

# Just a Minute

Melksham, Melksham Without, Atworth, Broughton Gifford, Bulkington, Great Hinton, Keevil, Poulshot, Seend, Semington and Steeple Ashton.

Melksham area board meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010

Just a Minute is a summary of the official minutes for the Melksham Area Board. Copies of the full set of formal minutes are available from Kevin Fielding, the committee clerk – [kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk).

## Community Issues

**Wilts & Berks Canal, Melksham Link:** Ken Oliver, Wiltshire Council's canal officer, gave a lively presentation about plans to start work on the Melksham link, part of an ambitious project to restore the Wilts & Berks Canal, abandoned since 1914. Ken explained: "Reopening the canal will bring many exciting opportunities for regeneration in Melksham and the development of a cafe culture, with new canal side pubs and restaurants. The benefits to the local community will include education and leisure opportunities, such as additional cycle and footpath routes. A new children's play area and village hall would be built to replace existing facilities. The environment will also gain from the additional habitat for endangered species."



The plans for the Melksham link are currently draft technical proposals. Full consultation will take place in Berryfield and Melksham in the spring. A final proposal will then be submitted through the normal planning process. [www.wiltsandberkscanal.org.uk](http://www.wiltsandberkscanal.org.uk)

## Flood Planning

**Update:** Cllr Jonathan Seed as chairman of the Operational Flood Working Group (North) gave an update



on the coordination of flooding responses in the county. Councillor Seed said; "The new unitary authority presents a real opportunity for Wiltshire to address flood alleviation, with Wiltshire Council taking the lead role as recommended by the recent Pitt Review that looked at what lessons could be learnt from the 2007 floods." He added, "We fully recognise that we need local expertise if we are to successfully tackle flooding in Wiltshire. Local people are the local experts on flooding and we are now engaging town and parish councils in flood planning. We are encouraging them to form flood working groups or nominate a flood warden to raise issues through the Area Board. Where there are problems we want to engage and find a solution." Over the next few months Wiltshire Council will be writing to all town and parish councils to ask them to collect local information on flooding. A Flood Fair will also be run on Weds 14 April in Chippenham.

## Health & Well-being Fair & Workshop:

NHS Wiltshire and the Area Board jointly ran

a health and well-being fair in Melksham on 28 January. Stalls included a range of organisations from NHS public health stalls to local leisure providers and health charities. The fair was followed by an evening workshop that launched the NHS's new health profile of the Melksham Area known as the JSNA, joint strategic needs assessment. During groups discussions the majority of people felt that the community should focus on improving health outcomes for children by concentrating on providing opportunities for children to be more active to combat childhood obesity.

### Charities Information Bureau

Charities Information Bureau South & West (CIB) works across Wiltshire with local individuals, voluntary and community groups to raise much needed funds for their projects. CIB also helps groups to strengthen their application as well as providing information, advice, support and training on funding and governance. Anyone looking for funding can register on the website and gain access to the funding database, which is usually free of charge. Full details are available by calling 01380 729279, by visiting CIB's website at <http://www.cibsouthandwest.org.uk/> or by emailing [enquiries@cibwilts.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cibwilts.org.uk).

## Grants

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### Community Grant Scheme

Councillors considered 8 grant applications and awarded funding to five of the proposed projects. These included £1,000 towards the costs of two events: the Melksham Food and Drink Festival which aims to promote interest in local food and stimulate the local economy and £800 towards the costs of a Play Day, a day of activities and fun for children and young people. Grants were also awarded to help improve the street scene in Melksham. £980 for improvements to signage in the Melksham shopping centre and car parks and £974 for window graphics in empty shops windows in Melksham high street. InfoZone the Homework Club was also awarded £2,889 towards salary costs for this highly valued



project for children and young people in the Melksham Area.

For information on how to apply, eligibility criteria and deadlines please see our website or contact Abbi Gutierrez, community area manager.

### Performance Reward Grant scheme

See our website for more information including ideas for the type of project that might be suitable as well as eligibility criteria, please see our website or contact Abbi Gutierrez.

**SPLASH:** The board agreed to support a performance reward grant application for splash to fund core costs that contribute to this charity's ability to continue its work to provide holiday activities for vulnerable young people throughout Wiltshire.

## Next Meeting

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**Wednesday 24 March  
6.30pm for 7pm start  
Bowerhill Village Hall**

### Items to be discussed:

- Planning Future Council Services Delivery into the Melksham Service Campus
- Lorry Parking

## Further information

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**Abbi Gutierrez**

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**Find me at Melksham Town Hall at 2pm - 3pm on the last Thurs of each month from February.**