



MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Teresa Strange

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Thursday 9th June 2016

Mr John Watling
Head of Electoral Services

Mr Ian Gibbons
Associate Director, Legal & Governance

Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Dear John and Ian

**RE: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
REVISED MELKSHAM/MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH BOUNDARY**

I write further to the proposal made by Melksham Town Council to have the boundary at the East of Melksham housing development redrawn with a different line than that agreed at the 24th November 2015 Wiltshire Council meeting. This was an agenda item at the last Full Council meeting (23rd May) where the Parish Council resolved the following response.

Melksham Without Parish Council understand that Melksham Town Council wish to have the boundary line at the East of Melksham housing development redrawn to a different line than that agreed at the 24th November 2015 Wiltshire Council meeting. Melksham Without Parish Council initially proposed that the boundary be moved to reflect the clear, physical feature on the ground of the new Distributor road now known as Eastern Way. This involves the transfer of some 733 houses in the East of Melksham housing development from Melksham Without to Melksham Town. The Town Council have subsequently requested the line to be redrawn to include the planning applications for the 450 houses to Land East of Spa Road and the 100 houses for the land at Sandridge Common.*

The Parish Council feels that it inappropriate to consider this request now after the decision taken by the full Wiltshire Council on 24th November, following its public consultation exercise,

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three public meetings and recommendation of its own Working Party. This proposal for a redrawn line will not have been consulted on and would mean the overturning of a Wiltshire Council decision already made. Furthermore, there are no firm, physical features on the ground for the proposed boundary line to follow; and no existing community to consult as no one lives in the areas being proposed for inclusion in this proposed new boundary line. Although the Planning Applications have been approved in principle, Wiltshire Council have not yet issued a Decision Notice let alone the developers submit their Reserved Matters application and so any houses are not for imminent construction and therefore occupation.

The Parish Council have already conducted a lot of work into coming up with a proposal for revised warding within the newly defined parish boundaries, which as you are aware has already been presented to John Watling some months ago. This would have to be re looked at as the Warding proposals were produced against the Boundary Review decided on 24th November.

Further to the meeting that was held yesterday, you have asked that the Parish Council confirm the assets that it has in the East of Melksham housing development that would be transferred to the Town Council. These are:

3no. noticeboards (installed outside the Water Meadow public house, the bridge at Clackers Brook in the "green corridor" and off Skylark Road)

1no. community access defibrillator and lockable cabinet (to be installed August 2016) to rear wall of Water Meadow public house, Verbena Court, Cranesbill Road.

I can also confirm that Melksham Without Parish Council does not have any assets on the land at the former George Ward site to be transferred to the Town Parish.

I hope that this confirms the Parish Council position, and details the assets adequately. Do let me know if you need more information on the assets.

Yours sincerely

Teresa Strange
Clerk

Copy to: Melksham Town Council

*Please note that the new Distributor road from Snowberry Lane to A3102 at Sandridge Common has been officially named as Eastern Way, which reflects the existing Western Way to the other side of town (and the current boundary between Melksham and Melksham Without to the west). Many Wiltshire Council documents still keep referring to this road as Thyme Road (or Thyme Lane), which is a residential culdesac off of Hawthorn Road and Blueberry Road within the housing development. It is very confusing for residents for the mistaken use of Thyme Road on Wiltshire Council documents.