



Planning

Agenda for 06/10/26 @ 19:00

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Melksham
TOWN COUNCIL



Melksham
TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday 29 September 20262026

Dear Councillors S Rabey, C Stokes, P Alford, P Aves, R Cleary, A Griffin and J Oatley

Ref: Planning Committee Meeting, Tuesday 6 October 2026

You are summoned in accordance with the Local Government Act (LGA) 1972, Sch 12, paras 10 (2)(b) to a meeting of the Planning Committee of Melksham Town Council for the transaction of the business shown on the agenda below.

Tuesday 6 October 2026, to be held at 19.00 in the Council Chamber, Melksham Town Hall, Market Place, Melksham, SN12 6ES.

The quorum for the Planning Committee is 4.

Public Participation

Members of the public and the press may attend this meeting in person or join the meeting on Teams via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/tvutuz4h> . Public participation will take place near the start of the meeting.

Each speaker is limited to three minutes, with a total public session of 20 minutes. Members of the public are requested to send their questions to CEO@melksham-tc.gov.uk by noon on the working day before the meeting. You should still attend the meeting, in person or online, to ask your question.

No decisions will be made on matters not already on the agenda. The Council may ask the public and press to leave if confidential matters need to be discussed.

The Seven Principles of Public Life.

All members are reminded of their duty under the code of conduct to uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Hayley Bell
CEO



Planning Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee will meet to consider all planning applications in the town.

Comments will be sent to Wiltshire Council as part of their consultation procedure. The aim is to use guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework, the Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan, planning legislation, Wiltshire Council's Core Strategy and Local Plan, Policy and Periodic Planning Guidance notes to preserve and enhance the town's character, whilst encouraging its commercial and social vitality. It will also consider the contents and desires laid out in the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan.

Where appropriate, planning applications submitted in the Parish of Melksham Without may also be discussed and commented on if relevant to the Town Council.

Highway issues raised for the Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG), Emergency Planning and Flood Plans will also be managed by this Committee.

1. **Membership** – seven elected Members.

- 1.1 Invited officers and volunteers to enable events to be run, who have will have no voting rights.
- 1.2 No business may be transacted at a meeting unless at least 50% of the whole number of members of the committee, rounded up, are present.
- 1.3 Substitution of Members - Substitutes should be nominated by the Member of the Committee planning to be absent and notified to the Proper Officer in writing by 3pm on the day of the meeting.

2. **Delegated Business** – The Committee has been delegated to deal with the following matters on an ongoing basis or to conclusion:

Planning

- 2.1 At meetings to consider all planning applications sent for consultation by Wiltshire Council.
- 2.2 To comment on behalf of the Town Council on planning applications having due regard to Town Council policy.
- 2.3 To delegate the power to the Town Clerk in discussion with the Town Mayor or Deputy Town Mayor, to make recommendations to Wiltshire Council on minor revisions to applications for which there is insufficient time to call a planning committee meeting. The exercise of this power should be consistent with established practice and policy of the committee, where defined, and shall be reported to the next planning committee meeting.
- 2.4 To deal with requests for street naming.



- 2.5 To deal with consultation requests for street trading licences.
- 2.6 To deal with any matters pertaining to the Licensing Act 2003.
- 2.7 To refer all highway Issues through the relevant portal for the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG).
- 2.8 To develop and manage all Emergency Plans.
- 2.9 To deal with Rights of Way, Bridle Ways, and Footpath matters.
- 2.10 To prepare draft comments for any consultations received by the Council.
- 2.11 To engage in pre-application consultations with developers.
- 2.12 To manage equipment within the area of its responsibilities and not under the control of any other committee.
- 2.13 To receive petitions and deputations from the public or any organisation.

Economic Development

- 2.14 To be responsible for recommending to Council key decisions and actions required in relation to the economic development of the town.
- 2.15 Approving and overseeing the delivery of any relevant service strategies which affect:
 - economic development;
 - investment in the town centre;
 - to oversee and implement the Town Centre Master Plan;
 - the establishment of external partnerships where they are relevant to the economic development of the town.
- 2.16 Approving and monitoring funding sources and mechanisms to assist with various initiatives, projects and actions within the remit of economic development.

Budget

- 2.17 To prepare, scrutinise and monitor the budget for the committee.
- 2.18 To approve expenditure within budget and to refer any requests for expenditure over budget to Full Council.
- 2.19 To approve expenditure within Ear Marked Reserves available to relevant projects for this committee.



3. Referred Business: To consider and make recommendations to the Town Council on the following matters:
 - 3.1 Any other matters referred to the Committee by the Town Council.
 - 3.2 All planning applications of a major strategic nature.
 - 3.3 Consultations on any strategic plans produced by the Principal Authority, Wiltshire Council, such as Boundary Reviews, Local Development Framework, Local Plans or any such documents relevant to the town.
 - 3.4 Budget estimates, to be prepared no later than October each year and submitted to the Finance, Administration and Performance Committee.



Agenda

Community Development

1. **Apologies** 19.00 – 19.01
To receive and consider acceptance for apologies and absences
(Local Government Act, 1972 s.85)
2. **Declaration of interests** 19.01 – 19.02
To declare an interest relating to the business of the meeting.
(Melksham Town Council Code of Conduct)
3. **Minutes** 19.02 – 19.05
To approve the minutes of the previous meeting 15 September 2026
(Local Government Act 1972, s. 12)
4. **Public participation** 19.05 – 19.25
To allow public participation, 3 minutes per person; 20-minute allocation.
(Local Government Act 1972, s. 12)
5. **Planning considerations**
Planning Considerations Members to note that when responding to planning applications consideration should be given to the Melksham Joint Neighbourhood Plan, the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
6. **Planning Applications**
To comment on the following planning applications
 - 6.1 [**PL/2026/04916**](#) - Outline planning permission: Some matters reserved
[Address:](#) Land west of Semington Road, Melksham
[Proposal:](#) Outline application for up to 225 dwellings, with access from Semington Road, along with public open space and landscape buffers to incorporate existing rights of way and to accommodate the route of the proposed Melksham Link Canal (under separate application W/12/01080/FUL). Demolition and clearance of all existing buildings and structures on the site. All matters reserved other than vehicular access from Semington Road.
[Respond by:](#) 1 October 2026



- 6.2 [PL/2026/05542](#) – Full planning permission
 Address: 12 High Street, Melksham, SN12 6JU
 Proposal: Application for the change of use of the first and second floors from an HMO (Sui Generis) to two self-contained residential flats (Use Class C3)
 Respond by: 16 October 2026
- 6.3 [PL/2026/05903](#) – Listed building consent (Alt/Ext)
 Address: 12 High Street, Melksham, SN12 6JU
 Proposal: Retrospective listed building consent for associated internal works including removal of a lath and plaster partition at first floor level, alteration of a fireplace opening at first floor level, insertion of partitions at first floor level, and modification to the lower section of the staircase between the first and second floors.
 Respond by: 16 October 2026
- 6.4 [PL/2026/05622](#) – Householder planning permission
 Address: 1 Trent Crescent, Melksham, SN12 8BE
 Proposal: Side extension and front and rear dormers
 Respond by: 15 October 2026
- 6.5 [PL/2024/10345](#) – Full planning permission
 Address: Land north of the A3102, Melksham
 Proposal: The construction of the construction of 286 homes; public open space, including formal play space and allotments; sustainable drainage systems; and associated infrastructure; with 0.4ha of land safeguarded for a nursery. The principal point of access is to be provided from a new northern arm onto an improved arrangement of the Eastern Way/A3102 roundabout junction, with an emergency access onto the A3102. Additional access points are proposed for pedestrians and cyclists
 Respond by: 7 October 2026
- 6.6 [PL/2026/05643](#) – Householder planning permission
 Address: 5 Lambourne Crescent, Melksham, SN12 7ND
 Proposal: Proposed construction of a new porch.
 Respond by: 21 October 2026



7. Planning Decisions

To note the following planning decisions

7.1 [PL/2026/04807](#) – Listed building consent (Alt/Ext)

Address: 42 Shurnhold, Melksham, SN12 8DG

Proposal: Demolition of existing single storey rear lean-to extension and replacement with a new single storey extension. Inclusion of a first floor WC with conservation roof light and refurbishment of existing main roof (front and rear).

Decision date: 8 September 2026

Decision: Approve with conditions

MTC decision: No objection

7.2 [PL/2026/04796](#) – Householder planning permission

Address: 42 Shurnhold, Melksham, SN12 8DG

Proposal: Demolition of existing single storey rear lean-to extension and replacement with a new single storey extension. Inclusion of a first floor WC with conservation roof light and refurbishment of existing main roof (front and rear).

Decision date: 8 September 2026

Decision: Approve with conditions

MTC decision: No objection

7.3 [PL/2026/04205](#) – Lawful development: Existing use

Address: Unit 1, Kingsbury Square, Melksham, SN12 6HL

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of the premises as an MOT testing station and associated vehicle testing and repair workshop on a continuous basis.

Decision date: 8 September 2026

Decision: Approve

MTC decision: No objection

7.4 [PL/2026/04912](#) – Notification under Part 15 Class B of GPDO-2015

Address: Land at Bradford Road, Melksham, SN12 8LQ

Proposal: The installation of a relocated substation



Decision date: 7 September 2026

Decision: Comments made

MTC decision: Notification only.

7.5 **PL/2026/02205** – Full Planning Permission

Address: Asda, Bradford Road, Melksham, SN12 8LQ

Proposal: Change of use of part of an existing car park associated with ASDA to car sales and the erection of a standalone office building for car purchasing.

Decision date: 18 September 2026

Decision: Approve with Conditions

MTC decision: No objection

7.6 **PL/2026/03992** – Householder Planning Permission

Address: 22 Southbrook Road, Melksham, SN12 8DT

Proposal: Retrospective application for use of outbuilding as an annexe and retention of alterations from original plans; large velux window, double garage door, side ground floor window and the door at the rear of the garage changed to a window

Decision date: 14 September 2026

Decision: Approve with Conditions

MTC decision: No objection

7.7 **PL/2026/02835** – Removal/variation of conditions

Address: 3 Lowbourne, Melksham, SN12 7DZ

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 (plans) of planning consent PL/2024/03424 - This application seeks to vary the approved drawings (Condition 2) to remove the second floor accommodation, dormer windows, and rear Velux windows. These changes will result in a reduction in ridge height of 1.45m. There is also a proposed end gable window in plot nine. Removal condition 8 attached to the parent permission, as the Velux windows are no longer required to implement the development.

Decision date: 23 September 2026

Decision: Approve with Conditions

MTC decision: No objection

- 7.8 [PL/2026/03323](#) – Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area

Address: 3 Church Walk, Melksham, SN12 6LY

Proposal: T1 - Moribund Cherry tree - fell to ground level T2 - Maple tree - pollard at previous point to manage size due to proximity to building

Decision date: 25 September 2026

Decision: No Objection

MTC decision: No objection

- 7.9 [PL/2026/05037](#) – Prior approval Part 1 Class A.1(ea): Larger home extension

Address: 25 Crescent Road, Melksham, SN12 7EU

Proposal: Prior Notification of Larger Home Extension - Single Storey Rear Extension with Similar Wall Finish and a EPDM Low Pitch Flat Roof (to Extend 4m Beyond the Rear Wall of the Original Dwellinghouse, a Maximum Height of 3.20m with an Eaves Height of 2.50m)

Decision date: 25 September 2026

Decision: Prior Approval Not Required

MTC decision: No objection

8. Local Plan

To consider a response to Wiltshire Council's call for sites.

9. Temporary Road Closures

To note the following road closures.

- 9.1 Dunch Lane
- 9.2 C239 Broughton Gifford
- 9.3 Footpath 40
- 9.4 C165 (Part), Lacock and Melksham Without

10. The County of Wiltshire (Footpath 40, Melksham)(Cycle Tracks) Order 2026

To note.

11. Wiltshire Council Freight Action Plan

To note the letter sent to Dr Mathew MP, also sent to Wiltshire Council as consultation submission of Melksham Town Council.

12. Road Safety Update

To note.

13. Parish Steward

To consider jobs for the Parish Steward and to note work done in September.

Next in Melksham 12,13 and 14 October.

Melksham Town Council

Minutes of the Planning Committee

At Melksham Town Hall on Tuesday 15 September 2026

PRESENT: Councillor S Rabey Chair
 Councillor P Alford
 Councillor P Aves
 Councillor J Crossley
 Councillor A Griffin
 Councillor J Oatley

IN ATTENDANCE

OFFICERS Hayley Bell CEO
 Andrew Meacham Committee Clerk

PUBLIC one member of the public was present. Councillor Baines from Melksham Without Parish Council was present for items 8 & 9

111/26 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Stokes, who was substituted by Councillor Crossley.

112/26 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

113/26 Minutes

The minutes of 25 August 2026, having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair Councillor Rabey.

115/26 Freight Action Plan

This item was advanced up the agenda so the resident could contribute and during the discussion standing orders were suspended and re-instated accordingly.

Comments made.

- If A350 is trunked Melksham, Westbury and Yarnbrook by-passes are essential. Must ensure Wiltshire Council pressure central government to plan properly.
- Would like to see more freight by rail.
- Rail freight will still need a road plan.
- Agree with comments of the resident and the draft submission of Melksham Without Parish Council.
- Comments must take an holistic approach.
- Impact on Town Centre if there are issues on A350.
- Strategy needs to dove-tail with planning development. For example, there is currently a planning application for a development that would include proposed by-pass route.
- Improvements at Melksham Railway station and a passing loop.

Councillor Alford raised concerns about endorsing statements not in the public agenda pack. It was noted that Melksham Without Parish Council comments were not available at time of publication and the comments of the MP were in the agenda pack.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Crossley and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to request the CEO to write a submission on the basis of the discussion and comments.

116/26 PL/2026/04916

Councillor Griffin advised that he had requested the matter be considered under the new National Development Framework to be referred to committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Aves and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to bring this item back to the next meeting.

117/26 PL/2026/04543

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Oatley and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to object to the application.

118/26 PL/2025/07044

Members noted amendments and comments from Holt Parish Council and Broughton Gifford Parish Council. Emergency access point moved back to old site entrance, as previously suggested by the committee. Decisions on roundabouts and traffic lights should be made by Highways and the roundabout designers. Suggested mitigation of flooding concerns by possible s106 requirement for improvements to footpath towards Broughton Gifford.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey seconded by Councillor Griffin and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to comment as above.

119/26 PL/2026/05037

It was proposed by Councillor Alford, seconded by Councillor Crossley and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to object.

120/26 PL/2026/05437

Members noted that the hedgerow would have to be removed to allow the work to go ahead.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Oatley and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to object to the application but to ask that the hedgerow be replaced with something similar that would be suitable for nesting birds.

121/26 PL/2026/04985

Members had no objection but were unhappy that the application was made retrospectively.

It was proposed by Councillor Alford, seconded by Councillor Oatley and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to object to the application.

122/26 PL/2026/03428

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Alford and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to object to the application.

123/26 PL/2026/05044

It was proposed by Councillor Oatley, seconded by Councillor Aves and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to object to the application.

124/26 PL/2026/04912

The notification was noted.

125/26 PL/2026/04164

The decision was noted.

126/26 PL/2026/04004

The decision was noted.

127/26 PL/2026/02295

The decision was noted.

128/26 PL/2026/04682

The decision was noted.

129/26 PL/2026/02170

The decision was noted.

130/26 Wiltshire Local Plan

The chair and the CEO spoke to the item and particularly co-operation with Melksham Without Parish Council but also submitting separate statements.

Members discussed, provided stats and made suggestions.

It was proposed by Councillor Alford, seconded by Councillor Rabey and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to accept and agree the report and its proposals.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Alford and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that any member of the planning committee may represent the Town Council as required.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Oatley and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to delegate the Ceo to prepare an initial response.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Alford and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to allow the CEO to hold further discussions with the Clerk of Melksham Without Parish Council and to bring the matter back.

It was proposed by Councillor Aves, seconded by Councillor Alford and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve submitting nomination for Melksham Neighbourhood Plan 2 to Community First Awards.

131/26 Temporary Road Closure – Holt

The closure was noted.

132/26 Temporary Road Closure – Melksham

The closure was noted.

133/26 Provisional Tree Preservation Order

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Alford and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** not to make any objection or representation.

134/26 Parish Steward

Spiky bush on walkway alongside the Factory Shop site.

Graffiti and bins by Iceland. It was noted this was private land and the CEO would write to the landlord.

135/26 Additional issues raised but not on agenda.

Announcements from CEO

- Up date to come to council on emergency planning.
- Business Partnership report will in future come to Planning Committee.
- Lease for Cornflower Way signed.

Request from Councillor Alford to flag an area beside the Melksham East/Melksham Oak footpath for possible future Green Space allocation.

Meeting closed at: 20:20

Signed

Dated

Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Urgent Closure of: Dunch Lane (Part), Melksham

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that on 12th October 2026, the following length of road shall be closed to all traffic in the interests of public safety to enable Wiltshire Council to carry out urgent carriageway reactive patching and other associated works.

Dunch Lane (Part), Melksham; from its junction with Southbrook Road to its junction with A350.

Alternative route: via

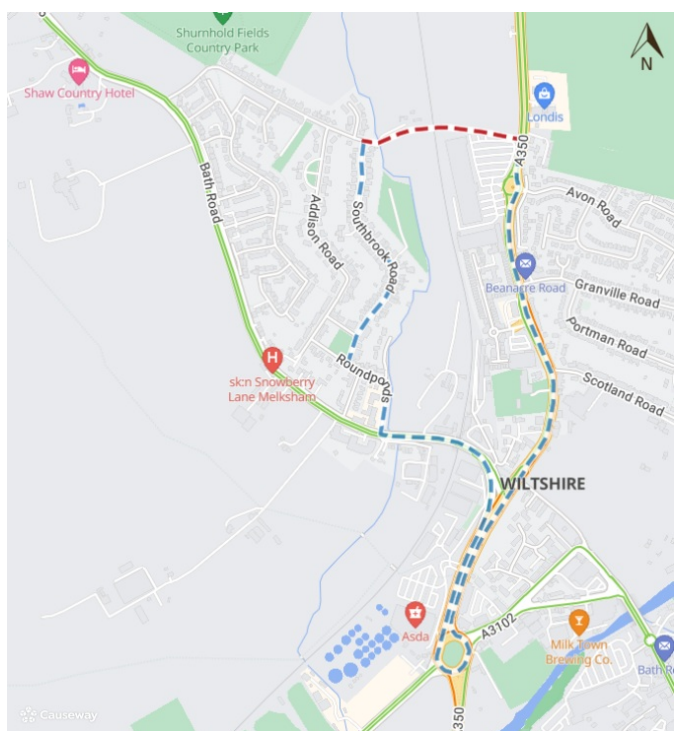
Clockwise:- South on A350 to Farmers Roundabout, north on A350 to junction with A365, west on A365, north on Roundpond and Southbrook Road.

Anti-clockwise:- South on Southbrook Road and Roundpond, east on A365, north on A350.

The closure and diversion route will be clearly indicated by traffic signs. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses where possible, although delays are likely due to the nature of the works.

These works will commence on 12th October 2026 and are anticipated to be required for two days between the hours of 09:00 and 16:00. This Notice will have a maximum duration of 5 days.

For further information regarding these works please contact Tarmac on behalf of Wiltshire Council on 07484 016446



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Highways Assets and Commissioning, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN

REF:27SW611

Wiltshire Council

Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Temporary Closure of: C239 (Part), Broughton Gifford (Ref: TTRO 11952)

Notice is hereby given that the Wiltshire Council has made an Order to close temporarily to all traffic:

C239 (Part), Broughton Gifford; from its property known as Leechpool Farm to its property known as No.207 Norrington Lane.

To enable: Openreach to carry out cabling and associated works.

Alternative route: via C239 (unaffected length) – A365 – A350 – B3107 – Melksham Lane – C239 (unaffected length) and vice versa.

The closure and diversion route will be clearly indicated by traffic signs.

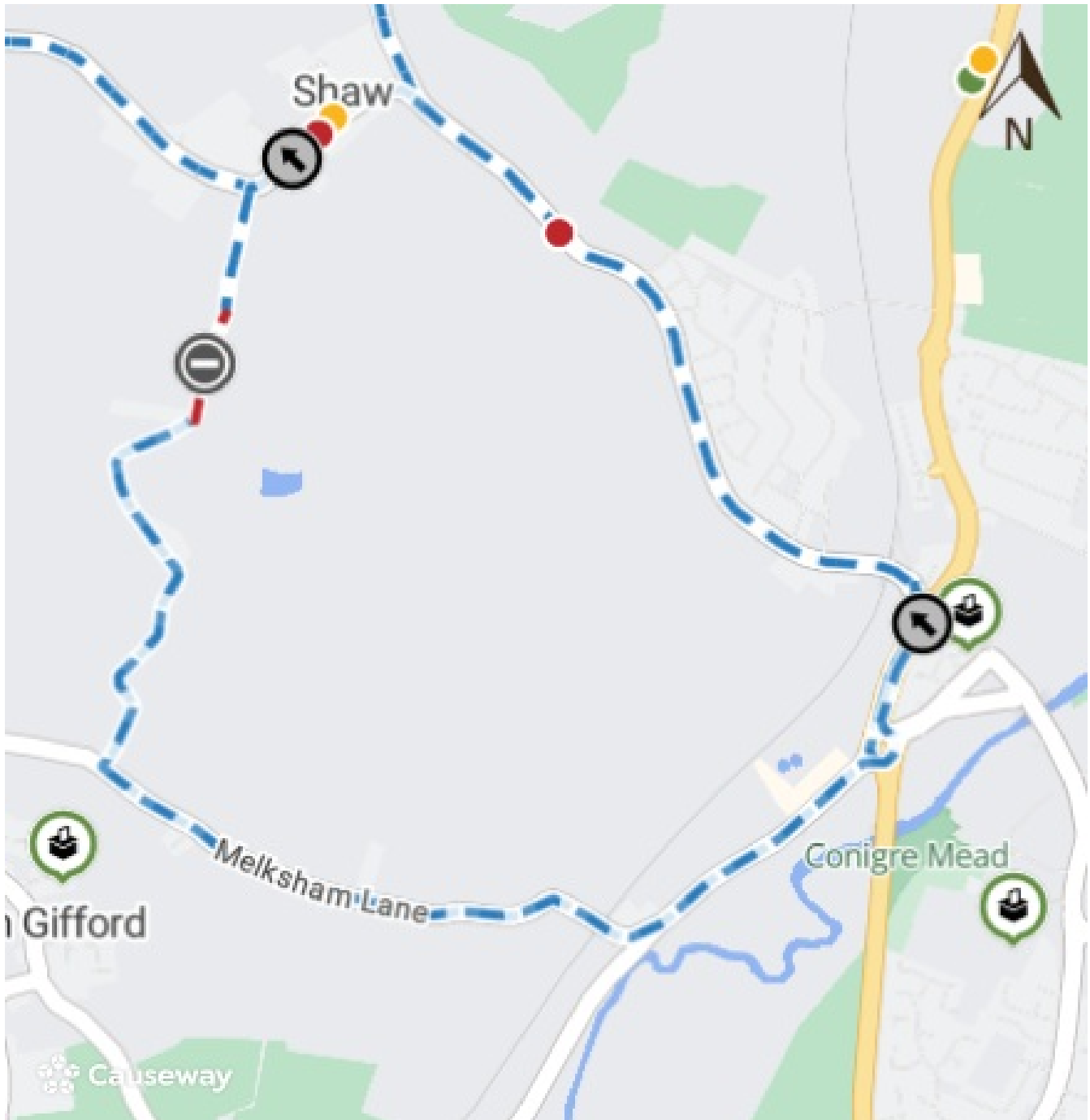
This Order will come into operation on 18 November 2026 and the closure will be required between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 for 3 days. It is anticipated that the works will take the stated duration to complete depending upon weather conditions. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses where possible, although delays are likely due to the nature of the works. The Order will have a maximum duration of 18 months.

For further information please contact Circet on behalf of Openreach on 07971 142611.

Highways Assets and Commissioning, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN

13 November 2026

Indicative Plan : C239 (part) Broughton Gifford



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Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Emergency Closure of: Footpath 40 (Part), Melksham

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that on 12th October 2026 the following length of highway shall be closed to all traffic in the interests of public safety

To enable: Using developer S.106 funding to deliver the widening of existing pedestrian route to a Shared Use Path from the pedestrian crossing on Western Way to Burnet Close, Melksham. Section of MELK40 included within the extent of the works will be widened and surfaced.

Footpath 40 (Part), Melksham; from its junction with Western Way (A365) for a distance of approximately 57 metres in a westerly direction.

Alternative route: via Footpath 40, Melksham (unaffected length) - Footpath 100, Melksham - Spa Road - Western Way and vice versa.

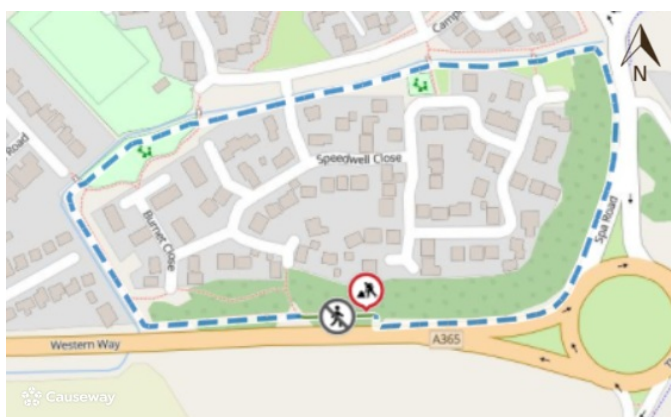
The closure and diversion route will be clearly indicated by traffic signs.

This Notice will come into effect on 12th October 2026

This Notice will have a maximum duration of 21 days.

For further information regarding these works please contact Chris Beaven (MGroup Site supervisor) on 07743 981736 or Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0100.

Highways Assets and Commissioning, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN



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Wiltshire Council

Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

Temporary Closure of: C165 (Part), Lacock and Melksham Without (Ref: TTRO 11969)

Notice is hereby given that the Wiltshire Council has made an Order to close temporarily to all traffic:

C165 (Part), Lacock and Melksham Without; from its junction with C155 to its junction with New Road.

To enable: Openreach to carry out cabling works and other associated works.

Alternative route: via C165 (unaffected length) – A3102 – A350 – C155 and vice versa.

The closure and diversion route will be clearly indicated by traffic signs.

This Order will come into operation on 24 November 2026 and the closure will be required between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30 for 1 day. It is anticipated that the works will take the stated duration to complete depending upon weather conditions. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses where possible, although delays are likely due to the nature of the works. The Order will have a maximum duration of 18 months.

For further information please contact Openreach on 0800 023 2023.

Highways Assets and Commissioning, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN

20 November 2026

Indicative Plan :C165 (Part), Lacock and Melksham Without



WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**CYCLE TRACKS ACT 1984****THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE (FOOTPATH 40, MELKSHAM)**
(CYCLE TRACKS) ORDER 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Wiltshire Council confirmed the above mentioned Order, without modification, under section 3(3)(b) of the Cycle Tracks Act 1984 the effect of which will be to designate the following length of footpath as a cycle track:-
Footpath 40, Melksham – From where it joins with the A350 in a westerly direction to its junction with Burnet Close South.

A copy of the Order and plan may be inspected at the offices of Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge during normal office hours and also at Melksham Library, Melksham Community Campus, Market Place, Melksham between the hours of 6.30am – 10pm Monday – Thursday, 6.30am – 9pm Friday and 8am – 6pm Saturday.

Any person aggrieved by the Order and desiring to question the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in the Order on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant Section of the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of that Section or of Part III of Schedule 9 of the Act or any regulation made under the said Schedule, has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks of the date on which the Order was made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

The Order will come into operation 28 days after the date of this Notice.

Highways Assets and Commissioning, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge
BA14 8JN

10th September 2026



Melksham
TOWN COUNCIL

22 September 2026

Brian Mathew MP

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Dr Mathew,

Re: A coordinated national and local response to freight, the A350, housing growth and active travel in Melksham

I am writing to ask you to champion an urgent, joined-up approach to the A350 corridor through Melksham. Freight movement is vital to Wiltshire's economy, but the present arrangement requires strategic traffic—including heavy goods vehicles—to pass through or close to established neighbourhoods and serve areas of significant housing and business growth. This creates congestion, unreliable journeys, severance, road-safety concerns, noise and air-quality impacts, while making walking and cycling less attractive.

Wiltshire Council describes the A350 as a primary north–south route of regional importance linking the south coast with the M4, Bristol and the Midlands. Its published consultation material records daily traffic through Melksham generally above 35,000 vehicles, with HGVs accounting for around 8%. The same material identifies objectives to improve journey reliability, support housing and employment growth, reduce HGV traffic through northern Melksham and Beanacre, improve safety, and create better walking and cycling links. The proposed Melksham bypass is currently on hold pending the National Highways M4-to-Dorset Coast strategic study. That pause must not become a policy vacuum.

That strategic role extends beyond the A350 itself. Melksham sits on the principal designated road and rail freight corridors through Wessex from the Solent and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, connecting Trowbridge, Warminster and Westbury with the M4 and destinations to the north by road, and carrying aggregate traffic from the Somerset quarries towards the Midlands by rail. Consequently, decisions made here affect a much wider regional economy and must provide for long- and short-distance freight alongside passenger movements rather than treating each mode or market in isolation. Additional road and rail freight traffic on current infrastructure will push the A350 and rail links back from “congested” to “gridlocked” at peak times – and it will once again take an hour to get from Melksham to Trowbridge like it did before Semington was bypassed. This to the detriment of freight, and private and public road and rail transport. Without rail capacity increases, all trains (passenger and freight), already subject to delay and cancellation, will become even less reliable through the bottleneck forcing yet more traffic that could use either onto the

Town Hall, Market Place, Melksham SN12 6ES

towncouncil@melksham-tc.gov.uk | 01225 704 187

road, and holding back freight and passenger development to the detriment of not only Melksham but other current and future communities along the way.

Indicative figures compiled in connection with Wiltshire's Freight Action Plan consultation help illustrate the scale of the issue: the A350 is reported to carry around 3,000 lorries a day, while the railway through Melksham carries around 12 freight trains a day. At maximum vehicle and train payloads these movements could represent approximately 90,000 tonnes by road and 48,000 tonnes by rail, although actual tonnages will be lower because of empty return workings, partial loading and varied vehicle sizes. The estimates should therefore be verified by the responsible authorities, but they underline that rail freight is already substantial even though it is less visible to residents, and that neither road nor rail can be treated as an optional part of the solution

The need for coordinated action is reinforced by the statutory and policy framework. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires planning decisions to be plan-led, while the Localism Act 2011 provides the basis for neighbourhood planning. The Climate Change Act 2008, as amended, establishes the United Kingdom's net-zero duty. The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 now reforms infrastructure and transport consenting, including amendments relating to highways procedures. The August 2026 National Planning Policy Framework directs plan-making and decision-taking towards sustainable development, delivery of homes and growth, well-designed places and sustainable transport. Together, these measures require housing, transport capacity, carbon reduction, safety and place quality to be considered as one system rather than as separate projects.

Wiltshire Council's Cabinet previously confirmed objectives for the A350 Melksham scheme, including improved connectivity and reliability, support for future housing and employment, reduced HGV impacts, better safety and enhanced walking and cycling opportunities. Wiltshire's Local Transport Plan 4, endorsed by full council on 11 March 2025 for the period 2025–2038, now calls for a safe, connected and low-carbon transport system. Its Freight Sub-strategy seeks efficient goods movement while reducing harm to communities, encouraging cleaner freight and rail freight where practical, and ensuring that freight needs are built into new development. The national Transport Decarbonisation Plan likewise supports zero-emission freight, public transport and making walking and cycling natural choices for daily journeys.

The case is also regional and forward-looking. Expected housing growth in Warminster, Westbury, Trowbridge and Melksham will add passenger and goods movements towards the M4 corridor and beyond. Local and regional proposals—including Network Rail capacity work, Wiltshire's Local Transport Plan and the Bath and Wiltshire Metro concept—identify the need for substantial rail improvements. The Chippenham–Trowbridge route is already constrained, while regular passenger and freight services through Melksham remain dependent on diesel traction. A credible programme should therefore examine additional capacity, operational resilience and electrification or other zero-emission traction alongside road measures, so that growth in one mode does not simply worsen congestion in another.

Local land-use policy points in the same direction. The Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan 2 (2020–2038) includes policies on infrastructure phasing, sustainable transport and active travel. The emerging Wiltshire Local Plan work for Melksham recognises substantial housing growth and the need for supporting infrastructure. Melksham Town Council’s own Town Plan 2026–2029 commits to encouraging walking, cycling and safer routes. Our current local evidence also emphasises cumulative assessment: completed, committed and foreseeable development must be tested together, with transport, schools, healthcare, utilities and community facilities delivered through funded phasing and enforceable occupation triggers.

Melksham therefore needs a balanced programme, not a choice between road investment and sustainable travel. Strategic through-freight should use an appropriate, resilient route with a minimum of corners requiring slowing / restarting such as roundabouts which slow passage and increase pollution; local roads and neighbourhoods should be protected from displacement of HGV traffic; rail capacity should be safeguarded and improved so that suitable freight can transfer from road to rail; and new development should connect from first occupation to safe, direct and continuous walking, cycling, bus and rail networks.

I would be grateful if you would:

1. seek a published timetable and transparent next steps for the National Highways M4-to-Dorset Coast strategic study and its implications for the A350 at Melksham;
2. press the Secretary of State for Transport and National Highways to work with Wiltshire Council on a funded, multimodal corridor plan covering the A350, A365, A3102, rail, buses, freight, walking and cycling;
3. ask for the strategic case for the Melksham Eastern Bypass to be assessed alongside—not instead of—rail-capacity improvements, freight decarbonisation and active-travel investment;
4. support safeguarding of any future bypass alignment, junctions and rail-capacity interventions from piecemeal development;
5. press for housing and employment growth to be infrastructure-led, with clear funding, phasing, delivery bodies and occupation triggers secured through planning obligations and other appropriate mechanisms;
6. support a minimum design requirement that every new road, and every major improvement to an existing road, includes safe, continuous and preferably segregated cycle lanes, with protected junctions and crossings; any exception should require published evidence that a cycle lane is not feasible and delivery of an equally safe, direct alternative route. This standard should apply from the first occupation of new development and connect schools, employment areas, the town centre, healthcare, bus stops and Melksham railway station; and
7. convene a meeting with the Department for Transport, National Highways, Wiltshire Council, Network Rail, Great Western Railway, local councils and community representatives to agree responsibilities, evidence requirements and a delivery timetable.

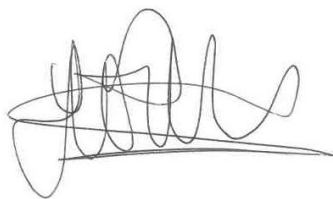
8. request publication of a common evidence base for road and rail freight through Melksham, including observed vehicle and train counts, actual payloads, empty running, origins and destinations, forecast growth, collision and air-quality data, and the assumptions used to compare investment options;
9. ask Network Rail and the Department for Transport to set out a funded programme for the Chippenham–Melksham–Trowbridge railway, addressing present bottlenecks, capacity for passenger and freight growth, operational resilience, and the transition from diesel-only services to electrification or other zero-emission traction.

This is not an argument for unrestricted road building or for shifting impacts from one community to another. It is a request for coherent planning that supports necessary freight and housing while protecting residents, improving safety, reducing emissions and giving people realistic alternatives to the private car. Melksham's growth must strengthen the town rather than increase existing infrastructure deficits.

Please would you confirm the actions you can take, the departments and agencies you will approach, and whether you will support a round-table meeting for Melksham?

Yours sincerely,

Hayley Bell



Melksham Town Council
Town Hall, Market Place
Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6ES

Key references

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; Localism Act 2011; Climate Change Act 2008; Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025.
- National Planning Policy Framework, August 2026.
- Department for Transport, *Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain*.
- Wiltshire Council, Local Transport Plan 4 (2025–2038), including the Freight, Strategic Transport and Market Towns sub-strategies.
- Wiltshire Council Cabinet, A350 Melksham scheme objectives and November 2021 consideration of consultation outcomes.
- Wiltshire Council, *Planning for Melksham*; Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan 2 (2020–2038); Melksham Town Council Town Plan 2026–2029.

- Graham Ellis, “Strategic Wiltshire Freight Policy / Consultation—Melksham view”, September 2026, including indicative road and rail freight-volume comparisons and the case for integrated corridor investment.
- Wiltshire Council, Freight Action Plan consultation, 2026; Secretary of State for Transport, written statement on the rail-freight growth target to 2040, 8 September 2026.

WILTSHIRE POLICE

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Road Safety update – Melksham Area Board

7 October 2026



Keeping Wiltshire Safe

www.wiltshire.police.uk | [Facebook/wiltshirepolice](https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice) | [Twitter @wiltshirepolice](https://twitter.com/wiltshirepolice) | [LinkedIn/company/wiltshirepolice](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wiltshirepolice)

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• #FATAL5 education



One of the largest forms of distractions is mobile phone use.

It's illegal to use a handheld mobile phone while driving a motor vehicle on the roads in the UK.

Even using a hands-free option can incur penalties if your driving is deemed to be dangerous.

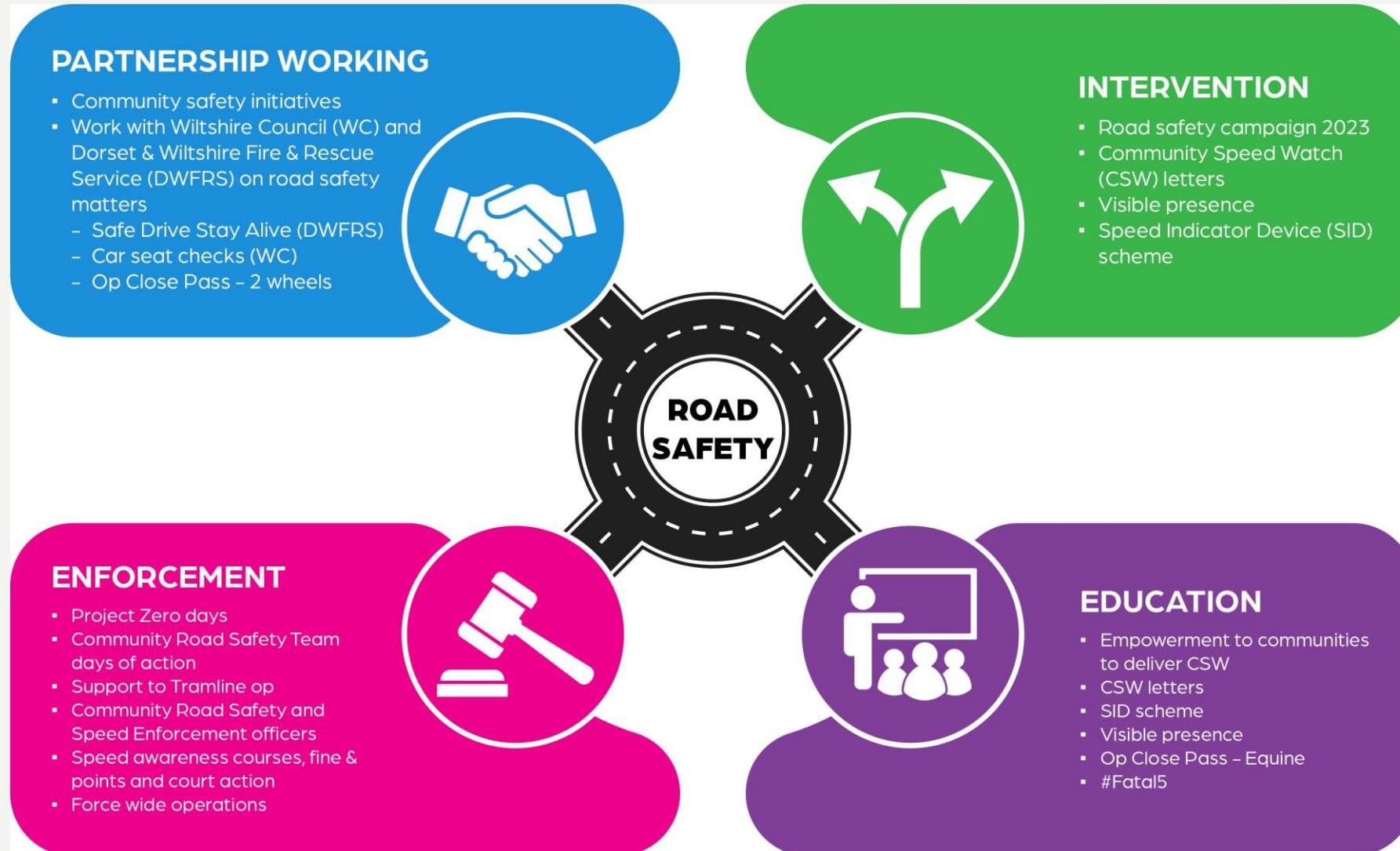
The police have the right to stop you if they think you're distracted and not in control of your vehicle, and you can be prosecuted.

You can use a hand-held phone when:

- you're safely parked and engine off
- you need to call 999 or 112 in an emergency and it's unsafe or impractical to stop
- you're making a contactless payment in a vehicle that is not moving, for example at a drive-through restaurant
- you're using the device to park your vehicle remotely



• Community Road Safety Team; what we do



Community Speed Enforcement Officers

CSEO's



• Speed enforcement – All of Swindon & Wiltshire



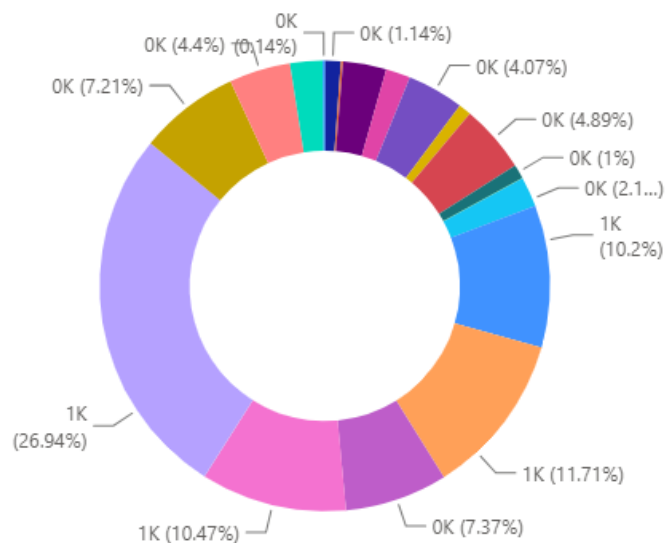
Speed Enforcement May to August 2026



Offences by Area Board

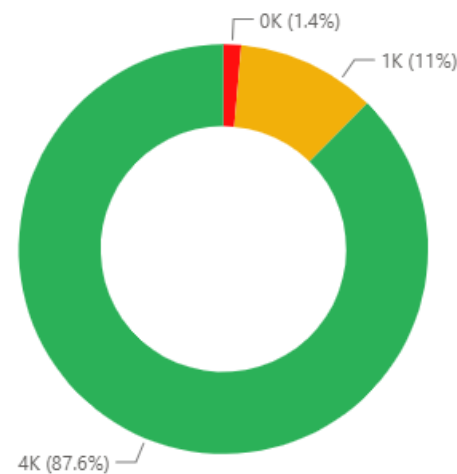
Area Board

- Bradford on Avon
- Calne
- Chippenham
- Corsham
- Devizes
- Malmesbury
- Marlborough
- Melksham
- Pewsey
- RWB
- Salisbury
- South West Wiltshire
- Southern Wiltshire
- Stonehenge
- Swindon
- Tidworth
- Trowbridge
- Warminster
- Westbury



No. offered a speed awareness course, issues with a fine and points, or referred to court

- No. straight to court
- No. straight to fine & poi...
- No. offered a speed aware...



All subject to previous history and convictions

• Speed enforcement – Melksham area



Speed Enforcement May to August 2026



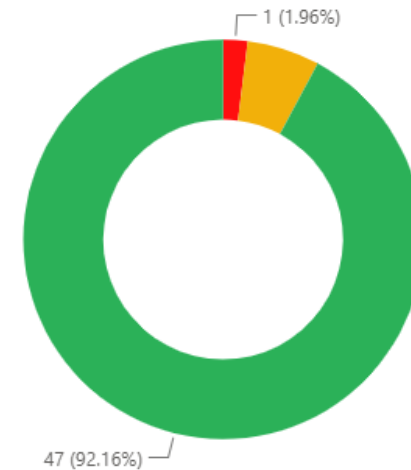
Offences by Area Board

Area Board

● Melksham



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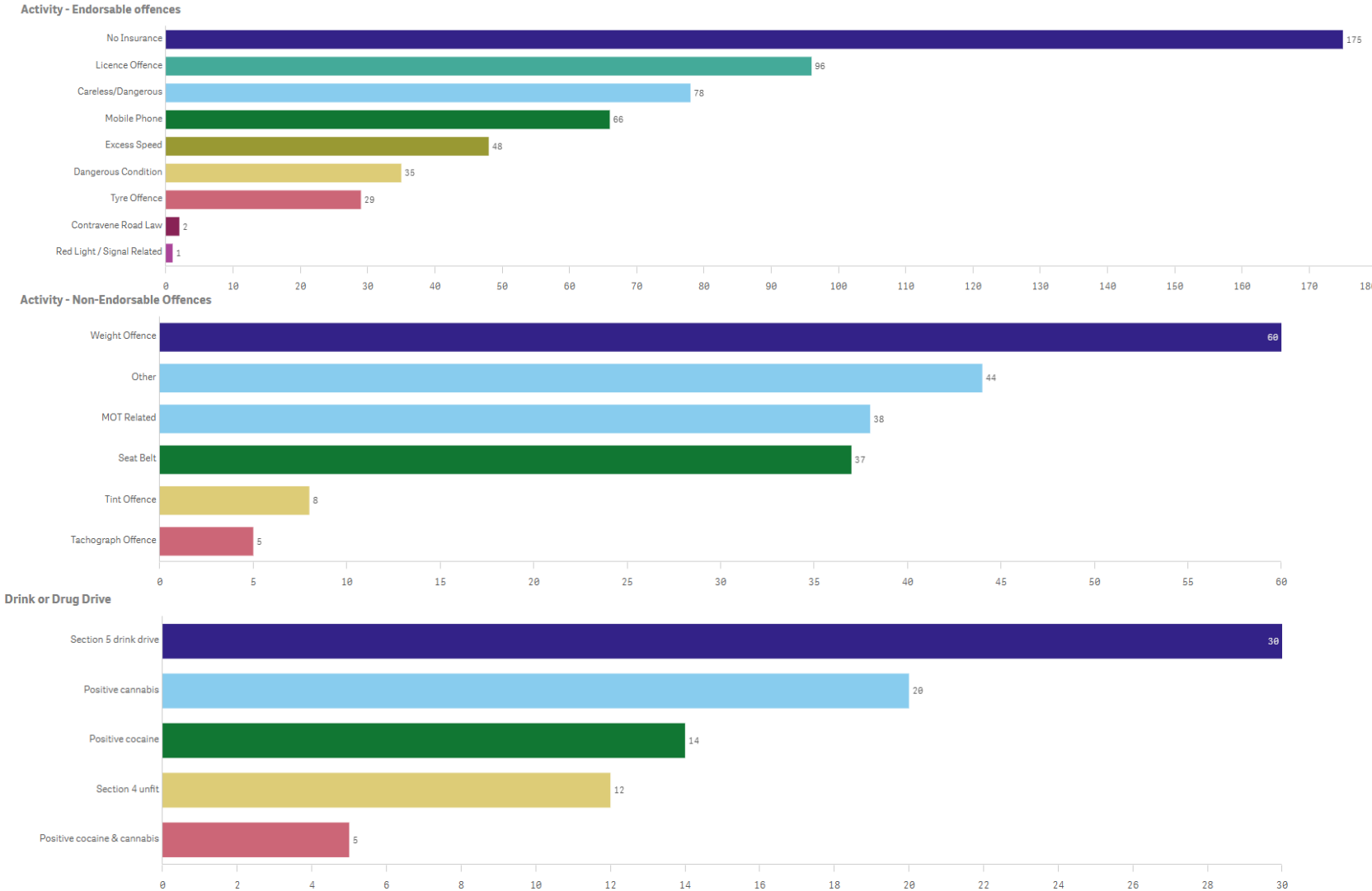
Roads Policing Unit

RPU



• Wider work – May to August 2026

This data is an indicator of the work conducted from multiple systems, the actual data will be higher



[Wiltshire Police – YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/WiltsPolice) - <https://www.youtube.com/user/WiltsPolice>

• Op Tramline



Joint initiative: Owned by National Highways with the collaboration of 36 other forces

Elevated Viewpoint: A police spotter sits in the passenger seat of an unmarked white HGV cab. This gives them a clear, elevated view directly down into standard cars and straight across into the cabs of other commercial lorries.

The Convoy System: When the spotter catches a driver committing an offence, they record video evidence and radio a trailing convoy of marked police cars. Those officers then pull the vehicle over to issue fines, points, or make arrests

May to August: Wiltshire Police have dealt with over **75** offences whilst hosting the operation.

Top three offences detected through Operation Tramline are:



Mobile phone use



Seat belt offences



Driver not in proper control



Nationally over 5 years

• Your Force | Your Area | Follow us

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For information on Road Safety in Wiltshire visit: [Road Safety \(wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk)
<https://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan/road-safety/>



[Melksham Town | Your Area | Wiltshire Police | Wiltshire Police](https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/area/your-area/wiltshire/trowbridge/melksham-town)

<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/area/your-area/wiltshire/trowbridge/melksham-town>

[Melksham Rural South | Your Area | Wiltshire Police | Wiltshire Police](https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/area/your-area/wiltshire/trowbridge/melksham-rural-south)

<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/area/your-area/wiltshire/trowbridge/melksham-rural-south>



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<https://www.facebook.com/MelkshamPolice>



[Wiltshire Police – YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/WiltsPolice) - <https://www.youtube.com/user/WiltsPolice>

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Committee Clerk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 September 2026 14:10
To: Committee Clerk
Subject: September parish steward visit Main

Hi Andrew
Work carried out this visit
Queensway Clackersbrook bridge
Face back hedge and trees
Clear debris from pavement
Side out pavement and kerb lines
Clear gullies
Linden Grove A350 crossing
Clear vegetation from pavement and side out.
Many thanks
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

|



Essential infrastructure
services for life

Please consider the environment before printing this email.