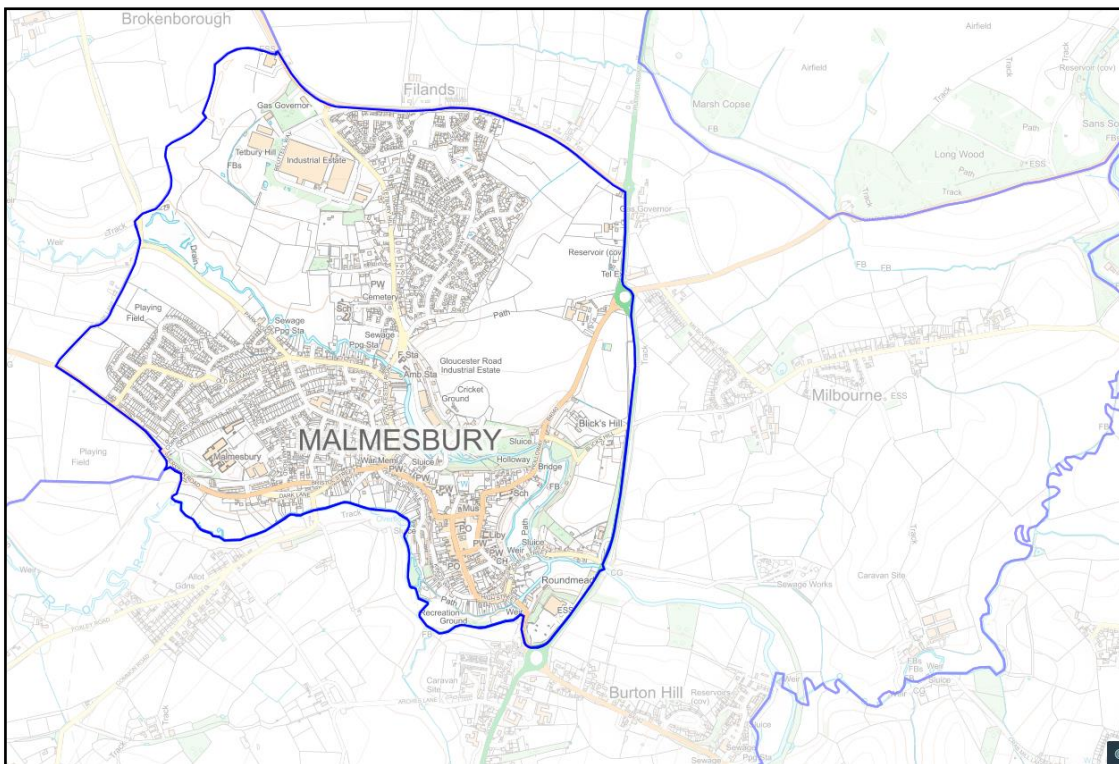


Proposal for Malmesbury Town Council boundary changes

Background

The local government area which is the responsibility of Malmesbury Town Council has expanded over the years to match the growth of the town, but the last change was nearly 40 years ago in 1984. Since then, Malmesbury has developed hugely within this boundary – shown by the blue line on the map - but also in areas around the town such as in Burton Hill, Cowbridge, along the bypass at the Garden Centre and infill to the west of the town, which all currently fall into the parish of St Paul Malmesbury Without. A quick look at the map (to which the developments about to happen at Backbridge, Filands and Burton Hill have still to be added) confirms there is a growing number of local residents who now live close to the centre of Malmesbury but are outside this boundary and are excluded from being involved in shaping Malmesbury's future and having a say in how services that are important to them are run. It is the strongly held view of Malmesbury Town Council that it is the right time to update the town boundary for the benefit of all residents and we have asked Wiltshire Council to consider our proposal.



Proposal

The proposal from Malmesbury Town Council is to recognise that residential areas such as Burton Hill, Cowbridge, Milbourne, Foxley and Common Road are an intrinsic part of Malmesbury and, as a linked community, should be served by a single council. Residents in these areas identify strongly with Malmesbury and use the public and private facilities in Malmesbury, including those currently funded and operated by the Town Council like the Town Hall, Tetbury Hill Cemetery, St Aldhelm's Mead and other open spaces and play parks around the town. It would also remove the current confusion for residents in these areas about which Council is responsible for the services they rely on.

Malmesbury Town Council has a well organised employed team on which the management of services and future growth can be centred, and overall economies and improvements achieved. This will become increasingly important as Wiltshire Council seeks to devolve more services and as further developments round the town are focused increasingly on both sides of the current boundary with the Parish. The neighbouring parish does not have any similar resources.

The key features of the immediate and historically important landscape around Malmesbury such as Daniel's Well, the western river valley, the area around Arches Farm, and the routes to and from the Warden and Freeman landholdings to the west of Malmesbury, are all an integral part of, and strongly identified with, the resident and visitor experience Malmesbury offers. It naturally falls that the management and services in these areas – such as footpaths, cycleways,

litter collection and co-ordination with landowners - should be led by the Town Council but are currently within the curtilage of St Paul Malmesbury Without parish.



View of the town from Daniel's Well, currently outside the Malmesbury Town Council boundary.

The proposed boundary changes would result in a single focused and cohesive parish area with common community needs and interests - such as the provision of services, the promotion of our local High Street and businesses, co-ordination with Wiltshire Council and links with health, education, and care services - being served by Malmesbury Town Council for the benefit of all the local community. More importantly, all parts of this community would be properly represented through an increase in the number of Councillors and new warding arrangements in the new Malmesbury Town Council, ensuring local concerns and requirements are serviced appropriately. At the same time, the new parish that would be created to the south of Malmesbury centred on Corston and Rodbourne would be able to focus on the specific needs of these communities which are different to those in and around a market town.

Benefits

In summary our proposal, if adopted, would achieve the following benefits for all the residents of the new parish area of Malmesbury:

1. Improved community co-ordination and involvement in the future for Malmesbury for all residents who live in the immediate area of the town and who rely on the same services.
2. Increased effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of common services across the whole parish area.
3. An increased strengthening of our local community through a shared focus on its future success.
4. A stronger voice for all those who live in the new parish area of Malmesbury for our dealings with Wiltshire Council and the providers of our local education, health, and care services.
5. Better co-ordination on our input into future development proposals in the new parish area and the local determination on the best utilisation of the resources they create for the improvement of local facilities.
6. A real opportunity for all parts of Malmesbury to be properly represented and directly involved in the local council.

Further information is on [Wiltshire Council's website](#).

Support

We firmly believe that all Malmesbury residents will benefit from the proposed changes. To help its decision-making Wiltshire Council is running a [short survey](#) for residents on their website. Please do take part and we would be grateful if you would show your support. The survey closes on the 31st of December. If you could ask your friends and family to do the same, it would be much appreciated.

Thank you

The Mayor and Councillors

Malmesbury Town Council