

WILTSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2006/07 – 2010/11

MELKSHAM COMMUNITY AREA CONSULTATION

SUMMARY REPORT

Introduction

To assist the County Council in producing its second Local Transport Plan (LTP), a series of public consultation events were held during September and October 2004 in each of Wiltshire's Community Areas.

Invitations were sent to a variety of key contacts and organisations through Wiltshire's network of Community Planners. In addition, notices were sent to all libraries, parish and town councils and placed in the Wiltshire Times, the Gazette and Herald, and the Salisbury Journal.

The Melksham Community Area consultation event took place at the Town Hall, Melksham on Wednesday 13th October 2004. A total of 13 people attended the event (see Appendix A).

This summary report seeks to set-out the context and results of the consultation event. It has been sent to all participants and placed on the County Council's website.

Purpose of Event

The purpose of the LTP Community Area consultation events was to provide the opportunity for communities and other key organisations to give their views on the local transport issues likely to face them in the period to 2011, and to explore and identify local priorities and areas of concern.

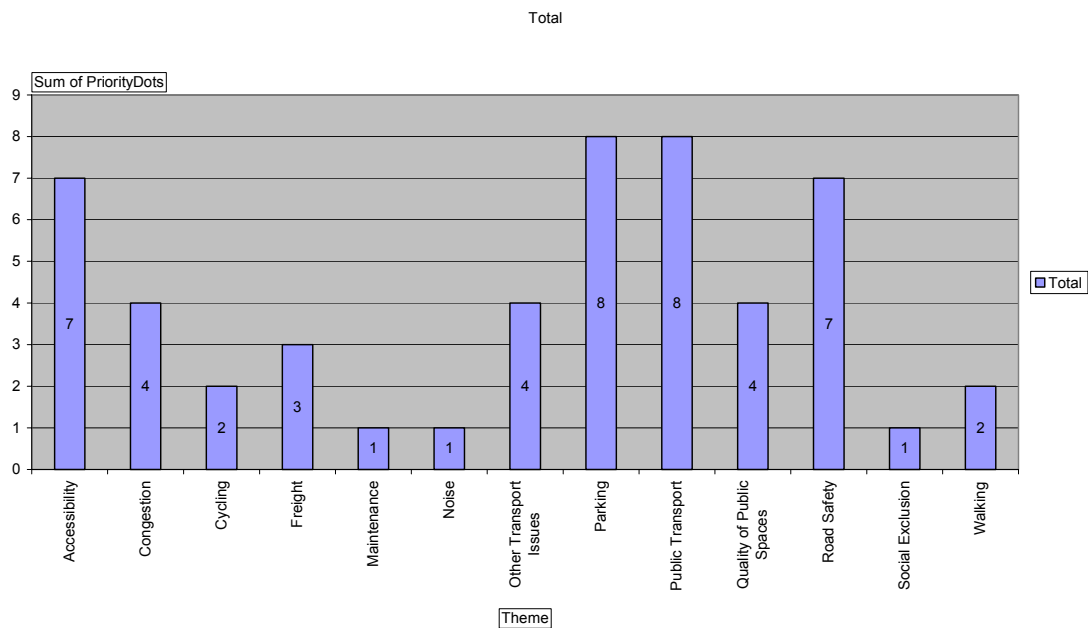
The event also provided the opportunity for County Council officers to explain more fully the current national and regional transport policy and funding context, and set-out what has been achieved by the first Wiltshire LTP.

Format of Event

Following a short introductory presentation, participants discussed and recorded their local transport issues and concerns in two groups with County Council officers acting as facilitators. The issues and concerns raised were then categorised by each group into broad LTP themes before being prioritised by each participant (four stickers were given to each participant in order to identify their respective priorities).

Results

The outcome of the categorisation and prioritisation process is given overleaf:



From the above chart it is clear that the top priorities were:

- Parking;
- Public Transport;
- Road Safety; and,
- Accessibility.

A wide range of other issues were also identified as priorities by the participants.

In recognition that the issues and concerns raised by participants may cross a number of different themes, all the comments, along with the group, categorisation and prioritisation details, are shown in Appendix B. From this, the following main concerns emerge:

- Concerns regarding parking concerned the lack of parking enforcement, which results in vehicles parking on pavements. In addition there was concern that the lack of free parking dissuades shoppers from visiting the town centre.
- Public transport issues mainly related to the lack of suitable bus and train services from Melksham, as well as the lack of bus link between the town centre and the rail station.
- There were a number of road safety issues listed, many of which concerned the identification of dangerous parts of the highway network and the lack of pedestrian facilities.
- Accessibility issues mainly concerned the lack of provision for disabled users (e.g. lack of dropped kerbs at junctions and lack of raised kerbs at bus stops).

Next Stages

To complement the Community Area consultations, meetings are to be held with a variety of organisations such as business and trade interests, transport providers, transport interest groups and voluntary organisations.

In line with the development of a draft second Wiltshire LTP, it is proposed that a further round of community and stakeholder consultation events will be held during the Spring of 2005.

Appendix A

Title	Forename	Surname	Organisation
Mr	David	Richards	Melksham 1 st + CPRE
	Joan	Kinder	Melksham 1 st
Mr	Dave	Milford	Clarkies
Mr	David	Waring	
Mrs	Sheila	Wilkinson	Melksham 1 st
Mr	Ian	Bertram	Melksham 1 st
Mr	Steve	Petty	Melksham 1 st
	Adrienne	Westbrook	Melksham TC
Mr	Neil	Mortimer	Lovejoys
Mr	Richard	Wiltshire	
Mr	Gordon	Dodge	Melksham Railway Development Group
Mr	Rolf	Brindle	Melksham Without PC
Mr	Peter	Gray	Melksham & District Access and Disability Group

Appendix B

Theme	Comment	Priority Dots
Accessibility	Dropped kerbs around the town centre are poor e.g. Queensway – not possible to get from Forest Road to the hospital	3
Accessibility	Taxis are unable to use the bus gate through Semington, increasing taxi fares and reducing accessibility	1
Accessibility	Lack of raised kerbs and bus stops with disabled access in Melksham. E.g. in Shaw but is a problem throughout the Melksham Community Area. Buses do not service the needs of disabled persons.	1
Accessibility	Increased number of rail services and destinations required.	1
Accessibility	No integrated transport hub at the railway station	1
Accessibility	Operation for taxi bus operators needs to be easy in and about the town	0
Accessibility	Poor access around the town for electric powered chair users	0
Accessibility	No transport options for residents of Beanacre except the car	0
Accessibility	Lack of access for OAPs across Melksham to get to crucial services such as the Post Office. Particularly at the northern and southern extremes.	0
Accessibility	Access is difficult / non-existent from rural areas	0
Accessibility	No accessibility to the rail station for those without access to a car	0
Accessibility	Designate the area between Forest and Lacock as a Quiet Lanes area due to equestrian activity in the area	0
Community Safety and Crime	Why was the speed camera removed from Beanacre?	0
Congestion	Peak hour queues at WMF roundabout. Queues back to Hampton Park roundabout in AM peak	1
Congestion	Too much traffic in the town centre	0
Congestion	Timing of pelican crossing before Lowbourne is out of synch with lights on Church Street / High Street causing hold ups	0
Congestion	Congestion at Church Street traffic lights	0
Congestion	No bypass required for Melksham / Beanacre. Other speed reduction action required.	3
Cross Boundary Issues	Lack of cross boundary decisions / agreement	0
Cycling	Lack of cycle paths, particularly for crossing roads	0
Cycling	Lack of cycle route from Semington Road into the town centre	1
Cycling	Cycle network is disjointed	1
Freight	HGVs using Queensway as a short cut	0
Freight	HGVs using the town centre (High Street) when travelling from A350 to A3102 rather following the signed route via signed route via WMF roundabout. Damaging roads and pavements in the town centre.	2
Freight	A350 should not be used by long distance freight traffic	1
Maintenance	Inappropriate surface for cyclists	1
Maintenance	Pavements in the High St are very poorly maintained. Lorries mounting the pavements are major cause of the problem	0
Maintenance	Poor maintenance of footpath on Bowerhill / Devizes	0

Theme	Comment	Priority Dots
	Road	
Maintenance	Lack of maintenance of roundabouts – poor planting etc. Too much road side vegetation obscuring signs	0
Maintenance	Pot holes in the Market Square	0
Maintenance	Poor condition of road surfaces in the town centre causes problems in the town centre	0
Maintenance	Poor road surface in Pembroke Road outside Co-op Pioneer shop	0
Noise	Noise caused by traffic in Beanacre	1
Other transport issues	No telephone at Melksham train station	1
Other transport issues	Consultation process for LTP not very effective	1
Other transport issues	Previous studies in the town centre were too piecemeal in their approach	2
Other transport issues	East Melksham Clackers Brook development has a bearing on the level of travel to work (non-car)	0
Parking	No free parking in Melksham for shoppers. This results in people shopping elsewhere.	4
Parking	Parked vehicles obstructing pavements in the town centre.	3
Parking	Lack of parking enforcement in the town centre	1
Parking	No enforcement of parking restrictions	0
Public Transport	Poor interchange at Melksham rail station. Inadequate car parking.	0
Public Transport	Poor peak hour bus services. Chippenham – Melksham – Trowbridge no Sunday service.	0
Public Transport	Poor railway passenger service at Melksham rail station	0
Public Transport	A better bus to Melksham train station is required	2
Public Transport	Funding of public transport doesn't give operators any incentive to improve services	1
Public Transport	Quality of bus and trains equipment is poor	0
Public Transport	Services from Melksham station are not adequate. Improved range of destinations needed.	1
Public Transport	Bus provision serving Atworth and Whitley is too infrequent	0
Public Transport	There is a bus from Trowbridge College to Melksham at 16:40 when most students finish at 16:45. The next bus runs through a number of villages to reach Melksham and takes a great length of time.	1
Public Transport	Town bus service re: Forest area and current link with Trowbridge to include East Melksham housing development	1
Public Transport	Buses from Market Square do not always tie in with arrivals and departures to other towns and cities	1
Public Transport	New station required	0
Public Transport	Lack of bus service for rail station	1
Public Transport	No interchangeable tickets between different bus companies	0
Public Transport	Poor quality of bus interchange facilities in Melksham High Street	0
Quality of Public Spaces	Town centre is unpleasant for pedestrians and drivers	4
Quality of Public Spaces	All car parks are central and attract traffic to the congested town centre	0

Theme	Comment	Priority Dots
Quality of Public Spaces	Church Street car park – in order to park in the town centre you have to come into the town centre using the High Street	0
Road Safety	A365 Devizes Road – speed limit is too high. Suffers from inappropriate speeds considering the development on it	0
Road Safety	Safety and traffic problems on the A350 through Beanacre	0
Road Safety	Speed on Devizes Road at junction with Hornchurch Road	1
Road Safety	Dangerous bend on the Melksham – Devizes road at Turnpike garage	1
Road Safety	Heavy traffic in Beanacre on A350	0
Road Safety	Speeding traffic and parking on Hazelwood Road and the sharp bend	0
Road Safety	Pedestrian railings for High Street – currently a £30,000 shortfall for funding	2
Road Safety	Lack of continuous path at the bottom of Westlands Lane. Parked cars forcing pedestrians onto the road.	1
Road Safety	Safe links required between village and Melksham	2
Road Safety	Continuous pavements required in villages	0
Social Exclusion	Community area as a whole has a lack of demand responsive transport	1
Walking	Lack of safe walking routes through the town	0
Walking	No segregation of pedestrians and cyclists between George Ward School and A350 over railway before subway	0
Walking	Narrow width of path in Shaw (near the school)	1
Walking	Where are the improvements in Sandridge Road mentioned in the presentation?	1
Walking	Pedestrians crossing Countrywide roundabout difficult	0