

Melksham Community Area Network

MELKSHAMCAN is a new way to keep in touch with things that are happening locally. With regular news from the Council, Police, NHS and many other local community groups and organisations, you be the first to know what is happening. With opportunities to have a say on important issues and to take part in local events and activities, **MELKSHAMCAN** will put you in the picture. If you have received this from a friend or colleague you can join **MELKSHAMCAN** by clicking on this link. [Sign Up!](#)

Next year's budget (Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Police) - the challenges we face

As you may be aware the council and other public sector organisations are facing tough financial challenges over the next four years. We know that some tough choices will need to be made by next April and we want to hear your views.

We have, therefore, scheduled four Budget Forums and I would like to invite you to attend one of these forums and hear your feedback and thoughts on the challenges, choices and options that the council and police face.

All our partner organisations, Area Board members, town and parish councils and local residents are also invited to attend these forums that will focus on budget allocation and choices.

The forums will be held at:

Chippenham Town Hall	Tuesday 11 January 2011	6 - 9pm
Devizes Corn Exchange	Thursday 13 January 2011	6 - 9pm
Salisbury City Hall	Tuesday 18 January 2011	6 - 9pm
Trowbridge County Hall	Weds 19 January 2011	6 - 9pm

Setting the scene

I thought it may be helpful to provide a brief summary of the council's current position.

We are currently working on a business plan to manage and plan for the challenges ahead.

Our plan focuses on;

- √ Making Savings
- √ Protecting the vulnerable in our communities
- √ Investing in our priority services, and,
- √ Helping communities to help themselves

We have known for some time that central government will reduce our grant funding by approximately 25% over the next 4 years and our plan sets out how we will manage this reduction. It also addresses other cost pressures we face as a result of changes such as the growth in ageing population, and, how we can make some investment and improvements in our priority services.

The Chancellor's announcement that the cuts would be 28.4% over the next 4 years meant our plan was in the right ball park. However, what we don't know is the extent to which the funding cut will be front loaded.

Front loading will mean the need to find additional savings by next April. It does not change the overall savings that we will need to find over the next four years, but it does mean that we may need to find savings earlier than we had anticipated and have planned for.

The announcement on the amount of grant funding the council will receive is now due on the 17 December, so we will know the impact by the time we hold the budget forums.

What we do know is that tough decisions will need to be made and we want to hear your views and thoughts on the options for making savings and delivering some services differently.

Take a closer look at Community Speed Watch

Community Speed Watch engages the community in addressing speed related offending. Local volunteers join together and monitor traffic speeds at identified road locations in the community, information is recorded and passed to the police, which result in a warning letter being sent to the registered keeper. There are now two online videos available to give people more of an idea about being involved.

http://www.wiltshire.police.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1074&Itemid=599

If you think you have a speeding problem in your road, please register this as an issue online to allow a speed survey to be carried out.

https://forms.wiltshire.gov.uk/area_board/report_issue.php?area_board=Melksham

Raise your Issues!

Do you have an issue you would like the Melksham area board to discuss? You can raise and track issues online via the council website. Issues that need public discussion can come an area board meeting for further action.

http://portal.wiltshire.gov.uk/area_board/areaboard_issues_search.php?issue_location_in=Melksham

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