be expected to set out responses to the above criteria.</p>
<p>Draft Policy 4: Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Charging</p> <p>All new houses with on-plot parking spaces and/ or garages should provide appropriately located charging technology for charging low emission vehicles, such as an electric car charging point. Where shared or off-plot parking spaces are provided, provision must be made for charging vehicles in locations that do not create unsafe pedestrian movement.</p> <p>Planning applications that propose new employment, leisure or retail developments are also encouraged to provide charging facilities for staff and / or other users.</p>	<p>No changes proposed to the policy.</p>
<p>Draft Policy 5: Pre-application Community Engagement</p> <p>Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community will be looked on more favourably than applications that have not.</p> <p>Potential applicants bringing forward development proposals are strongly encouraged to follow the Pre-application Community Engagement Protocol as included in Appendix 1 of this Neighbourhood Plan, and as adopted by</p>	<p>Revised Policy 5: Pre-application Community Engagement</p> <p>In order that development proposals for outline or detailed planning applications, together with 'reserved matters' applications can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community, applicants are strongly encouraged to follow the Pre-application Community Engagement Protocol as included in Appendix 1 of this Neighbourhood Plan as a way of facilitating constructive and proportional engagement of the Town and Parish Council and the local community.</p>

<p>Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council.</p>	
<p>Draft Policy 6: Housing in Defined Settlements</p> <p>We will support proposals for small ‘windfall’ housing development within the settlements of the Plan area, where they conform with the policies of the Development Plan and where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. accord with the limits of development provisions of Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 2; ii. include a suitable mix of house types, sizes and tenures informed by and addressing the current and demonstrable needs for the area within which the site is located in accordance with Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 45 (Meeting Wiltshire’s Housing Needs), and iii. have regard to the character and quality of the surrounding area. <p>In accordance with Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 2, development will not be permitted outside the settlement boundaries other than in circumstances as permitted by other policies within the Core Strategy. At the small villages, development will be limited to infill within the existing built area, or where appropriate outside the built area, but well connected to it, as a rural exception site to provide affordable housing to meet identified local needs.</p>	<p>Revised Policy 6: Housing in Defined Settlements</p> <p>We will support proposals for sustainable housing development within the defined settlements of the Plan area, where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. accord with the limits of development provisions of Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 2; ii. include a suitable mix of house types, sizes and tenures informed by and addressing the current and demonstrable needs for the area within which the site is located in accordance with Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 45 (Meeting Wiltshire’s Housing Needs), and iii. have regard to the character, quality and amenity of the surrounding area. <p>In accordance with Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 2, development will not be permitted outside the settlement boundaries other than in circumstances as permitted by other policies within the Core Strategy. At the small villages, development will be limited to infill within the existing built area, or where appropriate outside the built area, but well connected to it, as a rural exception site to provide affordable housing to meet identified local needs.</p> <p>Affordable housing provision will be required in accordance with Core Policy 43 which sets out when this is required and indicates the proportions which will be sought from open market housing development.</p> <p>In principle, support will be given to proposals for custom or self-build projects in locations where new residential development is acceptable.</p>

Draft Policy 7: Allocation of Land at Middle Farm, Corsham Road, Whitley

Land at Middle Farm, Corsham Road, Whitley is allocated for development of approximately 18 (eighteen) dwellings.

Proposals will be expected to conform with the criteria below and relevant policies within the Development Plan.

Site requirements:

- i. incorporate a Local Equipped Area for Play
- ii. incorporate habitat creation that achieves an overall net enhancement to biodiversity on site;
- iii. be accompanied by an approved landscape conservation scheme that retains and secures the sustained management of existing hedgerow boundaries, provides new hedgerow and tree planting on the eastern and northern boundary of the site, and provides a 15m minimum landscaped buffer along the western boundary of the site, south of Top Lane;
- iv. be of an appropriate layout, form, appearance and materials that protects the amenity of existing neighbouring residents, reinforces and enhances the historic form and character of Whitley and conserves the rural setting of the site;

Revised Policy 7: Allocation of Land at Middle Farm, Corsham Road, Whitley

Land at Middle Farm, Corsham Road, Whitley is allocated for development of approximately 18 (eighteen) dwellings.

Proposals will be expected to conform with the criteria below and relevant policies within the Development Plan.

Site requirements:

- I. The development will deliver approximately 18 dwellings 30% of which will be affordable homes in conformity with Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 43.
- II. Proposals will be accompanied by a landscape conservation scheme that retains and secures the sustained management of existing hedgerow boundaries
- III. The developable area will be contained within land south of the junction with Top Lane and a c15m minimum landscaped buffer along the western and eastern boundary of the site incorporating new hedgerow and tree planting.
- IV. Incorporation of a Local Equipped Area for Play
- V. Habitat creation that achieves an overall net enhancement to biodiversity on site;
- VI. Be of an appropriate layout, form, appearance, materials

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. provide a single vehicle access to Corsham Road to an adoptable standard; vi. include appropriate mitigation measures to prevent an increase in flood risk within the site or elsewhere. vii. retain and enhance the existing public right of way along the site northern boundary, and viii. incorporate accessible public green space to the north of the site, north of Top Lane. <p>Applicants bringing forward development proposals for this site are strongly encouraged to follow the Pre-application Community Engagement Protocol as in Policy 5 and included in Appendix 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p>and landscape treatment that protects the amenity of neighbouring residents and enhances the form and character of Whitley and conserves the rural setting of the site;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VII. Include appropriate mitigation measures to prevent an increase in flood risk within the site or elsewhere and provide multifunctional benefits of amenity and biodiversity. VIII. Provides a single vehicle access to Corsham Road and enhanced pedestrian crossing facility to an adoptable standard. IX. Retain and enhance the existing public right of way along the site northern boundary, and incorporate accessible public green space to the north of the site, north of Top Lane.
<p>Draft Policy 8: Infrastructure Phasing and Priorities</p> <p>To ensure the sustainability of housing development, proposals must consider, assess and address their necessary infrastructure requirements and plan any related programmes of work in parallel with the housing to ensure that infrastructure keeps pace with the needs of the community.</p> <p>Infrastructure requirements in proportion to their scale and in accordance with Wiltshire</p>	<p>Revised Policy 8: Infrastructure Phasing and Priorities</p> <p>To ensure the sustainability of housing development, proposals must consider, assess and address their necessary infrastructure requirements and plan any related programmes of work in parallel with the housing to ensure that infrastructure keeps pace with the needs of the community.</p>

<p>Core Strategy Core Policy 3 and the Wiltshire Planning Obligations SPD will be charged through the Community Infrastructure Levy (in addition to those to be delivered through planning conditions or section 106 agreements).</p> <p>All Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts passed to either Melksham Town Council or Melksham Without Parish Council will be used to address the increased demands that new development places on the civic infrastructure, for the benefit of the Joint Neighbourhood Plan area, focusing on the facilities / infrastructure and communities most impacted by the new development.</p> <p>A Joint Plan area Statement of Infrastructure Priorities for infrastructure needs and improvements will be reviewed annually and agreed jointly between the Town and Parish Councils. The broad infrastructure categories are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social infrastructure: e.g. Community Facilities - Physical infrastructure: e.g. sustainable transport link and town centre regeneration - Green infrastructure: e.g. continued investment in the Riverside Millennium Walk / Shurnhold Fields etc. - Other project areas: e.g. community energy 	<p>Infrastructure requirements in proportion to their scale and in accordance with Wiltshire Core Strategy Core Policy 3 and the Wiltshire Planning Obligations SPD will be charged through the Community Infrastructure Levy (in addition to those to be delivered through planning conditions or section 106 agreements).</p> <p>All Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts passed to either Melksham Town Council or Melksham Without Parish Council will be used to address the increased demands that new development places on the civic infrastructure, for the benefit of the Joint Neighbourhood Plan area, focusing on the facilities / infrastructure and communities most impacted by the new development.</p>
<p>Draft Policy 9: Town Centre</p> <p>Development proposals within the Town Centre Commercial Area as defined in Wiltshire Core Strategy (see figure 9) will be supported provided the use:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. will sustain or enhance the range or quality of shopping provision and does not harm the vitality and viability of the town centre; ii. is in keeping with the scale and character of the centre and conserves or enhances the Conservation Area <p>Proposals for development or change of use of ground floor frontages within the defined town centre primary frontages (see</p>	<p>Revised Draft Policy 9: Town Centre</p> <p>Development proposals within the Town Centre Commercial Area as defined in Wiltshire Core Strategy (see figure 9) will be supported provided the use:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. will sustain or enhance the range or quality of shopping provision and does not harm the vitality and viability of the town centre; II. is in keeping with the scale and character of the centre and conserves or enhances the Conservation Area; III. considers access to public transport and car parking <p>Proposals for development or change of use of ground floor frontages within the defined town</p>

<p>figure 9) will be supported where they retain or enhance the continuity of active ground floor shop front uses.</p> <p>Proposals that make greater use of upper floors of town centre premises, including for offices, small businesses and residential use with independent access, will be supported where they sustain or enhance the vitality of Melksham town centre and enhance the quality of the host building.</p> <p>Development proposals will be supported where they make a positive contribution to conserving and enhancing the appearance and quality of primary frontages and waymarked town centre routes.</p> <p>Edge of Centre Development</p> <p>Proposals for retail development within or adjacent to edge of centre locations (defined as being 300m from the Commercial Area Boundary) will be supported when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the proposal would not harm the vitality and viability of the town centre's shopping role; ii. there are no suitable and viable sites available within Primary Retail Frontages; iii. the development is easily accessible by foot or bicycle on waymarked routes from the town centre, and iv. the development makes adequate provision for car parking and access. Proposals which fail the sequential test or are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the Town Centre will not be supported. <p>Town Centre Expansion</p> <p>Proposals for the redevelopment of existing employment uses within edge of centre locations must be considered on the basis of their relationship to the existing town centre and the potential to expand the town centre.</p> <p>Town Centre Master Plan</p>	<p>centre primary frontages (see figure 9) will be supported where they retain or enhance the continuity of active ground floor shop front uses.</p> <p>Proposals that make greater use of upper floors of town centre premises, including for offices, small businesses and residential use with independent access, will be supported where they sustain or enhance the vitality of Melksham town centre and enhance the quality of the host building.</p> <p>Development proposals will be supported where they make a positive contribution to conserving and enhancing the appearance and quality of primary frontages and waymarked town centre routes.</p> <p>Edge of Centre Development</p> <p>Proposals for retail development within or adjacent to edge of centre locations (defined as being 300m from the Commercial Area Boundary) will be supported when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. the proposal would not harm the vitality and viability of the town centre's shopping role; vi. there are no suitable and viable sites available within Primary Retail Frontages; vii. the development is easily accessible by foot or bicycle on waymarked routes from the town centre, and viii. the development makes adequate provision for car parking and access. Proposals which fail the sequential test or are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the Town Centre will not be supported. <p>Town Centre Expansion</p> <p>Proposals for the redevelopment of existing employment uses within edge of centre locations must be considered on the basis of their relationship to the existing town centre and the potential to expand the town centre.</p> <p>Town Centre Master Plan</p> <p>Melksham Town Council will produce a Town Centre Masterplan to guide and inform future town centre development. Once published, proposals within the town centre and within 300m</p>
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<p>Melksham Town Council will produce a Town Centre Masterplan to guide and inform future town centre development. Once published, proposals within the town centre and within 300m of the existing boundary should demonstrate how they contribute to the delivery of the town centre vision and objectives.</p>	<p>of the existing boundary should demonstrate how they contribute to the delivery of the town centre vision and objectives.</p>
<p>Draft Policy 10: Employment Sites</p> <p>Proposals for employment development within Melksham and Melksham Without will be supported subject to compliance with all relevant development plan policies. Proposals for the retention, regeneration and intensification of previously developed employment land are particularly encouraged. Two main areas of employment land in the Plan area are:</p> <p>a) Business Parks</p> <p>The appropriate redevelopment of brownfield sites within the business park areas (shown as the Principal Employment Areas on figure 9) for employment uses falling within Classes B1, B2, and B8 of the Use Classes Order will be supported where the proposed development will generate the same number, or more, permanent full time equivalent jobs than could be expected from the existing, or any potential employment use.</p> <p>b) Town Centre</p> <p>The appropriate redevelopment of brownfield sites within the town centre areas (shown as the Commercial Area Boundary on figure 9) involving change of use to retail, commercial and other main town centre uses falling within Classes A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, D1, and D2 of the Use Classes Order will be supported where the proposed development will generate the same number, or more, permanent full time equivalent jobs than could be expected from the existing, or any potential employment use, subject to road safety, parking and environmental considerations.</p> <p>Proposals for start-up and small businesses are particularly encouraged to enable the</p>	<p>Revised Policy 10: Employment Sites</p> <p>Proposals for employment development within Melksham and Melksham Without will be supported subject to compliance with all relevant development plan policies. Proposals for the retention, regeneration and intensification of previously developed employment land are particularly encouraged. Two main areas of employment land in the Plan area are:</p> <p>c) Business Parks</p> <p>The appropriate redevelopment of brownfield sites within the business park areas (shown as the Principal Employment Areas on figure 7) for employment uses falling within Classes B1, B2, and B8 of the Use Classes Order will be supported where the proposed development will generate the same number, or more, permanent full time equivalent jobs than could be expected from the existing, or any potential employment use.</p> <p>d) Town Centre</p> <p>The appropriate redevelopment of brownfield sites within the town centre areas (shown as the Commercial Area Boundary on figure 7) or edge of centre locations involving change of use to retail, commercial and other main town centre uses falling within Classes A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, D1, and D2 of the Use Classes Order will be supported where the proposed development will generate the same number, or more, permanent full time equivalent jobs than could be expected from the existing, or any potential employment use, subject to road safety, parking and environmental considerations.</p> <p>Proposals for start-up and small businesses are particularly encouraged to enable the growth of a range of new employment opportunities.</p>

<p>growth of a range of new employment opportunities.</p>	
<p>Draft Policy 11: Sustainable Transport and Active Travel</p> <p>All developments must be planned in line with the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy. Applications for major development must demonstrate through an effective travel plan how sustainable transport modes in the Plan area are maximised and that safe and suitable access can be achieved for all people.</p> <p>Further improvements to the accessibility and to the quality of Melksham Railway Station environment, as a key element in our sustainable transport network, will be strongly supported.</p>	<p>Revised Policy 11: Sustainable Transport and Active Travel</p> <p>All developments must be planned in line with the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy. Applications for major development must demonstrate through an effective travel plan how sustainable transport modes in the Plan area are maximised and that safe and suitable access can be achieved for all people.</p> <p>As a key element in our sustainable transport network, further improvements to the accessibility and quality of the links between the wider town and Melksham Railway Station will be strongly supported. Improvements to the quality of the public realm around the station, will also be strongly supported.</p>
<p>Draft Policy 12: Green Infrastructure</p> <p>Development that will result in the creation of new Green Infrastructure (GI) and/or contribute to the protection, management, enhancement and connecting of existing GI and individual GI assets and priorities as shown on figure 11 will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals for major developments must be accompanied by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. a plan of the existing GI within and around the development site, and ii. information demonstrating how GI has been incorporated into the scheme in order to increase function and improve connectivity of GI through the site and beyond to identified priorities and assets. 	<p>No changes to the policy proposed</p>
<p>Draft Policy 13: Biodiversity</p> <p>Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate the provision of a net gain in biodiversity through enhancement and creation of ecological networks within and,</p>	<p>Revised Policy 13: Biodiversity</p> <p>Development proposals, including field based solar farms will be expected to submit a Biodiversity Net Gain Plan to demonstrate at least a 15% improvement in “biodiversity value” within</p>

<p>where appropriate, beyond the site through measures that should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. maximising opportunities to enhance and create links between ecological networks and habitats of principal importance; ii. the creation of links both on-site and, where possible, with nearby features; iii. improvements to the quality of existing GI, including local networks and corridors, specifically to increase their attractiveness as a recreation opportunity and their value as a habitat for biodiversity, and iv. protection and improvement to access to and connectivity between existing and planned GI in the Plan area to develop a continuous and integrated ecological network. 	<p>and, where appropriate, beyond the site in order to deliver tangible benefits for biodiversity in the Plan area.</p> <p>To ensure that there are no residual adverse impacts resulting from a proposed development, where in exceptional circumstances the reasons for the proposed development clearly outweigh the value of the ecological feature adversely affected and there are no appropriate alternatives, the adverse impacts of the development must be proportionately addressed in accordance with the hierarchy of: mitigation, compensation and finally offsetting.</p> <p>Protection and enhancement of statutory and non-statutory nature conservation sites is a priority for the Plan area and development proposals must demonstrate sensitive responses to these sites where necessary, such as a buffer zone.</p>
<p>Draft Policy 14: Open Spaces</p> <p>We will only support development proposals involving the whole or partial loss of existing open space as shown on figure 13 and detailed in the Green Infrastructure Report where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. an assessment of open space provision, using the quantity and access standards for open space as set out by Wiltshire Council, has identified a surplus in the catchment area to meet both current and future needs, and full consideration has been given to all functions that open space can perform, and ii. any replacement facility (or enhancement of the remainder of the existing site) provides a net benefit to the community in terms of the quality and accessibility of the open space by walking or cycling. 	<p>No changes to the policy proposed. Resolution of Plan Figure 13 (and others) to be resolved</p>

<p>Draft Policy 15: Community Facilities</p> <p>Proposals involving the loss of community facilities as identified in the Community Facilities Report will not be supported unless it is clearly demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. alternative provision is made elsewhere in the Plan area; or ii. there is no longer a need to retain the use; or iii. where a primary function is commercial but the use performs a social or community role, the use is no longer economically viable. <p>Proposals for new community facilities in the Plan area will be supported where the applicant can demonstrate the need and benefits of the proposed facility, or where replacement or enhanced facilities are proposed as mitigation against the loss of any of any community facilities within the Plan area.</p> <p>New community facilities should be located where there is a choice of travel options and should be accessible to all members of the community</p>	<p>Revised Policy 15: Community Facilities</p> <p>Proposals involving the loss of community facilities as identified in the Community Facilities Report will not be supported unless it is clearly demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. adequate alternative provision exists with walking distance, or will be provided in an equally accessible or more accessible location within a walking distance of 800metres; or ii. it has been demonstrated that it would not be economically viable, feasible or practicable to retain the building or site for its existing use; in such cases evidence must be provided to confirm that the property or site has been effectively marketed for a period of at least six months. <p>Proposals for new community facilities in the Plan area will be supported where the applicant can demonstrate the need and benefits of the proposed facility, or where replacement or enhanced facilities are proposed as mitigation against the loss of any of any community facilities within the Plan area.</p> <p>New community facilities should be located where there is a choice of travel options and should be accessible to all members of the community.</p> <p>Proposals for partnership working with national or local agencies to develop strategic community facilities to meet the identified needs for the Plan and wider surrounding areas will be supported.</p>
<p>Draft Policy 16: Trees and Hedgerows</p> <p>Ancient and Veteran Trees:</p> <p>Development resulting in loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats of ancient woodlands (as shown in figure 11) and ancient or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, will not normally be permitted, unless the need for and benefits of the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss.</p> <p>Other Existing Trees and Hedgerows:</p>	<p>Revised Policy 16: Trees and Hedgerows</p> <p>Ancient and Veteran Trees:</p> <p>Development resulting in loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats of ancient woodlands (as shown in figure 11) and ancient or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, will not normally be permitted, unless the need for and benefits of the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss. A minimum buffer of at least 15 metres in width should be maintained between ancient woodland and any development boundary. A buffer zone around an ancient or veteran tree should be at least 15 times larger than the diameter of the tree.</p>

<p>Development that damages or results in the loss of trees of good arboricultural and amenity value will not normally be permitted. Existing trees and hedgerows on development sites should be retained where possible and incorporated as placemaking features in new development. Where there is an unavoidable loss of trees on site, the number and type of replacement trees should be informed by the quality and size of trees lost. Integration of existing hedgerows into private curtilage must be avoided where possible.</p> <p>New Trees:</p> <p>New tree planting in development proposals and across the Plan area will be supported.</p>	<p>Other Existing Trees and Hedgerows:</p> <p>Development that damages or results in the loss of trees of good arboricultural and amenity value will not normally be permitted. Existing woodland, trees and hedgerows on development sites should be retained where possible and incorporated as placemaking features in new development. Where there is an unavoidable loss of trees on site, the number and type of replacement trees should be informed by the quality and size of trees lost. Integration of existing hedgerows into private curtilage must be avoided where possible.</p> <p>New Trees:</p> <p>New tree planting in development proposals and throughout the built and natural environments of the Plan area will be supported.</p>
<p>Draft Policy 17: Landscape Character</p> <p>We will support development that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. integrates natural features such as trees, hedgerows and the local river systems that contribute to both the landscape character and setting of the development; ii. demonstrates that the whole scheme, including hard landscape and planting proposals, draws on local landscape characteristics and features through reference to relevant existing landscape assessments, supplemented by any additional site specific assessments, and iii. responds sensitively to the transition between settlement edge and countryside and maintains the separate identity of the settlements in the Plan area. 	<p>Revised Policy 17: Landscape Character</p> <p>Development will be expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. integrates natural features such as trees, hedgerows and the local river systems that contribute to both the landscape character and setting of the development; v. demonstrates that the whole scheme, including hard landscape and planting proposals, draws on local landscape characteristics and features through reference to relevant existing landscape assessments, supplemented by any additional site specific assessments, and vi. responds sensitively to the transition between settlement edge and countryside and maintains the separate identity of the settlements in the Plan area.
<p>Draft Policy 18: Locally Distinctive, High Quality Design</p> <p>Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council will support development that contributes positively to</p>	<p>Revised Policy 18: Locally Distinctive, High Quality Design</p> <p>Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council will support development that contributes positively to the conservation,</p>

<p>the conservation, enhancement and extension of Melksham's quality of place and local distinctiveness.</p> <p>Development proposals must demonstrate how they have been informed by the Rapid Community Character and Distinctiveness Statement which will be used to inform assessment of scheme design proposals.</p> <p>Applicants should to submit a design compliance statement to demonstrate how a proposal has responded positively to the character of the area in which it is located.</p> <p>Development proposals within Melksham and Melksham Without's settlements must conserve the positive character and contribute to enhancing the quality and distinctiveness of the host neighbourhood area or village.</p> <p>Proposals for major development must demonstrate through a masterplan how the proposed development layout, building designs, materials and detailing complement and extend the positive characteristics of Melksham and Melksham Without's settlements and landscape.</p>	<p>enhancement and extension of Melksham's quality of place and local distinctiveness.</p> <p>Development proposals within Melksham and Melksham Without's settlements must conserve the positive character and contribute to enhancing the quality and distinctiveness of the host neighbourhood area or village.</p> <p>In addition to having regard to the National Design Guidance and Wiltshire Council design policy, development proposals must demonstrate how they have reinforced the character of the area and immediate context and responded positively to guidance set out in been informed by the Rapid Community Character and Distinctiveness Statement which will be used to inform assessment of scheme design proposals.</p> <p>Except for minor and household planning applications, applicants should submit a design compliance statement to demonstrate how a proposal has responded positively to the character of the area in which it is located.</p> <p>Development proposals within Melksham and Melksham Without's settlements must conserve the positive character and contribute to enhancing the quality and distinctiveness of the host neighbourhood or village.</p> <p>Proposals for major development must demonstrate through a masterplan how the proposed development layout, building designs, materials and detailing complement and extend the positive characteristics of Melksham and Melksham Without's settlements and landscape.</p>
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Draft Policy 19: Local Heritage

Proposals for development within the Melksham Conservation Area must show how they enhance and protect the characteristics and special qualities that make up the architectural and historic character.

For other areas of local heritage importance, together with buildings or structures that are noteworthy as unlisted local heritage assets as illustrated in the Community Character and Distinctiveness Statement, development proposals must demonstrate what consideration has been given to:

- i. the asset or area itself;
- ii. its most distinctive and important features;
- iii. the positive elements of its setting and immediate surrounds, and
- iv. the contribution the asset and its setting makes to the character of the local area (whether in the Conservation Area or not).

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