



## MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### AREA BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE 2013

- **Elections May 2013**

Following the elections on 2 May 2013 Melksham Town Councillors are:

**Central Ward:** Alison Christy (Lib Dem); Paul Coward (Con); Claire Forgacs (Con); Chris Petty (Ind); Terri Welch (Lib Dem);

**North Ward:** Ben Anderson (Con); Pat Aves (Lib Dem); Simon Hedley (Lib Dem); Geoff Mitcham (Ind); Pamela Wiltshire (Con)

**South Ward:** Andy Hinchcliffe (Lib Dem); Jon Hubbard (Lib Dem); Bruce Sanders (Con); Richard Wiltshire (Con); Diane Wnek (Lib Dem)

Wiltshire Councillors are:

**Central:** David Pollitt (UKIP); **North:** Pat Aves (Lib Dem); **South:** Jon Hubbard (Lib Dem)

- **Local Transport Plan 2011-2016 (LTP3) Consultation**

Melksham Town Council provided feedback on the Local Transport Plan 2011-2016 (LTP3) consultation document in relation to the following strategies: Accessibility; Cycling; Powered-Two Wheelers and Smarter Choices.

The Town Council made the following comments:

- Through parking charges a policy to encourage the use of peripheral car parks to avoid congestion in town centres.
- A coach park reinstated in Melksham.
- More co-ordination between bus companies on timings.
- More trains stopping in Melksham.
- Improvement in cycleways, particularly through the town centre.
- The encouragement of consumers to pre order goods and collect to sustain a more vibrant town centre rather than home deliveries.

- **Franchise of Crown Post Office Service**

Representatives of Post Office Ltd attended a meeting to explain why Melksham Post Office has been earmarked to be franchised preferably in a retail setting.

It was explained that currently the Crown Post Office is losing £40m a year and is striving to achieve break even by March 2015. To achieve this they are looking to franchise 70 out of the

373 Crown Post Offices still owned by Post Office Ltd. It is envisaged that this process will commence in Autumn 2013 and be completed by March 2015. Approximately 98% of Post Offices are already franchised.

The Town Council resolved to note the assurances provided by representatives of Post Office Ltd and advocated that any proposed franchise location should accord with their assurances and should provide a like for like facility located within the town centre; the Town Council would oppose any proposed reduction in the level of service currently provided.

- **Litter Bins**

The Town Council have purchased 10 new litter bins (6 sponsored by local businesses) to replace older ones throughout various locations in the town centre.

- **King Street Car Park**

As part of improvements to the town, the Town Council, along with the support of the previous Town Tree Warden have drawn up plans for a shrub planting scheme to the rear of King Street Car Park.

- **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Town Council in conjunction with Melksham Without Parish Council are in the process of formulating a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Representation on the Steering Group has been sought from the business community, health community, environmental and climate interests and the historic and built environment.

- **Twinning**

At a reception at the Town Hall on Friday 10 May the Mayor welcomed visitors from Avon, France who were in Melksham visiting for a few days.

- **Civic Service**

The Civic Service will take place at St Michael & All Angels Church, Canon Square at 2.30pm on Sunday 7 July. Refreshments will be served in the Assembly Hall afterwards.

- **South West in Bloom/Melksham in Bloom**

Melksham will be entering South West in Bloom this year for the first time. Judging will take place in mid July. A team of volunteers is currently being drawn-up to help on the lead up to judging with litter picks etc.

- **Food & Drink Festival**

Preparations are on-going for this year's Food & Drink Festival. Events are planned from 6 September with the Festival Fair taking place on Sunday, 15 September in the grounds of Melksham House and the Assembly Hall.