



AD 979

Historic Amesbury Amesbury Town Council

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE

Purchase of the Melor Hall site

A public consultation day will take place on **Thursday 27th October 2011**
from 10am until 8pm at the Bowman Centre, Shears Drive.

Amesbury Town Council has the opportunity to purchase the Melor Hall site (Church Street) to provide a Museum/Exhibition Centre and Historical Education Point for children.

To cover the cost of the purchase, a charge will need to be added to the Precept that equates to just over 2 pence per day (£7.78 a year) for the average band D property.

In addition, a recent investigation has identified that the precept for Amesbury is considerably lower than that of similar-sized neighbouring towns. It is important that as Amesbury grows in population we also need to adjust to suit its needs.

We therefore intend to propose a budget to the public that still maintains excellent value for money, but reflects both the small increase to cover a loan for the Melor Hall site, and one that enables us to bring the town's facilities in line with that of other towns of similar size.

Response sheets are available for completion at the Bowman Centre, the Community and Visitor Centre and Amesbury Library, for those who are unable to make our consultation day. Responses should be returned by **Monday 31st October 2011.**

(Also publicized in the local newspaper, on Twitter, Facebook and with the Chamber of Trade). Please tell all of your local friends and family and come along to give us your views.

Public Consultation Notes

Earlier this year we launched a campaign named “Amesbury2012” - its purpose, to embrace the build up to the Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee by involving the whole community in events and activities over the year and whilst doing so, to consider the needs of Amesbury, which has suffered an economic downturn in recent years and misses out on the million tourists a year that pass Amesbury to visit Stonehenge.

Alongside this, an Amesbury Regeneration Partnership was formed which included five members of the Town and Unitary Councils, the MP John Glen, five members of the Chamber of Trade, the Chairman of Salisbury Vision Richard Walters, the Economic Development team from Wiltshire Council and Mike King from Action for Market Towns. At the first meeting it was agreed that there were some urgent quick fixes needed for the town’s businesses to survive and also some long term changes. One thing that was evident, was the historical importance of the town and the fact that Amesbury has nowhere to show off its heritage and to capture a percentage of the million tourists passing by each year.

Wiltshire Council agreed to fund AMTi to carry out a benchmarking exercise for Amesbury, consulting businesses and public with the help of the Town Council and the Chamber of Trade. The Mayor discussed a heritage day with key stakeholders who own the town’s historical assets, to gauge support and feedback from key tourism-related guests.

Bloor Homes, who are major developers in Amesbury, offered to support the community with a project chosen by the public as part of their next phase of housing and carried out their own consultation.

Without exception, all of these exercises highlighted the strong desire for the town to have its own Museum/Exhibition Centre and Historical Education Point for children.

This prompted the Town Council to seriously consider the possibilities of providing such a venue and found the Church-owned Melor Hall site for sale in the perfect location, with an existing useable building and adequate parking, in a site that sits within the medieval town and in sight of the Royal burial ground of Queen Eleanor of Provence and very near to Mesolithic Amesbury.

Bloor Homes were made aware of this possible site and confirmed that if the site was purchased and their next phase of new housing is approved, they would support the construction a new build exhibition centre on the site for the community.

As a result, the Town Council has now secured an option to purchase the site, and seeks public support to be able to proceed.

We do sincerely hope that you will support this opportunity for us to invest in the town's future and to put Amesbury well and truly back on the map. We hope that many new business opportunities will be established as a result, bringing prosperity and jobs for local people



Cllr Andrew C J Rhind-Tutt
Mayor of Amesbury

One example of what could be achieved:

