



# Melksham Town Council

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Mr Ian Gibbons  
Associate Director – Legal and Governance  
Wiltshire Council  
County Hall  
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Wiltshire **BA14 8JN**

16 February 2016

Dear Ian,

At a meeting of Melksham Town Council held on 15 February 2016, members noted that Wiltshire Council had approved a new development of some 450 new dwellings to the east of Melksham (Ref: 14/06938). It had previously been understood that this proposed development would not be permitted, lying as it does, outwith the designated settlement boundary.

Moreover, it is understood that a further planning application in relation to a proposed development for a further 100 new dwellings on land to the north of Sandridge Common (Ref: 15/12454/OUT) is also under consideration.

The Town Council appreciates that the scenario in Chippenham has impacted upon Wiltshire Council's current ability to demonstrate and maintain a rolling five year supply of deliverable land for housing, and that circumstances may dictate alternative courses of action to those that were originally conceived.

The Town Council understands that as part of the ongoing Community Governance Review process, Wiltshire Councillors have voted in favour of the proposals put forward by Melksham Without Parish Council which include the proposition that some 733 dwellings on the east of Melksham will come within the town parish when the boundaries are realigned.

However the proposed developments referred to above will be located immediately adjacent to the Town's current boundary and immediately to the north and south of the development of the 733 properties that, in future, will be encompassed within the town.

If it is recognised that the boundary to the east of Melksham has become anomalous in the light of development and that a revised boundary is necessary to encompass the east of Melksham built development within the town's borders, it seems incongruous to ignore the fact that further, and now approved development, will not be accommodated within the town. It is clearly unsatisfactory to ignore and countenance a situation whereby residents are located in different parishes from their neighbours who are, quite literally, living just across the road.

The Guidance on Community Governance Reviews makes the point that the boundaries between parishes "should be, and be likely to remain, easily identifiable" and Melksham Town Council strongly believes that designated boundaries should be sufficiently robust to be, and be perceived to be, appropriate until such time as a further boundary review is undertaken.

Melksham Town Council believes that the new proposed developments should be incorporated within the revised boundaries designated as part of the current Community Governance Review Process and that a failure to do so will mean that the resultant Order, insofar as it relates to Melksham, will define a boundary that will be anomalous and inappropriate, lacking integrity and credibility, as soon as it is enacted.

In the circumstances the Town Council would be grateful for your assurance that the outcome of the current Community Governance Review process will seek to recognise and address the changed circumstances resulting from proposed and approved development prior to the implementation of any resultant reorganisation order.

Thank you in anticipation for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Gray  
Town Clerk

cc: Mr John Watling, Deputy Returning Officer and Head of Electoral Services