

Update for Melksham Area Board

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| Name of Parish/Town Council | MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL |
| Date of Area Board Meeting | 8 February 2017 |

Headlines/Key successes

Budget Setting

At a Town Council meeting on 16 January 2017, Councillors unanimously resolved that budgeted expenditure for 2017/18 be set at £780,485, with a precept requirement of £600,115. This represents an increase of 21.45% or £20.40 on the equivalent Band D charge which will increase from £95.09 to £115.49 per annum.

This increase reflects the current economic climate which has seen Wiltshire Council declare its intention to withdraw from or reduce its delivery of a variety of community services given the lack of available funding. In setting its budget and precept requirement for the 2017/18 financial year, the Town Council has attempted to offset some of the effects of Wiltshire Council's decisions that will impact upon our community and enhance the services provided.

This includes £20,000 for additional street cleaning services; £10,000 to finance supplementary grass cutting in King George V Park and the Cemetery where the frequency of grass cutting provided by Wiltshire Council is considered to be inadequate; £10,000 to repair and install new equipment in play areas within the town; an additional £5,000 for grants funding to support the work of community and voluntary groups; £3,000 to fund sporting activities for children during the summer holidays; and £3,600 to finance the care and maintenance of the town's superb floral displays.

In addition, the Town Council recognises that the Assembly Hall requires significant investment to enable its redevelopment as a valued community asset and resource located at the heart of the community it serves. Acknowledging the key role it plays as part of the social and recreational fabric of the town by promoting and hosting an eclectic mix of events and activities, the Town Council has made provision to meet the future financial challenges associated with redeveloping the Hall and thereby enhancing the social and recreational offer that it provides.

The Town Council regrets the need to increase the council tax burden on local residents but the revised precept seeks to ensure that it can meet the additional financial demands associated with this increased service provision and the redevelopment of the Assembly Hall whilst remaining on a viable and sustainable footing that will ensure that it is able to operate effectively in the future.

Market Place Redevelopment

The Town Council have recently had the opportunity to consider street furniture requirements as part of the new Market Place redevelopment scheme which is now underway and looks forward to the redeveloped Market Place coming to fruition.

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Projects

Assembly Hall

The Assembly Hall has a full calendar of events for the spring including the Three Degrees; Abba Mania Night; The Smyths; The Barron Knights as well as many other exciting events.

The Assembly Hall are pleased to now offer customers the opportunity to buy tickets on-line.

Lewington Close Play Area

Melksham Town Council will take over the management of the new play area in Lewington Close. Following concerns regarding litter in the area, Melksham Town Council have recently installed a litter bin installed in this location to try and alleviate concerns.

Visit Wiltshire

In order to attract more visitors to the area, Melksham Town Council have agreed partnership status with Visit Wiltshire for 2017 with Melksham and the surrounding area being included in the 2017 edition of Visit Wiltshire, this initiative has been jointly funded Melksham Without Parish Council who have contributed 50% of the costs.

Forthcoming events/Diary dates

- 10 March – Mayor's Reception
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Signed: Steve Gray, Town Clerk

Date: 31 January 2017