

# MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT



2010/11

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## **MAYOR COUNCILLOR ROD EATON**

As Mayor of Melksham there has been a full agenda over the past year. The budget freeze proposed by the Policy & Resources Committee was accepted by the Town Council and leaves Melksham with the second lowest precept in the five towns of West Wiltshire.

February 18<sup>th</sup> was the date of my Mayor's Reception to present and promote Melksham as the up and coming town of Wiltshire with a unique party ambience, fun entertainment and great cuisine. My charities for the year are Fly2 Help who held the raffle at the reception making £370 and the Wiltshire Air Ambulance who received the collection from the Civic Service earlier in my tenure. Awards were made at my reception to some of the many special people of our town who have enhanced the lives of others and helped promoted the town's character.

As regards staffing issues, John Crook, our Town Clerk, has indicated his intention to retire later this year and we have successfully recruited Steve Gray who has worked for the Town Council for over a year as the Administration Officer. With the need to ensure a cost effective and streamlined structure, we have undertaken a reorganisation. This has regrettably resulted in the loss of one job. In addition to the changes in the Town Hall we were sad to see the Manager of the Assembly Hall leave us in March and we have earmarked upon a recruitment process in respect of a replacement.

Wiltshire Council is offering Melksham a new Service Campus and extensive consultations have taken place with the result that Wiltshire Council are in the process of signing contracts to purchase Melksham House and its grounds to secure at town centre location.

Decampment of some County Hall staff to the old George Ward School site while County Hall is refurbished will bring a further, albeit temporary, boost to the local Melksham economy.

As Mayor of Melksham I am delighted to welcome Asda to the town after long delays since planning permission was first granted way back by the old West Wiltshire District Council Planning Committee. This very welcome development will be a boon to Melksham and extend consumer choice in our town.

Countrywide has now redeveloped part of its original Melksham site on the A350 with a most attractive new farm store facility and garden centre. We are also especially pleased to welcome Pound Stretcher to the former Woolworths site on the High Street. Sainsbury's are currently extending their store and car parking after recently being given planning permission on appeal, this once again enhances consumer choice in Melksham.

Assisting residents with their problems regarding Council services has continued throughout the year and other activities have included providing grant funding, both at Area Board and Town Council levels for voluntary organisations. Encouraging investment in Melksham area along with fighting increased parking charges in the town centre remain high priorities on my agenda.

## **MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT**

The past year has been another busy year for the Policy & Resources Committee and members have been faced with some challenging decisions in the light of the need to find significant financial savings.

As always, one of the biggest tasks for the committee was the annual budget, and I would like to thank all those who helped in its preparation. This year was very difficult, as there was very little money available and all councillors shared a reluctance to see a rise in the precept. It was therefore with real sadness that we had to recommend to council that as part of the budget setting for the year the council should consider making one of its staff redundant. This was a very difficult decision and was not taken lightly.

Work continued with our other working groups, particularly the Canal Working Group who are working with partner organizations to explore the potential of the exciting proposed reinstatement of the Wilts and Berks Canal. There is still work to be done on these proposals to ensure that the impact on the town and surrounding environment is all positive and that Melksham maximizes the benefits that this development could bring.

This year also saw considerable improvements works undertaken in the Assembly Hall, I'm sure anyone who uses the hall will be impressed by the new sound system, lighting and chairs.

In November the committee considered the parking proposals being brought forward by Wiltshire Council and chose not to participate in the scheme to "purchase" free parking spaces. Whilst the committee found this decision hard in terms of losing the free parking from Church Street Car Park, it felt that the cost of £10,000 was not justifiable in the current economic climate.

All in all it has been a busy year for the committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the committee for their continued hard work and commitment to working for the continued improvement of our town. I would also like to thank the Clerk and his staff for their continued diligence and support, and to particularly say thank you to John Crook as retires from his role as Town Clerk. We all wish him well for the future.

Councillor Jon Hubbard  
Chairman, MTC Policy & Resources Committee

## **MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT CONTROL**

It has been another year of development in the supermarket world, 'Development' being the word but without any control. As the supermarkets compete with each other over our grocery pounds they seem to forget the community around them.

### Sainsbury's

The planning committee at Wiltshire Council supported the Town Council's view that the planning permission to extend the store at Sainsbury's for a cafe and online shopping, as the application was refused. Sainsbury's appealed the decision and the appeal was heard in September and the inspector found in their favour.

The development at Sainsbury's saw the decimation of over 400 trees as the building work started and we have found it difficult to call anyone to account. The signing off of the different planning conditions leave a lot to be desired and I question who controls the process. The landscape plans were less than clear and the flood alleviation plans seem to have changed from the original guidance from the Environment Agency. You begin to lose faith in the whole process. I hope the new work brings something back into the town.

### Asda

Permission was also granted for Asda to go ahead with the new store, along with the relocation of the Country Wide Store. The development of this site also saw the removal of a number of mature trees, and the replacement trees are a poor substitute with little to no landscaping around the 'silver tower'. The traffic management still needs some improvements but if one takes an optimistic view once the lights are adopted by highways and synced with the ones by the underpass and the novelty of the store wears off the traffic will flow properly. We will wait and see.

### Development East of Melksham

This area is not strictly within the boundary of Melksham Town but we feel it will have a major impact on the town. We have seen a number of developments for the land east of Melksham. One of our concerns has been about the piecemeal way the sites have been developed. We are concerned that individual sites are developed without the community amenities being built along side. There is also a lot of concern about the development which is being planned for the site nearest to Snarlton Lane. The buildings seem over bearing on the traditional houses of Snarlton Lane and are planned to be built too close to the boundary. Whilst we recognise the need for extra housing, we need to make sure it is right for Melksham.

### George ward site – Wiltshire Council

We also had the application to convert the old school into offices for the council while they update County Hall. We welcomed the application providing links were made to town so the

shops benefited from the staff located there. We also asked that the MUGA was maintained, sadly we lost that argument.

#### Dominos Pizza

We had the application for Dominos Pizzas in Bath Road. This was approved, we await its opening, bringing new jobs to the town.

#### Chalfield Crescent

There was an application by Selwood Housing for housing on the garage site. This would have seen much of the green space lost to the area. This was refused and a much small development has been submitted.

**Sarah Cardy**

**Chair – Development Control**

## **MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCIL TOWN DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Some highlights of the past year concerning Town Development are below.

The plans for the town centre environment are still going ahead at this stage, sadly causing road works for much of the year. However the areas that have already been carried out have provided an improved environment.

The flower displays, both winter and summer, continue to provide much enjoyment for the town and we must thank Waitrose for sponsoring some of the planting this year. We need to thank our Town Caretakers for their help in maintaining the displays.

The Melksham in Bloom once again showed off the gardens and businesses who contribute to the enjoyment of all with their own flower displays – thank you to all participants, winners, judges, sponsors and staff in again making it another successful year.

Events that have been organised by the Town Council include the successful Moviola in the Assembly Hall and the enhanced facilities of the Assembly Hall have brought a much needed better cinema facility to the town, - with an incredible number of people attending all showings of The King's Speech, showing of very recent films and we would like to thank the Assembly Hall staff for giving so much of their time voluntarily to help get this venture off the ground. The surround system and screen put us on a par with any cinema – it is a facility we should be proud of and I hope members of the public will continue to support these films. We must also thank the volunteers who help at Moviola selling tickets, ice creams, teas etc. and also the Tourist Information Centre selling tickets.

The second Food Festival Fair took place in June 2010 again in the grounds of Melksham House and in the Market Place together with events taking place in the town prior to this. Support was most welcome from all the participants, sponsors as well as Melksham House, volunteers. The day was combined with the second Town Criers competition, superbly organised by our own Town Crier, Peter Dauncey.

Another really successful Playday was held in August jointly funded by both Melksham Town Council and Wiltshire Council and for anyone who went, I am sure you would agree that this was a really satisfying day to see so many young people having a great day in the school holidays.

We have tried to have displays in the Town empty shop windows from groups and would welcome any group coming forward to see if we can accommodate their display – those shop windows that have had displays have suffered less graffiti.

Grants continue to be given to groups in the town in these difficult economic times and we are pleased as a Council to be able to support a variety of organisations.

Ian Cardy continues to work hard as our volunteer Tree Warden – many thanks to him for all his hard work.

We must finally say a great thank you to all the Town Hall staff for all their help in helping to promote the town of Melksham. Without them the work that the Council promotes would not take place.

Councillor Pamela Wiltshire  
Chairman, Town Development Committee

**Melksham Town Council**

**Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended : 31st March 2011**

31st March 2010		31st March 2011
	<b>Income Summary</b>	
1,212	Income Building Society Int.	2,570
325,112	Precept Received	333,196
<b>326,324</b>	Sub Total	<b>335,766</b>
	<b>Operating Income</b>	
5,137	General Account-Administration	1,862
16,806	Town Hall Account	12,912
20,495	Town Properties Account	22,085
2,400	Allotments	2,510
4,073	Pavilion	4,182
0	Community Projects	1,421
848	Projects	3,564
0	Recreation Account	0
10,985	Town Development	1,566
109,327	Assembly Hall	116,984
5,000	Savings from previous year	0
0	Earmarked Reserves	0
<b>501,395</b>	Total Income	<b>502,853</b>
	<b>Running Costs</b>	
127,914	General Account-Administration	145,005
28,876	Town Hall Account	26,117
81,851	Town Properties Account	82,577
491	Allotments	569
3,402	Pavilion	1,830
15,536	Community Projects	12,081
30,632	Projects	30,882
3,954	Building Account	25,952
0	Recreation Account	1,817
52,855	Town Development	49,523
150,736	Assembly Hall	197,886
3,000	Savings from previous year	0
0	Earmarked Reserves	0
<b>499,246</b>	Total Expenditure	<b>574,239</b>
	<b>General Fund Analysis</b>	
28,943	Opening Balance	52,754
501,395	Plus : Income for Year	502,853
530,339		555,607
499,246	Less : Expenditure for Year	574,239
31,093		-18,632
-21,661	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	-60,340
<b>52,754</b>	Closing Balance	<b>41,708</b>

Printed on : 26/04/2011

Melksham Town Council

At : 1:10 PM

Balance Sheet as at - 31st March 2011

31st March 2010

31st March 2011

31st March 2010		31st March 2011	
<b>Current Assets</b>			
14,819	Debtors	8,754	
1,577	Vat Refunds	4,095	
938	Prepayments	938	
16,223	LLoyds TSB - Telepay	12,699	
196,783	Cooperative Bank A/C	35,114	
81,684	Lloyds Treasury Deposit Fund	82,705	
50,000	Alliance & Leicester Bond	51,224	
0	Natwest Bank Bond	80,000	
435	Petty Cash	211	
11,288	Cash & Bank Assembly Hall	13,878	
51,946	Assembly Hall Bar A/c	58,998	
<b>425,693</b>			<b>348,617</b>
<b>425,693</b>	<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>348,617</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
3,649	Creditors	0	
2,500	Accruals	2,835	
2,375	Deposits/Receipts In Advance	0	
<b>8,525</b>			<b>2,835</b>
<b>417,168</b>	<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>345,782</b>
<b>Represented By</b>			
52,754	General Fund		41,708
18,000	EMR Assembly Hall		2,000
346,414	EMR Special Projects		302,074
<b>417,168</b>			<b>345,782</b>

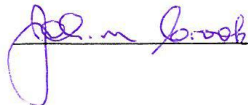
The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31st March 2011 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year.

Signed :  
Chairman



Date : 28/06/11

Signed :  
Responsible  
Financial  
Officer



Date : 28/06/11

## MELKSHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

### East Ward

Simon Bridgford-Whittick	1 Northbrook Road, SN12 8DU	791768
Sarah Cardy	42 Forest Road, SN12 7AB	707529
Vic Oakman	29 Loxley Close, SN12 7BB	705378
Chris Petty	33 Gloucester Square, SN12 7NS	709523
Terri Welch	11 Devonshire Place, SN12 7DW	702800
Adrienne Westbrook	29 Sandridge Road, SN12 7BQ	704584
Simon White	28 St Andrews Road, SN12 7DE	704428

### North Ward

Mark Griffiths	2 Vinescroft, Staverton Marina, Trowbridge BA14 8FB	764132 07917457533
Pamela Wiltshire	Roundponds Farm, Shurnhold, SN12 8DF	708306

### Spa Ward

Mr Peter Dauncey	116, Beanacre, Melksham, SN12 7PZ	899315
Rod Eaton	7 Rosebrook Gardens, SN12 7TS	793014 07850541385
Jon Hubbard	2 Sweetbriar Road, SN12 6FR	807969 07876611388
Pat Aves	29 Ingram Road, SN12 7JH	700633
Sheila Wilkinson	26 Sandridge Road, SN12 7BG	704325
Richard Wiltshire	Roundponds Farm, Shurnhold, SN12 8DF	708306

(email addresses: councillors name ie richard.wiltshire@melkshamtown.co.uk)

### Wiltshire Council Councillors

#### Melksham North

Rod Eaton, 7 Rosebrook Gardens, Melksham, SN12 7TS. Tel: 793014 Mob: 07850541385

#### Melksham South

Jon Hubbard, 2 Sweetbriar Road, Melksham, SN12 6FR. Tel: 807969 Mob: 07876611388

#### Melksham Central

Steve Petty, 48 Berryfield Park, Melksham, SN12 6EE. Tel: 791060