

AGENDA

Meeting: Electoral Review Committee
Online Meeting: [Access the online meeting here](#)
Date: Thursday 13 August 2020
Time: 9.30 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Kieran Elliott, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718504 or email kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114/713115.

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Membership:

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling
Cllr Clare Cape
Cllr Richard Clewer
Cllr Gavin Grant
Cllr Ian McLennan

Cllr Christopher Newbury
Cllr Ashley O'Neill
Cllr Jonathon Seed
Cllr Stuart Wheeler
Cllr Graham Wright

Substitutes:

Cllr Peter Fuller
Cllr Ruth Hopkinson
Cllr Nick Murry

Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Ricky Rogers
Cllr Ian Thorn

Part I

Items to be considered when the meeting is open to the public

1 **Election of Chairman**

To elect a Chairman for the forthcoming year.

2 **Election of Vice-Chairman**

To elect a Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

3 **Apologies**

To receive any apologies or substitutions for the meeting.

4 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 5 - 8*)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2020.

5 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

6 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements through the Chair.

7 **Public Participation**

This meeting will be available to view live via a Microsoft Teams Broadcast Link as shown below. A public guide on how to access the meeting is included below.

[Access the online meeting here](#)

[Public guidance for accessing meetings online is available here](#)

Statements

Members of the public who wish to make a statement against any item on this agenda should submit it to the officer listed above no later than 5pm on 10 August. Up to three speakers may make a statement against each item.

Questions

To receive any questions from members of the public or members of the Council received in accordance with the constitution which excludes, in particular, questions on non-determined planning applications.

Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the officer named on the front of this agenda no later than 5pm on 6 August 2020 in order to be guaranteed of a written response. In order to receive a verbal response questions must be submitted no later than 5pm on 10 August 2020.

Please contact the officer named on the front of this agenda for further advice. Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman decides that the matter is urgent. Details of any questions received will be circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website.

8 **Community Governance Review** (*Pages 9 - 170*)

To consider the responses to the consultation on the Draft Recommendations of the Committee which ran from 15 May 2020 – 10 July 2020.

9 **Parish Name Change Review** (*Pages 171 - 176*)

To receive a report on proposals to change the names of several parishes under S75 of the Local Government Act 1972.

10 **Area Board Boundary Review** (*Pages 177 - 242*)

To receive a report on preparing proposals for consultation on Area Board Boundaries.

11 **Polling District and Polling Place Review** (*Pages 243 - 244*)

To receive a report on the future review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

12 **Forward Work Plan** (*Pages 245 - 248*)

To consider a proposed work plan for future Community Governance Reviews.

13 **Date of the Next Meeting**

To confirm the date of the next scheduled meeting as 27 October 2020.

14 **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

Part II

Items during consideration of which it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed.

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Electoral Review Committee

MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2020 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Richard Clewer (Chairman), Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Christopher Newbury and Cllr Ashley O'Neill

9 **Apologies**

Apologies from the meeting were received from Councillors Ian Blair-Pilling, Clare Cape, Gavin Grant, Jonathon Seed, Stuart Wheeler and Graham Wright.

Councillors Blair-Pilling, Seed, Wheeler and Wright contributed to the meeting through a Skype call, but did not take part in any vote.

10 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2020 were presented for consideration and it was,

Resolved:

To approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record.

11 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

12 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

13 **Public Participation**

There were no questions or statements submitted.

14 **Community Governance Review 2019/20**

The Committee received a report on information received during the initial stages of the Community Governance Review, including details of responses to an online and physical survey sent to residents in areas which might potentially

be transferred to another parish, and details of electorate projections, parish council views and notes from public meetings.

The Chairman explained that given the extensive pre-consultation that had taken place, that the length and methods of consultation required for draft consultation was not set out in law or guidance, and that to delay determination of some areas could result in some areas having arrangements in place for the next parish elections in 2021 which were not providing effective governance or reflective of community identity or interests, it was considered acceptable to continue progression of the review during the Covid-19 situation. It was also agreed during the meeting that the Committee would write to those who had received a letter during the initial phases of the review to further canvass opinion during the ongoing situation. Other details of the consultation including it was hoped public meetings would be flexible as a result of the ongoing situation.

The Committee then discussed the areas under review and the various proposals which had been received along with public and parish views on those proposals. The Committee debated each area and agreed draft recommendations to be consulted upon, along with reasons for each recommendation.

Given the developing Covid-19 situation, the Committee delegated approval of the final documentation and arrangements to the Director for Legal, Electoral and Registration Services. At the conclusion of debate, it was,

Resolved:

To delegate preparation and approval of a draft recommendation document to the Director for Legal, Electoral and Registration Services after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

In relation to the schemes as surveyed, the Committee resolved.

**Scheme 1 – Netherhampton – recommended to be approved
Scheme 2/42 – Langley Burrell Without 1 – recommended to be approved
Scheme 3/43 – Langley Burrell Without 2 – recommended to be approved
Scheme 4/44 – Lacock – recommended to be approved
Scheme 5/9 – Melksham Without 1 – recommended to be approved
Scheme 6/10 – Melksham Without 2 – recommended to be approved
Scheme 7 – North Bradley 1 – recommended to be approved
Scheme 8 – North Bradley 2 – recommended to be approved
Scheme 11 – Seend 1 – recommended to not be approved
Scheme 13 – Trowbridge 1 – recommended to not be approved
Scheme 14 – Trowbridge 2 – recommended to not be approved
Scheme 15 – Trowbridge 3 – recommended to not be approved
Scheme 16 – Trowbridge 4 – recommended to not be approved
Scheme 17 – Trowbridge 5 – recommended to not be approved
Scheme 24 – Melksham Merger (a, b, c and d) – recommended to not be approved**

Scheme 29 – Calne Without – recommended to be approved
Scheme 32 – Pewsey – recommended to be approved
Scheme 34 – Wilcot 1 – recommended to be approved
Scheme 35 – Wilcot 2 – recommended to be approved
Scheme 37 – Southwick – recommended to not be approved
Scheme 40 – Derry Hill (New parish) – recommended to not be approved
(but to be reviewed 2020/21/22 with surrounding parishes to ensure full consideration of potential options)
Scheme 41 – Chippenham 1 – recommended to not be approved
Scheme 51 – West Ashton 1 – recommended to not be approved
Scheme 52 – West Ashton 2 – recommended to not be approved
Scheme 74 – Salisbury – recommended to be approved
Scheme 75 – Chippenham Without – recommended to be approved
Scheme 76 – Woodborough – recommended to be approved
Scheme 82 – Yatton Keynell – recommended to not be approved
Scheme 83 – Seend 2 – recommended to not be approved

Along with additional details relating to each Scheme as appropriate.

15 **Date of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for June 2020, but would depend upon the developing Covid-19 situation.

16 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 4.00 - 5.00 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services,
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Wiltshire Council

Electoral Review Committee

13 August 2020

Community Governance Review 2019/20 – Consultation on Draft Recommendations

Purpose

1. To consider responses to the consultation on the Draft Recommendations of the Committee.

Background

2. A Community Governance Review is a process wherein a principal authority can adjust the governance arrangements of parishes within its council area. This can include amending the number of councillors or wards, the external boundaries, or even the creation/merger/abolition/grouping of entire parishes.
3. The Electoral Review Committee (“The Committee”) has delegated authority from Full Council to oversee any review process in accordance with paragraphs 2.10.7-2.10.9 of Part 3B of the Wiltshire Council Constitution. This includes setting the scope for any review, its methodology, timescales, and preparing recommendations for consideration by Full Council.
4. Following a pre-review period of communication with parishes, and in response to requests and a petition, the Committee at its meeting on 31 October 2019 published terms of reference for a Community Governance Review to begin on 1 November 2019 (“The Review”). The timetable for the Review within the terms of reference was updated by the Director of Legal, Electoral and Registration Services under delegated authority granted by the Committee, in February 2020.
5. The parishes included within the Review were: Chippenham, Chippenham Without, Hilperton, Huish, Kington St Michael, Lacock, Langley Burrell Without, Manningford, Melksham, Melksham Without, Netherhampton, North Bradley, Pewsey, Salisbury, Seend, Southwick, Trowbridge, West Ashton, Wilcot, Woodborough and Yatton Keynell.
6. During Stage One of the Review additional proposals for the areas set out in Paragraph 5 were sought. During Stage Two the Committee undertook pre-consultation information gathering. This included:
 - Notes of sessions between representatives of the Committee and affected unitary members and parishes on 4,5,10,11 and 18 December 2019.
 - Public meetings on 20, 22 January and 5,14 February 2020
 - A physical and online survey of those potentially impacted by proposals, with 522 responses validly received.
 - Emailed representations

7. The Committee considered all the relevant information including session notes, proposal details, parish council responses and public representations by email, post or online survey, and agreed draft recommendations to be consulted upon at its meeting on 24 March 2020.

Consultation

8. There is a requirement that Wiltshire Council consult appropriately on any draft recommendations that it has prepared, but the method and timing of that consultation is not set out by the Act or by the guidance.
9. For the 2019/20 Community Governance Review the Council through the Committee has undertaken significant levels of engagement and pre-consultation with parishes, interested parties and the public beyond merely consulting upon any draft recommendations.
10. This has included early engagement with parishes on submitted proposals prior to the commencement of the review, individual sessions with potentially affected parish councils and unitary councillors from potentially affected areas, public meetings on submitted proposals, regular briefing notes circulated to parish councils, an online survey and a physical survey sent to those resident in areas potentially subject to change in January 2020.
11. The Committee also agreed to write once again to those resident in areas potentially subject to change in May 2020 for the consultation on the draft recommendations.
12. Taking account of the Covid-19 situation, the timetable for the consultation was extended and took place from 15 May to 10 July 2020. This included briefing notes, press releases, an online survey and physical surveys. The letter sent to residents outlined each recommendation and advised where more detailed information could be found or requested, and how a response could be made by those without internet access under Covid-19 restrictions. Due to the ongoing restrictions, specific public facing meetings were not possible.
13. In that context, in which parish councils, electors and other interested parties have had multiple opportunities to make representations on possible options, and having contacted potentially affected parties directly on multiple occasions beyond the requirements of the Act and guidance, it is considered reasonable to proceed with the Community Governance Review process and that appropriate consultation has taken place.
14. In particular it is noted that a decision would need to be made this year for changes to take effect for the next unitary and parish elections in May 2021. A failure to do so in some cases could be detrimental to effective and convenient local governance and/or community identity or interests, and therefore the resolution of this is an essential need for some areas.
15. It is also noted that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has also undertaken consultations during the Covid-19 situation.

Main Considerations

16. 227 responses were received for the online consultation portal during the consultation period. These responses are included at **Appendix A**, and includes physical responses made on the consultation form and then input onto the online portal.
17. Further responses received by post or by email are included at **Appendix B**.
18. The Committee is asked to consider the responses in formulating Final Recommendations. Those Final Recommendations would be considered by Full Council in September 2020.

Statutory Criteria

19. In preparing Final recommendations the Committee must take account of the statutory criteria for reviews and the need to ensure that community governance within the areas under review:
 - Reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
 - Is effective and convenient.
20. Council tax precept levels would not be a valid criterion to approve or disapprove of a proposal.

Electorate Forecasting

21. The guidance on Community Governance Reviews has been included as a background paper. That guidance makes clear that the principal council '*must also consider any change in the number or distribution of electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts*'.
22. The guidance further states that '*planning assumptions and likely growth within the area, based on planning permissions granted, local plans or, where they are in place, local development frameworks, should be used to project an accurate five-year electorate forecast. This ensures that the review does not simply reflect a single moment, but takes account of expected population movements in the short to medium term*'.
23. The Council has utilised electorate projections as utilised by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for the Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council, the Order for which is due to receive parliamentary approval on 16 March 2020. The figures were provided as part of the pre-consultation process. Where appropriate the figures were updated in early 2020 in relation to housing projections for development sites.
24. It is also noted that on 25 February 2020 the Wiltshire Housing Sites Allocation Plan was adopted by Full Council.

Neighbourhood Plans

25. As with the previous survey period, comments were received during the consultation relating to Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) and how these might impact a Community Governance Review. Community Governance Reviews and the planning policy framework including the preparation of neighbourhood development plans NDPs

are two separate processes and any parish boundary changes will not have an automatic effect on designated Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) areas. NDP policies would remain in place and be able to be enforced for the designated area even if some of that land becomes part of a different parish. In the specific case of an NDP which has reached the last stage and is awaiting confirmation by a referendum, significant weight in planning terms would already be given to an NDP at such an advanced stage. This would not change as a result of any Community Governance Review, nor the status of the emerging NDP, which would be given significant weight in decision making for the area to which it relates. Matters of community interests which could include the NDP would be a factor to be considered but would not be determinative.

Safeguarding Implications

26. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

27. There are no public health implications.

Procurement Implications

28. There are no procurement implications.

Equalities Implications

29. There are no equalities implications.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

30. There are no environmental implications.

Workforce Implications

31. There are no workforce implications.

Financial Implications

32. Additional consultation would incur additional resources, in particular in relation to the cost of physically mailing those affected in certain areas if appropriate.

Legal Implications

33. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 gives the Council the power to undertake CGRs and sets out the criteria for such reviews. There is also statutory guidance on the conduct of such reviews that the Council would have to comply with.

Risks

34. A failure to consult appropriately or provide appropriate reasoning for any decision to change governance arrangements would be potentially vulnerable to challenge. If a decision was not made by Full Council in September 2020, any changes may not be enacted in time for the May 2021 elections.

Options

35. The Committee may confirm its draft recommendations for consideration by Full Council, it may remove some recommendations and refer the remainder to Full Council

for consideration, or it may amend its recommendations. If amending its recommendations, the Committee would need to undertake additional consultations before Full Council could consider approving those recommendations.

Proposal

36. That the Committee determine its Final Recommendations for each area of the Review, and to delegate to the Director of Legal and Governance in consultation with the Chairman, the preparation of a detailed Final Recommendations document for consideration by Full Council.

Ian Gibbons - Director of Legal and Governance

Report Author: Kieran Elliott, Senior Democratic Services Officer, 01225 718504,
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Appendices

Appendix A – Consultation Responses (online consultation responses – including physical survey forms input onto online portal)

Appendix B – Consultation Responses (email and hard copy responses)

Background Papers

[Terms of reference of the Community Governance Review](#)

[Pre-consultation information pack \(24 March 2020\)](#)

[Guidance on Community Governance Reviews](#)

[Terms of Reference of the Electoral Review Committee](#)

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Recommendation 1 - Netherhampton and Salisbury

1.1 - That the area of the Netherhampton East Ward be transferred to the parish of Salisbury City as part of the Salisbury Harnham West Ward.

1.2 - That the Salisbury Harnham West Ward be increased from two city councillors to three.

1.3 - That the total number of councillors for Salisbury City Council be increased from 23 to 24.

1.4 - That the parish of Netherhampton be comprised of five councillors, without wards.

| Reference | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree/Amendment | Amendment Detail | Reasoning | Additional Comments |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|---|---|--|
| 01-01 | Representative | Agree | | Netherhampton East Ward is very much part of the Harnham West Ward through development and infrastructure | Number of Parish Councillors required do we really need 4 Councillors to represent Harnham East and West |
| 01-02 | Resident | Amendment | Our ward in Netherhampton, but our house is clearly in Lower Bemerton. We have never understood this, as Netherhampton is 2 miles away. To move us to Harnham was [unclear word] as the present situation. As we live in Lower Bemerton, are very involved in village affairs here, and identify this as our [unclear word], this should be our ward. | | |
| 01-03 | An Interested Party | Agree | | Evolving demographics | Change the name of Salisbury Parish to City of New Sarum Parish |
| 01-04 | An Interested Party | Agree | | | |

Recommendation 2 - Salisbury

2.1 - To merge the Salisbury City wards of Salisbury Milford and Salisbury St Mark's and Bishopdown into a single ward of three councillors, coterminous with the Salisbury Milford Electoral Division. The city ward would also be called Salisbury Milford.

| Reference | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree/Amendment | Amendment Detail | Reasoning | Additional Comments |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 02-01 | An Interested Party | Agree | | Evolving demographics | Change the name of Salisbury Parish to City of New Sarum Parish |
| 02-02 | An Interested Party | Agree | | | |

Recommendation 3 - Langley Burrell Without, Lacock and Chippenham

- 3.1 - That the area of the Barrow Farm Ward of Langley Burrell Without be transferred to Chippenham Town Council and merged with the Chippehham Hardenhuish Ward, to continue to contain three town councillors.
- 3.2 - That the area of the Rawlings Farm Ward of Langley Burrell Without be transferred to Chippenham Town Council and merged with the Chippehham Monkton Ward, to continue to contain three town councillors.
- 3.3 - That the area of the Showell Ward of Lacock be transferred to Chippenham Town Council and merged with the Chippehham Lowden and Rowden Ward, to continue to contain three town councillors.
- 3.4 - That Lacock Parish Council be comprised of eleven councillors, without warding arrangements.
- 3.5 - That Langley Burrell Without Parish Council be comprised of five councillors, without warding arrangements.

| Reference | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree/Amendment | Amendment Detail | Reasoning | Additional Comments |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| 03-01 | Resident | Disagree | | The unanimous rejection of the recommendation by residents of the Showell ward has been ignored. How does this recommendation reflect the 'Community Identity and Interests' | Surely in a democracy the views of the affected residents should not be dismissed out of hand |
| 03-02 | Resident | Disagree | | Our hamlet is a national heritage site that has always been part of Lacock and actually houses the Saxon fort that protected St Cyriac's church in Saxon times. As part of the Lacock community we are involved in local groups, schools, nurseries etc and the village is the epicentre of our community. | Yes, the fact that our hamlet is a large part of the national heritage and history of Lacock. We have many visitors to our Saxon fort site who take the walk to the connecting Saxon sites in Lacock. |
| 03-03 Page 17 | Resident | Amendment | The draft recommendations document argues that "Whilst the areas in question were largely undeveloped at the present time, significant development was projected and the characteristics of the areas would be urban...". This is not true in the case of Rowden Hamlet (Showell Ward) since the area will remain a Conservation Area and be at the centre of what is to become Rowden Country Park. It would, therefore, make better sense to retain its rural and historic links with Lacock. An exception similar to that planned for Showell Farm/nurseries area should be adopted. | It is stated that the objective of the CGR is to ensure the governance arrangements of town and parish councils continue to reflect the identity and interests of the local communities. Given that every resident who would be affected by the proposed change (recommendation 3.3) has objected to it, both by individual responses and through the petition signed by every resident, the objective has not been fulfilled. Therefore, the recommendation needs to be reconsidered. | No tangible benefits have been identified which might be enjoyed by the residents as a result of implementing this recommendation. In the absence of any tangible benefits to the residents, there remains no justification for the change. Finally, in the current lockdown environment, the residents have not been afforded the opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with those driving this change. Without the opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with the decision makers, it seems the views of the residents affected by the proposal have not been afforded the weighting they deserve. It really feels as if the decision was made before any consultation; as if the consultation process was nothing more than a tick-box exercise. A face-to-face meeting with the residents needs to be arranged urgently so that this can be discussed before it proceeds any further. |

| | | | | | |
|-------|----------|----------|--|--|---|
| 03-04 | Resident | Disagree | | Your CGR objective has not been achieved as you have ignored the interests and identity of all of the local residents of the area affected in the Rowden Manor hamlet. | We live in a rural - not urban - community, surrounded by fields. As part of the Showell Ward we should be treated as Showell Farm and not transferred to the governance of Chippenham Town Council. Your proposal goes against the principles of the Conservation Area. We have a privately-maintained road, a private sewer, no street lighting and sub-standard broadband - no urban benefits - and therefore we want to keep our rural connection and remain under Lacock governance. |
| 04-01 | Resident | Disagree | | The Hamlet of Rowden we should be considered the same as shower - we are a rural hamlet with strong links & orientation to lacock | to be paired with Chippenham will not meet our rural needs and have more akin with lacock. |

Note: Ref 04-01 was submitted against the incorrect recommendation on the online portal, but relates to Recommendation 3.3

Recommendation 4 - Chippenham Without and Kington St Michael

4.1 - That the area including Cedar Lodge, Allington, shown above be transferred from Kington St Michael to Chippenham Without.

| Reference | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree/Amendment | Amendment Detail | Reasoning | Additional Comments |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---|--|
| 04-01 | Resident | Disagree | | The Hamlet of Rowden we should be considered the same as shower - we are a rural hamlet with strong links & orientation to Iacock | to be paired with Chippenham will not meet our rural needs and have more akin with Iacock. |

Note: This comment is actually in relation to Recommendation 3.3

Recommendation 5 - Manningford and Woodborough

5.1 - That the area shown in the draft recommendation maps be transferred from the parish of Manningford to the parish of Woodborough

| Reference | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree/Amendment | Amendment Detail | Reasoning | Additional Comments |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 05-01 | Resident | Agree | | Better use of shared resources | |

Recommendation 6 - Pewsey

6.1 - That the parish of Pewsey be represented by a parish council comprising 21 councillors, without warding arrangements.

| Reference | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree/Amendment | Amendment Detail | Reasoning | Additional Comments |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 06-01 | Resident | Agree | | it's logical | |

Recommendation 7 - Wilcot and Pewsey

7.1 - That the area shown in the draft recommendations map be transferred from the parish of Pewsey to the parish of Wilcot, Huish and Oare (see Recommendation 8.3).

7.2 - That the Electoral Divisions of Pewsey Vale West and Pewsey be amended to be coterminous with the parish boundaries of Pewsey and Wilcot, Huish and Oare

| Reference | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree/Amendment | Amendment Detail | Reasoning | Additional Comments |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---|---------------------|
| 07-01 | Resident | Agree | | it's logical | |
| 07-02 | Resident | Agree | | | |
| 07-03 | Resident | Agree | | As per original questionnaire | |
| 07-04 | An Interested Party | Agree | | As per original questionnaire | |
| 07-05 | Resident | Agree | | It clarifies the Parish Council boundaries, corrects anomalies in the Parish Boundary, makes the name of the Parish reflect the entire community. | |
| 07-06 | Resident | Agree | | | |

Recommendation 8 - Wilcot and Huish

8.1 - That the parishes of Wilcot and Huish be merged into a single parish.

8.2 - For the combined parish to have no warding arrangements, with nine councillors.

8.3 -For the combined parish to be called Wilcot, Huish and Oare.

| Reference | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree/Amendment | Amendment Detail | Reasoning | Additional Comments |
|-----------|--|--------------------------|------------------|--|---------------------|
| 08-01 | Resident | Agree | | | |
| 08-02 | Resident | Agree | | Gives clarification to the area of the Parish Council, makes it simpler for people to vote without having to know which ward they are in. | |
| 08-03 | A representative of a parish or town or city council affected by the proposals, or a unitary representative from the area affected | Agree | | | |
| 08-04 | Resident | Agree | | | |
| 08-05 | Resident | Agree | | FURTHER SIMPLIFICATION FOR SMALL VILLAGES | NO |
| 08-06 | Resident | Agree | | Seems reasonable to merge parishes | |
| 08-07 | Resident | Agree | | No objection to the recommendation | |
| 08-08 | Resident | Agree | | As per original questionnaire | |
| 08-09 | Resident | Agree | | As per original questionnaire | |
| 08-10 | Resident | Disagree | | | |
| 08-11 | Resident | Disagree | | They are 2 separate parishes with different identities and should be kept that way. | |
| 08-12 | Resident | Disagree | | I believe that 'Community Identity and Interests' are of importance in preserving the distinct historic and cultural heritage of each of these old villages even if it means sacrificing some administrative efficiencies. | |
| 08-13 | Resident | Agree | | re 8.3 We agree because that is how we like the situation | |

Recommendation 9

9.1 -To NOT recommend creation of a new parish at Derry Hill and Studley during the 2019/20 Community Governance Review.

9.2 -To undertake a further Community Governance Review when practicable, to include Calne Without, Calne Town, and other surrounding parishes, so that all potential options and impacts could be considered.

| Reference | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree/Amendment | Amendment Detail | Reasoning | Additional Comments |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---|---|
| 09-01 | Resident | Agree | | Impact on other parish needs to be fully assessed | |
| 09-02 | Resident | Agree | | Further consideration and investigation of the advantages/disadvantages of the proposal is required | |
| 09-03 | Representative | Agree | | 9.1 the changes to Pewsham and West Wards were thoroughly investigated and discussed by CWPC before submission. | the temporary delay to 9.2 gives CWPC time to discuss how this may impact on the various Wards. |
| 09-04 | Resident | Agree | | I do not want Calne Without Parish Council to be broken up or disbanded. | I believe that CWPC is stronger and better able to serve the Parishioners in its current form. |
| 09-05 | Resident | Agree | | We are stronger and can take better decisions as a larger administrative unit | No |
| 09-06 | Resident | Agree | | I don't believe that those promoting the petition properly explained to the public the 'cons' of creating a new parish. There are I believe more benefits for the parish to remain as is than becoming a smaller entity. | |
| 09-07 | Resident | Disagree | | The Council has ignored the views of the vast majority of the residents of Derry Hill and Studley, just as Calne Without has been doing for 50 years. | |
| 09-08 | Interested Party | Agree | | | |
| 09-09 | Resident | Agree | | I wrote in opposition to the original proposal, so am pleased that it is not recommended. I welcome the proposed review of governance of Calne and its surroundings. | The legacy of the 1960s key villages scheme is that some villages have developed to become suburbanised while others have remained rural and static or shrunken in terms of dwellings. The interests of these dissimilar locations need addressing equally. |
| 09-10 | Resident | Agree | | The changes are not well thought through. The impact of this change on other areas has not been properly assessed or explained. | The impact of this change on other areas outside Derry Hill and Studley have not been properly assessed or explained. |
| 09-11 | Resident | Agree | | While the proposal to create Derry Hill and Studley as a parish is most definitely supported the impact on existing Calne Without parish is noted. Given the strength of the argument the impact on Calne Without should have been considered at the outset and not now, at the decision stage be subject to review. The risk (and the ask) is that the review is not put off and is in fact considered as the proposal states within the earliest time frames. | |

| | | | | | |
|-------|----------|----------|--|--|--|
| 09-12 | Resident | Agree | | The proposed new parish boundaries would create a poorly co-ordinated social framework due to its physical layout and this would not encourage social cohesion. | No |
| 09-13 | Resident | Disagree | | Any overview of the Calne Without Council will demonstrate the potential inefficiencies and imbalances of a council made up a divergent group of communities spread around a central organisation, Calne, all of which have differing interests and priorities. Whilst this may have had some logic in historical times the pressures of new communities and developments have rendered the current system totally unfit for purpose. Specifically Derry Hill/Studley which now has a population in excess of any of the other parishes within the Calne Without area only has a minority presence on the council. As residents of the Derry Hill/Studley community we are unfairly penalised and have little influence over matters that are a priority in this area but not necessarily elsewhere. This does not reflect good local and representative governance. Now is the time to make sensible change by establishing a new Derry Hill/Studley Council which fulfils the criteria of "Effective and Convenient Local Governance". I accept this will impact on the wider Calne Without Council but suggest that the obvious way ahead is to merge the remaining PC's with their boarding councils with which they have closer relationships anyway. | Calne Without is an outdated inefficient council which fails in all respects to meet the criteria of 'Effective and Convenient Local Governance' An overall review is urgently required to resolve this failure of local government. |
| 09-14 | Resident | Agree | | | |

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| 09-15 | Resident | Disagree | | I disagree with the proposals to not recommend a creation of a new parish at Derry Hill and Studley for the following reasons: The area is expanding with current and new residential development; this will result in an increase in residents and school children. We have a large junior school with a major road (A4) in between, which sees heavy traffic, produces noise, pollution and speeding problems. There is also a concern about safety with crossing the A4. Derry Hill and Studaly are limited in terms of resources i.e. shops and businesses etc. We have also got a major events centre (Bowood) which results in an increase in traffic and visitors to the area. These are all environmental problems, which demand we are better represented in local council and I strongly believe Derry Hill & Studley should constitute a parish and retain its identity. | |
| 09-16 | Resident | Agree | | I would like this local community to have a say in its own governance | no |
| 09-17 Page 26 | Resident | Disagree | | Derry Hill and Studley are of a suitable size to be able to operate its own parish. Decisions are currently made by Councillors who have no connection with Derry Hill and Studley. Calne Without Council is disproportionately representative of areas which have no connectivity with Derry Hill. A new Council for Derry Hill would have Councillors who are local to the communit and therefore more accountable to the electorate. A new Council would ensure a fairer representation for all the electorate rather than the current situation with some Councillors representing a handful of residents! | |
| 09-18 | Resident | Disagree | | Derry Hill/Studley suitable size to be able to operate its own parish. Decisions are currently made by Councillors who have no connection with Derry Hill and Studley. Calne Without Council is disproportionately representative of areas which have no connectivity to Derry Hill and Studley. A new Council would ensure a fairer representation for electorates rather than the current situation with some Councillors representing a handful of residents. | |

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| 09-19 | Resident | Disagree | | We feel strongly that we are unrepresented in our current area of Derry Hill. Many official publications do not even show the area of Derry Hill on maps of the parish. Our village has many specific issues that would be properly discussed if we had a parish for Derry Hill and Studley. I know there was a very strongly supported local campaign with a very high percentage of signatures on the petition and I feel that this has just been ignored. | Create a new parish at Derry Hill and Studley with meetings held at the Lansdowne Hall. |
| 09-20 | Representative | Disagree | | I disagree with the recommendation of 9.1 but agree with 9.2 that a further Community Governance Review to take place so that people within the parish of Calne Without buy who do not live in Studley or Derry Hill can have thier points considered. But it should be noted that over 90% of those people living in Studley and Derry Hill who answered the survey, stated that they were in favor of the creation of a new parish covering Studley and Derry Hill. | As a Parish Councillor representing Studley and Derry Hill then I must Support the views of those people living in Studley and Derry Hill. |
| 09-21 | Resident | Agree | | I disagree with the recommendation of 9.1 but agree with 9.2 that a further Community Governance Review takes place. It is vital that the voice of the 90% of those people who want their own Parish Council be heard. It is a nonsense when Bremhill has its own Parish Council (far less population than Studley and DerryHill).It cannot be local democracy. | It is essential that the unique nature and population of Studley and DerryHill are reflected by the opportunity to have its own democratic voice. People from other villages cannot represent this uniqueness and should not be able to vote. It is frankly undemocratic. |
| 09-22 | Resident | Agree | | I strongly agree that the case for a new parish is weak and that further consideration must be given to all options and their impact. | Further consideration must be inclusive and take into account the views of all residents in Calne Without: the current case based on the narrow, strongly held opinions of a subset of parish councillors is wholly inappropriate. |
| 09-23 | Resident | Agree | | The current case does not take into account the views of all residents impacted by the proposals. | Broaden consultation to all impacted residents in order to identify a range of options for impact analysis. |
| 09-24 | Resident | Agree | | Further work is necessary to capture the views of all residents impacted by the proposal. | Assess the costs, benefits and risks associated with all options. |

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| 09-25 | Resident | Disagree | | West Ward has an electorate of 1008, 628 were canvassed, 601 support the new parish, 27 declined to state their view. Pewsham Ward has an electorate of 211, 169 were canvassed, 162 support the new parish, 7 declined to state their view. Totals: Total electorate = 1219, Canvassed = 797 - 65%, In support = 763 - 62.5%, Decline to say = 34. Survey by loan Rees, 26-11-19. This is an overwhelming support for the creation of a new parish for Derry Hill and Studely which "reflects the identities and interests in this area". | The proposal to create a new parish is that it would better represent the local views of the local people, and is of sufficient size to be very viable - see above. Local areas must be governed by people in that area, not remote neighbours of smaller communities. |
| 09-26 | Resident | Disagree | | West Ward has an electorate of 1008, 628 were canvassed, 601 support the new parish, 27 declined to state their view. Pewsham Ward has an electorate of 211, 169 were canvassed, 162 support the new parish, 7 declined to state their view. Totals: Total electorate = 1219, Canvassed = 797 - 65%, In support = 763 - 62.5%, Decline to say = 34. Survey by loan Rees, 26-11-19. This is an overwhelming support for the creation of a new parish for Derry Hill and Studely which "reflects the identities and interests in this area". | The proposal to create a new parish is that it would better represent the local views of the local people, and is of sufficient size to be very viable - see above. Local areas must be governed by people in that area, not remote neighbours of smaller communities. |
| 09-27 | Resident | Disagree | | Derry Hill and Studely villages have grown considerably over the recent years and the governance grouping with much smaller villages is no longer appropriate. There is no reason to defer for a governance review. | |
| 09-28 | Resident | Amendment | | Recommendation 9.2 should be removed. The proposal for a new Council cannot be approved and it is a waste of time and money to carry out a further review when there is no evidence that the current arrangements do not provide effective and convenient local governance. | |
| 09-29 | Resident | Disagree | | The area is large enough to have its own governance | |
| 09-30 | Resident | Agree | | I do not want the parish of Calne Without to be detrimentally affected or weakened by the creation of a new Derry Hill and Studley parish. | |

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| 09-31 | Resident | Agree | | <p>As a resident of the potential new Calne Without parish I want all the possible options fully researched and considered so any possible alliances with neighbouring parishes can be fully investigated.</p> | <p>I am very concerned about Calne Town Council suggesting alterations to the town boundary as is stated occurred during the Consultation. If the Town takes more land along the boundry of the 'new' Calne Without Parish in East Ward it could allow further housing development into existing farmland. This has already happened with developments such as Marden Farm which has had a very detrimental impact on the rural road network. It would also go against the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> |
| 09-32 | Resident | Disagree | | <p>I have been a resident of Derry Hill in Calne Without Parish for over 35 years and a former Calne Without parish councillor. In my view Derry Hill and Studley should be its own parish. The two villages work together and share many local facilities. The main objection in your review seems to be this hiving off of the two villages from the rest of Calne Without PC is that the other parts would no longer share its facilities. This is illogical as many people from Chippenham and Calne use the facilities in Derry Hill and do not belong to Calne Without. People use the facilities that are convenient to them, not where the parish border is. We have little in common with the villagers of Lower Compton, Stockley or any part of the remaining area of Calne Without PC. One could point out that Stockley residents use the school, the pub, village hall and church in Heddington which is only a mile away. They join with Heddington for their Steam Rally, and the Heddington and Stockley firework display. Similarly, residents of Calstone and Lower Compton use the school, pub, village hall and church in Cherhill which is again only a mile or so away. Derry Hill and Studley are over 5 miles away on the other side of Calne. The petition was signed by 767 residents and a majority (70%) of the responses to Wiltshire's own survey, also supported the proposal for a separate parish. That survey</p> | |

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| 09-33 | Resident | Disagree | | I have been a resident of Derry Hill in Calne Without Parish for over 35 years. In my view Derry Hill and Studley should be its own parish. The two villages work together and share many local facilities. The main objection in your review seems to be this hiving off of the two villages from the rest of Calne Without PC is that the other parts would no longer share its facilities. This is illogical as many people from Chippenham and Calne use the facilities in Derry Hill and do not belong to Calne Without. People use the facilities that are convenient to them, not where the parish border is. We have little in common with the villagers of Lower Compton, Stockley or any part of the remaining area of Calne Without PC. One could point out that Stockley residents use the school, the pub, village hall and church in Heddington which is only a mile away. They join with Heddington for their Steam Rally, and the Heddington and Stockley firework display. Similarly, residents of Calstone and Lower Compton use the school, pub, village hall and church in Cherhill which is again only a mile or so away. Derry Hill and Studley are over 5 miles away on the other side of Calne. The petition was signed by 767 residents and a majority (70%) of the responses to Wiltshire's own survey, also supported the proposal for a separate parish. That survey covered all of Calne Without PC. I don't accept | |
| 09-34 | Resident | Agree | | There would be a lasting affect to those in Calne without that I do not agree with. The proposed movement of parish borders is also not considered and further investigation/review must be sought | |
| 09-35 | Resident | Agree | | Derry Hill and Studley require their own parish given the size of the combined parish being both geographicallyDistance from other parishes in the current ward and in so far as population is concerned. | |
| 09-36 | Resident | Disagree | | Derry Hill and Studley needs its own parish council. The rest of Calne Without has nothing to do with our villages and should not have the power to make decisions that completely ignore the wishes of people in Derry Hill and Studley. The rest of Calne Without Is miles away on the other side of Calne has no links with us and could continue as their own parish without any problems | Why has there been no consultation on Calne Town Council's requests for boundary changes? This should have been done first, they are nothing to do with a council for Derry Hill and Studley |

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| 09-37 | Resident | Disagree | | <p>It is very sensible to create a new parish covering Derry Hill and Studley only. The current Calne Without Parish is a non cohesive doughnut that lacks any form of community cohesion.</p> <p>Residents of Derry Hill and Studley have no interest in the affairs of such places as Calstone and Stockley (included in Calne Without). The communities are miles away from us. The councillors from those villages have no interest in Derry Hill and Studley.</p> <p>The Govt. talks enough about community local participation but decisions like this show that such is only lip service.</p> <p>Also the population of Derry Hill and Studley is greater than many parishes so you have no reason not to make this change which is wanted by all residents of D. Hill and Studley.</p> <p>Provide a parish just covering Derry Hill and Studley as all residents apart from a very few want you to do.</p> | <p>To continue to ignore this is to ignore the wishes of local people.</p> |
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Recommendation 10 - Calne Without

10.1 - To amend the boundary between the West and Pewsham Wards of Calne Without Parish Council as shown in the draft recommendation maps

| Reference | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree/Amendment | Amendment Detail | Reasoning | Additional Comments |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| 10-01 | Interested Party | Agree | | Seems sensible to simplify the boundaries | |
| 10-02 | Resident | Agree | | It removes an anomaly | |
| 10-03 | Representative | Agree | | this deals with some anomalies where houses are placed in Wards that do not identify with the community | no |
| 10-04 | Interested Party | Agree | | It makes logical sense. | None. |
| 10-05 | Interested Party | Agree | | makes sense for those living there to be part of the west ward | |
| 10-06 | Resident | Agree | | new development is just outside existing boundary hence boundary should be moved to accommodate | no |
| 10-07 | Resident | Agree | | I agree with the proposal because amending the existing boundary would make it easier for both residents and the Calne Without Parish Council to better identify the delineation between wards and thus reduce administration workload. | |
| 10-08 | Resident | Amendment | I support the change in boundary - this should have been done years ago, why did the Parish Council take so long to propose it. My suggestion is that the number of councillors for each ward should also be revised to give more councillors to Derry Hill and Studley to take account of the new housing development and the transfer of all the houses into the ward through the boundary changes from this recommendation and others. | Derry Hill and Studley has half the population but not half the councillors. Needs to be more equitable representation | What has happened to Calne's request for boundary changes? There had been no consultation on this ! When house development in Calne spills over the boundary those houses should be part of the town |
| 10-09 | Resident | Agree | | All properties in a village should be in the same ward. Residents affected were incensed not to be able to vote in an election in their own village in 2017. This is a shameful example of a parish council that was aware of an electoral anomaly for many years and did nothing to correct it until forced to by residents | Presumably the number of councillors for each ward in the parish will be reviewed and adjusted to take account of the latest figures on voters following the various boundary changes and housing growth. |

Recommendation 11 - North Bradley

11.1 - That the area of the White Horse ward of North Bradley Parish Council be transferred to Trowbridge Town Council as part of the Trowbridge Drynham ward, coterminous with the Unitary Division of the same name, and to be represented by three town councillors.

11.2 -That the area of the Park ward of North Bradley Parish Council be transferred to Trowbridge Town Council as part of the Trowbridge Park ward, coterminous with the Unitary Division of the same name, and to be represented by three town councillors.

11.3 -That North Bradley Parish Council be comprised of eleven parish councillors, without warding arrangements.

| Reference | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree/Amendment | Reasoning | Additional Comments |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| 11-01 | Resident | Disagree | Sheer greed on Trowbridge councils part. Taking this away from North Bradley leaves the Parish with much reduced funds to do its job. | |
| 11-02 | Resident | Disagree | This area belongs in North Bradley Parish and should be kept under the Parish council. Trowbridge Council only want it so they can past building plan on these sites. I want North Bradley to remain as a village. | |
| 11-03 | Representative | Disagree | The field between Woodmarsh and White Horse Business Park, is historically linked to North Bradley, as Woodmarsh Farm. Regardless of potential new developments, this should remain as North Bradley. Additionally we were offered a plot by the developers for part of the land to be allocated as a new North Bradley Graveyard. residents who wish to be buried in the Parish, would now be buried in Trowbridge. | If the Field off Woodmarsh had to go to Trowbridge, could the field be split into two lengthways, and we get half each. This still allows the landscape gap. |

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| <p>11-04</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 34</p> | <p>Resident</p> | <p>Disagree</p> | <p>It is clear the boundary move is motivated by a previous proposal to build on the Greenbelt land separating North Bradley from the White House trading estate. There have been significant objections to these proposals as North Bradley will be sucked up into the urban sprawl of the ever expanding town of Trowbridge. This is particularly frustrating as there are a number of significant derelict sites within Trowbridge which offer great potential for development for housing (particularly the 10+ acre site adjacent to the railway station) which has been left rotting for many years now. There are also greenfield sites available for development on the West Ashton road which have been brought up by Persimmons which also sit idle having not yet been built on which will have absolute no effect on the identity of any village in the area or its boundaries.</p> | <p>The North Bradley proposal is motivated by money and greed. That of the current land owner and the builders. Its Green-belt land supporting lots of important wildlife, flora and fauna. It provides a natural barrier between North Bradley and Trowbridge maintaining the identity and integrity of the village. There are some inconsiderate uses of "a large marker pen" when drawing up the proposed boundary as 16 & 18 Woodmarsh fall outside of the village boundary but are directly connected to it in both physical (houses accessed off of Woodmarsh Road) and historical terms. This is true of a number of other properties in village and once again demonstrates a strategy to set the</p> |
| <p>11-05</p> | <p>Resident</p> | <p>Disagree</p> | <p>I have lived in the surrounding areas of trowbridge for 30+ years and it's just expanding and expanding but Trowbridge itself need to look at its brownfield sites first before trying to expand and take away the identities of villages that is what makes Wiltshire what it is.</p> | <p>This will close the virtual gap between North Bradley and Trowbridge therefore taking away the identities of the town and village.</p> |

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| 11-06 | Resident | Disagree | <p>Wiltshire council is moving whole areas of North Bradley to Trowbridge, including houses off little common lane and the corresponding fields which have always been in the parish of North Bradley. Also these fields have acted as a buffer of urban spread. The houses in little common lane will only be accessed via North Bradley and including the farm are in a rural setting. If you are going to let Trowbridge take such a large part of North Bradley for the spread of Trowbridge where will it stop, can we assume in 5 years time Trowbridge will claim land up and beyond Axe and clever lane and why stop there surely the village of North Bradley might as well be taken over as well</p> | <p>What was the point of the parish council spending thousands of pounds on a parish plan, as to allow reasonable building if the allotted land is removed from the parish and placed in Trowbrige. Due to the present circumstances the plan has not been voted on. Who is to say once the plan is passed that a developer can come along and say the parish council plan is irrelevant as any building land is not in the parish. Perhaps Wiltshire council and TTrowbridge council would like to compensate the residents of North Bradley parish for the wasted money.</p> |
| 11-07 | Resident | Disagree | <p>The land is North Bradley land and we have a parish council where we can have a least a day in what is happening there, if Trowbridge town council get hold of it there is then nothing to stop them taking the rest of our rural village and turning us in to Trowbridge housing estate.</p> | <p>North Bradley parish have spent a lot of money on the parish plan which will be irrelevant as it's been written up to protect those fields.</p> |
| 11-08 | Resident | Disagree | <p>The number of residents moving from North Bradley to Trowbridge would be very small so not worthwhile. those residents will face increased council tax for no benefit. Its clear that this is a land grap to provide potential new housing. See Q48 g</p> | <p>The Parish Council has already put to a referendum a plan for this area. This was suspended due to the corona lockdown (although my vote already in the post. There should be no more actions taken until that process complete. This proposal should be withdrawn with immediate effecte)</p> |

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| 11-09 | Resident | Disagree | This is simply a land grab by Trowbridge, and will significantly reduce the size of the village of North Bradley. | North Bradley has almost finalised its Neighbourhood Plan, and these proposals go completely against the plan |
| 11-10 | Resident | Disagree | If the council wish to build more houses why cant the do it in Trowbridge. Why do they have to take a large part of our village and make it part of Trowbridge. It is not necessary and just another means of increasing the council rates that we pay. | |
| 11-11 | Resident | Disagree | North Bradley is a rural parish with a long history of independence from Trowbridge. In the 18th century Drynham Common ran along the boundary with Trowbridge and has formed a buffer between the two communities ever since. We have lived in North Bradley for 40 years and identify with the parish rather than Trowbridge. We strongly object to our part of the parish being absorbed into Trowbridge. | |
| 11-12 | Resident | Disagree | This measure would effectively make North Bradley part of Trowbridge and take away from us the "green area" between us and Trowbridge, taking out of our hands any new housing, for the first time since 1894. | |
| 11-13 | Resident | Disagree | risk of losing integrity of the village. Reduce local parish influence. Money will go to Trowbridge council. | Trowbridge Town council and wiltshire council land grab. |
| 11-14 | Resident | Disagree | This is the first step of an attempt to remove the village status of North Bradley. I object wholeheartedly to this proposal as I did not move here to be a part of Trowbridge. | There is already heavy congestion during the normal rush hour periods and little thought appears to have been given as to the impact extra vehicles will have on the local environment. |
| 11-15 | Resident | Disagree | North Bradley is an historical parish and autonomous village which is likely to lose it's unique identity and become amalgamated into Trowbridge. This is nothing more than an attempt to grab land to raise revenue through unnecessary housing development which contravened the North Bradley Local Development Plan | Please refer to the recently formulated North Bradley Local Development Plan which has overwhelming support from local inhabitants |

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| 11-16 | Resident | Disagree | I do not want to see the village of north Bradley eroded and merge into Trowbridge. The village has it's own unique character and I do not see why a transfer to Trowbridge would be of benefit to the residents. | |
| 11-17 | Resident | Disagree | Having recently moved into the village, wanting a community feel and that being important for our young family I feel that increasing the size of Trowbridge and the decrease to North Bradley would significantly impact on the feel and community within the village. | |
| 11-18 | Resident | Disagree | North Bradley is a village and should remain so - with the green fields separating us from Trowbridge the school is over subscribed - the roads are already heavy with lorries etc . | |
| 11-19 | Resident | Disagree | we want to remain a village not a offshoot from Trowbridge .no logic or benefit in this proposal to our village, short and long term | this was resolved only recently what compelling reasons are for this review/none!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! |
| 11-20 | Resident | Disagree | We disagree with the proposal, because North Bradley will not be a village anymore, places need identity, Trowbridge is an embarrassment | The extra housing that will be built will clog up the existing roads, as we all know , houses get built first then roads. There is so much land that is just left empty that once had buildings on. All you want to do is just keep shuffling the areas of living. |
| 11-21 | Resident | Disagree | North Bradley's current parish boundary sets the village at the centre helping to achieve it's rural identity. Removing the 'White Horse' and 'Park' areas of the parish would in my opinion be detrimental to the community and nature of the parish. The proposed new boundary is much too close to the dwellings along Woodmarsh and would open the floodgates for development on both areas in question. We haven't yet had the chance to vote on the Neighbourhood Plan, surely this should take first, then this consultation? | The vote on the Neighbourhood plan should take place before this boundary issue is decided. This was due to take place on 19 March and was cancelled due to lockdown. It is a priority that this be rearranged. |
| 11-22 | Resident | Disagree | There is no valid reason for the action this is just a land grab to increase revenue to Trowbridge council I feel | no valid fair reason for this change has been made |
| 11-23 | Resident | Disagree | We will lose the integrity of the village that has been in place since 1894. | Likely increase in crime. Less green space. Loss of community spirit |

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| 11-24 | Resident | Disagree | <p>I am particularly concerned about the 'White Horse Ward' area This area of land to be transferred is important because not only does it contain a significant housing allocation but it also includes land critical to achieving the objective, stated in Wiltshire Core Strategy, of maintaining the current separation of North Bradley from Trowbridge. Wiltshire Core Strategy 5.150 it is recognised that the villages surrounding Trowbridge, particularly Hilperton, Southwick North Bradley and West Ashton, have separate and distinct identities as villages. Open countryside should be maintained to protect the character and identity of these villages as separate communities. The local communities may wish to consider this matter in more detail in any future community-led neighbourhood planning. Currently the settlements are separated not only by open land but also the strong physical boundary markers of the A363 and Drynham Lane. The proposed changes would breach these barriers and effectively make North Bradley and Trowbridge contiguous in respect of built up areas. Consequently, It seems to me that extending the boundary of Trowbridge into North Bradley would clearly undermine the separation objective because once the change takes place the existing open, separating, land would no longer be part of North Bradley village, but part of the built up urban</p> | |
| 11-25 | Resident | Disagree | <p>I strongly disagree with the proposal to reduce the area of the North Bradley parish which has been as it is for over 125 years. At present there is a green belt division between Trowbridge and North Bradley and the proposals would effectively change this, ultimately leading to North Bradley becoming part of Trowbridge. I have lived in North Bradley for 37 years and enjoy the village life and do not wish to see the parish council area reduced in any way.</p> | |
| 11-26 | Resident | Disagree | <p>North Bradley is small enough and close enough to Trowbridge as it is, giving a large chunk of it to Trowbridge Council would lose the village vision and only increase the view that North Bradley is not a village in its own right.</p> | <p>There are plenty of open areas/pieces of land left in trowbridge that can be used for new projects and new housing etc, there is no need to be taking it from a little village.</p> |

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| 11-27 | Resident | Disagree | I am particularly against your proposal at 11.1 as you seem to be undertaking a land grab without strong reasons. In particular the natural boundary in relation to North Bradley and Trowbridge would be the main White Horse Business Park link road. Just because you have plans to build on even more rural land you seem to imply this gives you a reason to take land away from the village community/rural land and life. Your proposal seems to continue to seek to integrate the rural village of North Bradley into the continued urban expansion of Trowbridge whereby rural life and local village community and supporting governance arrangements are diminished/devalued and disrespected. The idea that big brother ie. Trowbridge Town Council knows best should gain and North Bradley as a parish can be reduced/diminished is poor and disrespectful to existing local residents and particularly those who currently live in the rural village and with no choice then live within an urban community. | Seek greater collaboration between the parish council and town council in working together in the future - many people prefer to live in a rural village community and not an urban community - seek to acknowledge and respect local residents views and preferences |
| 11-28 Page 39 | Resident | Disagree | A land grab by Trowbridge Town Council to aid their dire financial position is hardly democratic . | The first hundred houses to be built is such a poor proposal that North Bradley Parish Council are best to deal with it . |
| 11-29 | Resident | Disagree | I am very, very happy with being part of a village community under North Bradley Parish Council and vehemently oppose becoming part of Trowbridge | Exactly what would North Bradley, and Woodmarsh in particular, gain from such a transfer. NOTHING! There is absolutely nothing we would gain so leave us alone! |
| 11-30 | Resident | Disagree | It will cause a loss of the integrity of the village. The loss of approx. 25% of the parish, which has been in it's present shape since 1894, will yet again be responsible for eroding the very core of the existence of village life and what it stands for. I can see no benefits to the residents of the village or the surrounding areas if this proposal was to go through.. | |

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| 11-31 | Resident | Disagree | it is not a requirement that unitary Electoral Divisions align to a parish boundary. The area had been reviewed in 2015/16 and another review was not warranted. The belief that significant development was still anticipated across the area of the ward by 2021 is highly unlikely in my opinion. | |
| 11-32 | Resident | Disagree | Support North Bradley Parish Council in its objections as given in para 69 of the Community Governance Review 2019/20 Draft Recommendations. | |
| 11-33 | Resident | Disagree | The extension of the Trowbridge Town Council boundary will detrimentally the very effective and good local governance of the area by the North Bradley Parish Council. These changes will also damage the identity and community feel within the village. | |
| 11-34 | Resident | Disagree | These areas have been part of NB parish for over 100 years, this is just land gran from the town council due to financial considerations. | The fact that the NB Chapel will remain within NB boundary but the burial ground will be in Trowbridge is a complete nonsense and does not make sense. Several old Rural houses are also being taken - I assume to enable access to any future housing proposals.e |
| 11-35 | Representative | Disagree | It would mean North Bradley Baptist Church would be under North Bradley but our graveyard would be under Trowbridge council. | |
| 11-36 | Resident | Amendment | n considering a parish boundary review the criterion is "To consider whether to do so would reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area, and is effective and convenient for local governance." Consider the "reflect the identities of the Community in that area". Does the proposal reflect the identities of the North Bradley village? I submit that it does not for the reasons given in response to Q46 | The way this document is presented with these single line windows seems to try to restrict the response. I do not believe that you will get a fair response through this method. The Neighbourhood Plan will have to go through a Public Referendum. I believe that the Governance reviews should be subject to the same process. |

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| 11-37 | Business | Disagree | I believe that the Parish, which has existed for we over 100 years best represents the local community. | The proposed area is where there is proposed new development on green fields. This appears to be a way to circumvent the local community's opinions. |
| 11-38 | Resident | Disagree | The Parish Council best represents the local community. | The proposed area is where there is proposed new development on green fields. This appears to be a way to circumvent the local community's opinions. |
| 11-39 | Resident | Disagree | The proposal infers that the North Parish council is unable to effectively manage community identity and interest because of the proposed new development on the site which is to be transferred to Trowbridge. North Bradley manages particularly well with its semi rural status and could easily manage the ward as it is now and participate in the proposed changes which will hugely impact the status of the village. There is no valid reason for change. | In these times of huge difficulties for council finances, it is highly irresponsible for the Councils to be indulging in this unnecessary waste of scarce resources, you have stated that work for 3 addition town councillors will be needed and no doubt clerical support and addition expense to expedite the change.. I understand from the press that Wiltshire is facing a deficit of £51m, and is in danger of effectively going bankrupt without central government help. In the current economic climate, these proposals are akin to re-arranging the deck chairs on the titanic. Please exercise some common sense and use our council taxes effectively, especially now. |

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| 11-40 | Resident | Disagree | <p>We disagree with the Recommendation 11 for the following reasons: 1. North Bradley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NBNP), which has been developed carefully by our Parish Council, with strong representation from residents and elements of the village including several public consultation meetings, has now passed Regulation 16 confirmed by the Minister. Although the final referendum has been postponed due to COVID-19, the NBNP still carries weight and must be considered as operational for matters such as this CGR. 2. The land at Woodmarsh and Elm Grove Farm (H2.1 and H2.2) are already within the NBNP and therefore also in the WHSAP. North Bradley Parish Council is discussing planning for both sites with developers. Therefore the proposed boundary changes transferring White Horse and Park Wards would not help to increase the Trowbridge Town Council supply of housing. 3. Wiltshire Council has stated that because of the existing NBNP any boundary changes resulting from this CGR will NOT be automatic, especially where North Bradley has a plan for sustainable development, which it does. 4. There are no approved plans to build on land in the White Horse or Park Wards areas: this is currently rural land with very little population, and it will be some time before housing could be established there. So there is no justification whatsoever to take</p> | |
| 11-41 | Representative | Disagree | | |
| 11-42 | Resident | Disagree | <p>This parish has existed in its present shape since 1894. Historic villages are important parts of the rural historical and cultural heritage. In a time of increased urbanisation it is important to preserve North Bradleys cultural heritage. The area of land is to be used for and by the community. The boundaries also play an important ecological function in maintaining green areas. Transferring this area signals a desire to develop green areas whilst ignoring the half empty town centre. There are many brown field sites in the town centre near to public transport link and other facilities that are sorely in need of redevelopment and could easily be used for housing, flats, etc. rather than exacerbating the problem with future green field development.</p> | <p>The governance of towns and villages are different entities and transferring this land is not to the benefit of the village residents of North Bradley who chose to live in a village environment rather than a town</p> |

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| 11-43 | Representative | Agree | As the majority of the area will, following proposed development form an extension to the town of Trowbridge it will result in a greater level of community identity and interest and more effective and convenient local governance. | Once the development has been completed on the allocated sites then a further review should take place to ensure that all parts of the town are included in the town boundary including the remainder of Ashton Park and the Hilperton Gap. Also that those areas close to North Bradley village which have not been developed are returned to North Bradley. |
| 11-44 | Resident | Disagree | I strongly disagree with this proposal. Trowbridge made a similar attempt in 2016 which was rejected and nothing has changed. We are five cottages in Drynham Lane one of which is a Grade 2 listed farmhouse. We identify with the parish of North Bradley and have attended Parish Council Meetings, are on first names terms with the councillors there - we would certainly not get this level of support or even interest from Trowbridge Town Council. North Bradley Parish have been looking after the interests of the residents of Drynham Lane since 1894. We have very little to do with Trowbridge - my gym is where I work in Frome, we shop in Westbury or Warminster. Being part of Trowbridge has no benefit for us as residents and I can only consider it as part of another 'land grabbing' attempt by Trowbridge which would completely change the character of the Lane and, indeed, of the village as a whole. If the councilors allow this to happen North Bradley will soon just be assimilated into a large characterless County Town of Wiltshire. Shame on this attempt of Empire Building. Let the character of the Parish of North Bradley remain as a pleasant oasis of calm and tranquility. | This was proposed four years ago and nothing has changed. Drynham Lane is a much loved facility used by dog walkers, cyclists, families, joggers etc. If this space was changed to Trowbridge they would just over develop and completely destroy the charm and character of this little oasis that in fact has become even more popular and treasured during the Covid19 crisis - please leave us this little corner. |

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| 11-45 | Resident | Disagree | I disagree with the recommendation which appears to consider effective and convenient local governance over community identity and interests without any indication as to how a change to the current parish governance to a central authority requires a suppression of any democratic principles in favour of administrative convenience. | |
| 11-46 | Resident | Disagree | I strongly disagree with the proposal as someone who has lived in this village for 20 years and will be directly affected by such changes. We need to protect community identities and these villages have always been part of the local landscape. This is seriously threatened by any absorption into the town. Our boundaries and limited green spaces that separate us from the town must be protected from development to safeguard the community and its identity | Pressure on the local facilities, school and our roads which are already subject to speeding drivers using it as a short cut |
| 11-47 | Resident | Disagree | It is taking away from the village ,increasing traffic and will allow further applications for unsuitable housing | Traffic and loss of village |
| 11-48 | Resident | Disagree | To keep the village a village | |
| 11-49 | Resident | Disagree | North Bradley has had a parish council since 1300. The village has a history and that should remain. The residents of North Bradley do not want to be part of Trowbridge. We chose to live in a village, we love our community and we don't want it destroyed by the town council. People in this parish work hard to keep the villagers happy and protected. | There is a green belt land as a buffer between North Bradley and Trowbridge, this land is the home to animals and wildlife that cannot simply be destroyed. Bats and birds are protected in this country, and removing their homes is a disgusting offence. |
| 11-50 | Interested Party | Disagree | There should be a clear division between Trowbridge Town Council and North Bradley Parish council. Allowing this would muddy the waters | It's a blatant misuse of power by Trowbridge Town Council |
| 11-51 | Resident | Disagree | I support North Bradley Parish Council's objection as outlined in paragraph 69 of the Community Governance Review 2019/2020 Draft Recommendations | |

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| 11-52 | Resident | Disagree | North Bradley boundaries should be respected and maintained. There is no benefit to the village of this proposal, or to the residents affected by it. There is a wonderful rural identity as soon as you walk down Drynham Lane which has been so valuable during lockdown. This should be preserved by keeping the current boundary and rural buffer zone. | The green space available for residents in the area is under threat. Eroding village boundaries will see space that residents desperately need for health and exercise swallowed up. There is no benefit to local people of this change. Does any resident want this? Poor decisions cannot be undone in the future so should be avoided now. |
| 11-53 | Resident | Disagree | This is a land grab attempt by the council so they can build houses and further infrastructure without objections from the village. The North Bradley Neighbourhood plan clearly states that we want to maintain the land gap between the village and Trowbridge. Not to mention the extra traffic, pollution and destruction of the bats that are living in this area. | Volume of traffic generated, danger of the road, speeding, children's lives at risk on a daily basis. |
| 11-54 | Resident | Disagree | Recommendation 11.1 goes completely against the Neighbourhood Plan which is in part designed to keep the village of North Bradley as an entity separate from Trowbridge. | Hiving off part of North Bradley will bring no benefit to the residents of the area concerned which is already well served by the North Bradley Parish Council. |
| 11-55 | Resident | Disagree | I don't believe this reflects the identity and interests of the North Bradley community. The village has a distinctive character that it's managed to retain over the years. This appears to be a land grab by the Town Council to raise more funds from the proposed over-development of the area (20/03641/OUT). I wouldn't object to the Town Council changing the boundaries if an assurance was provided that the land would not be over-developed - keeping a good buffer between town and village. A small amount of affordable housing for young people and those who find it difficult to get onto the housing ladder is acceptable in my view. As a village community we must avoid the coalescence between Trowbridge and North Bradley or the village character will be lost forever. | This contravenes the North Bradley neighbourhood plan and if planning is approved for the proposed development (20/03641/OUT), would also go against the Housing Site Allocation plan. |

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| 11-56 | Resident | Disagree | We disagree with the recommendation. It is important that North Bradley remains a village and keeps its identity and not absorbed into the town of Trowbridge. | We believe if this goes ahead it is the first step for the absorption of North Bradley into Trowbridge completely. |
| 11-57 | Resident | Disagree | I have know North Bradley for over 40 years since my parents retired to this idealic village. I moved to the area 30 years ago & have enjoyed village community life all this time. My 2 children attended the village school. My parents (whilst alive).& I have attended a village church. I am categorically opposed to any change to the village boundaries. Any such change would drastically interfere with the buffer zone between the village & Trowbridge. I would add that it seems extremely heavy-handed for Trowbridge Tons Council to feel that it has the right to override what I feel confident are the wishes of the villagers; ie. to remain an independent village with it's own way of life which is distinctly different from life in the bustling county town. If Trowbridge TC feels in such great need of space to build housing, then there are numerous brown field sites within the existing town boundaries. | The facts that a town is a town; 'a built-up area with a name, defined boundaries, and local government, that is larger than a village and generally smaller than a city.' & a village is a village; 'a group of houses and associated buildings, larger than a hamlet and smaller than a town, situated in a rural area'. I would especially draw attention to the village being a rural area. |
| 11-58 | Resident | Disagree | Disagree | Keep the village as it is. That's what attracted us to move here |

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| 11-59 | Resident | Disagree | <p>I feel that the recommendation is contrary to 'A Community Governance Review must: Reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.' North Bradley residents wish to retain their village identity and not be joined to Trowbridge, which is what will happen if the recommendations are implemented. The village has a long history, from the Domesday Book, of having a separate identity and history from Trowbridge which we wish to retain. It is a friendly area with an effective and hard working Parish Council, good community spirit, very active village halls, beautiful church and popular school.</p> | <p>The recommendations of the Governance Review are very aggressive as, if successful, the consequences for North Bradley are that nearly 25% of our parish will be taken over by Trowbridge Council, our Parish Council will be diminished and our village identity will be lost. I fully understand that Governance Review and the Wiltshire Core Strategy are separate areas. However, I feel that the recommendations of the Governance Review are, by their very nature, inextricably linked to the Wiltshire Core Strategy. At present North Bradley Parish Council and Villagers are making representations and striving to keep a buffer zone of green fields around the village to retain its identity.</p> |
| 11-60 | Resident | Disagree | <p>This recommendation would result in the erosion of a clear defined boundary between North Bradley village and Trowbridge leading to the loss of the village's unique and independent identity. This recommendation would also deny residents of North Bradley control over the future of green spaces - which function as recreational spaces and animal habitats as well as a buffer with the town - immediately bordering their homes. This proposed change is wholly unwanted and opposed by the community</p> | <p>Housing developments proposed relating to this land and the boundary change are incompatible with the North Bradley neighbourhood plan and would cause irreparable loss of green spaces and animal habitats (bats, foxes, rabbits deer and other species can be regularly seen in the areas recommended for transfer)</p> |

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| 11-61 | Resident | Disagree | This development will further erode the very slight gap between Trowbridge and North Bradley and encourage further development of Woodmarsh. | The boundary between Trowbridge and North Bradley would lead to a nonsensical situation where people on opposite sides of the road from each other would live in different places. |
| 11-62 | Resident | Disagree | The plan does not reflect the identity and interests of the community. The 100year parish will be destroyed in its present form after c25% of its area removed. The whole action seems premature as at the moment the sites are not developed and not urban. Although some changes may need to be made, the insistance for transferrance before the May elections appears suspicious. The neighbourhood plan takes into account the need for more housing but this is under discussion and boundary changes do not need to be made now. Some of the oldest parts of the village would be removed and its integrity lost. | The value of neighbourhood plans and area planniing seems to be undermined |

Recommendation 12 - Melksham Merger

12.1 - To NOT recommend a merger of Melksham and Melksham Without parishes

| Reference | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree/Amendment | Reasoning | Additional Comments |
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| 12-01 | Resident | Agree | Decision appears to be in line with the relevant Guidance. | No |
| 12-02 | Resident | Agree | The proposal to merge the 2 councils was an egregious power grab with no concern for the very different requirements of urban versus rural communities. | No |
| 12-03 | Resident | Agree | Why change a tradition when it clearly works. | The two parishes cater for differing socio-economic groups. |
| 12-04 | Resident | Agree | | |
| 12-05 | Resident | Agree | town and country have slightly different requirements. | No |
| 12-06 | Resident | Agree | Bowerhill is its own community and should be classed as such | |
| 12-07 | Resident | Agree | I think our local interests will be better served with separate parishes | None |
| 12-08 | Resident | Agree | Melksham without council offer residents of Bowerhill an excellent service and a lot of support. They are well run and I believe they offer a significantly better service to residents than the Town council do. | They have provided substantial long term support to the community action groups. |
| 12-09 | Resident | Agree | | |
| 12-10 | Resident | Agree | I believe that what has been recommended is correct | |
| 12-11 | Resident | Agree | | |
| 12-12 | Resident | Agree | Governance for the parishioners would not be improved by the proposed merging with the Town | The individual interests of the separate villages, comprising the Melksham Without Parish would be lost within the demands of the Melksham Town wards |
| 12-13 | Resident | Agree | 12.1 I believe that by keeping Melksham and Melksham Without Parishes seperate we will continue to get the excellant service that is already in place than merging the two together which would be detrimental to the smaller Villages. | |
| 12-14 | Resident | Agree | Melksham Without is a community in its own right. It is not Urban but a collection of large and small villages and hamlets. | |
| 12-15 | Resident | Agree | Melksham Without is a community in its own right. It is not Urban but a collection of large and small villages and hamlets. | |
| 12-16 | Resident | Agree | | |
| 12-17 | Resident | Agree | The villages have entirely different needs to the Town | |

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| 12-18 | Resident | Agree | I feel both parishes need to have their own identity and Councillors to represent their individual needs | No |
| 12-19 | Resident | Disagree | I cannot understand the logic of two councils for such a small area and community of people. There are functions which are duplicated, albeit some only part time positions, but by combining both must generate some savings which will be better used providing services. | |
| 12-20 | Resident | Agree | | |
| 12-21 | Resident | Agree | The two councils represent different types of community. By having two organisations where their interest meet, we can get better decision making by having views of both communities. | What we have works reasonably well, I see no advantage in changing to a single authority |
| 12-22 | Resident | Agree | I fully agree with the statement in clause 109 of the recommendations document that both existing parishes are viable and effective entities. Melksham Without PC was the 1st Quality Council in the County in 2003 and continues to be very efficient. Also, as clause 118 states, cooperation between the two parishes is perfectly possible without a merger, just as between any other adjacent parishes in the County. I agree that there would be no governance improvements sufficient to overcome the negative impact for several areas in relation to community identity. A significant area of buffer land remains between Bowerhill and Melksham, albeit reduced, and still also leaves A365 as a dividing factor. Bowerhill has a strong community identity distinct from the town and that identity aligns with other parts of the Melksham Without parish. Given the liabilities and assets of the two parishes, the processes needed to effect a merger could lead to a period of paralysis highly detrimental for the whole area. | A similar merger proposal was rejected by the full Wiltshire Council only in November 2015 and the circumstances are unchanged. Furthermore, no further expansion of the town is projected for the current plan period to 2026. |

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| 12-23 | Resident | Amendment | I previously submitted a detailed case in favour of the 'merger' option. A copy is attached separately. I recognise this case has partially overtaken by events that have occurred during 2020. Hence my suggestion that a decision be deferred for further consideration. | I believe that a number of new factors need to be taken into account in consideration of the Recommendation 12. There are: - (1) the attention of local people have been deflected by other concerns arising from the COVID19 'lock-down' to give proper attention to this consultation - and their ability to ask questions and engage has been severely restricted; (2) the government has announced substantial funding for a by-pass around Melksham, effectively creating a new community boundary incorporating Bowerhil, Berryfield and East of Melksham within the town; (3) a draft Melksham Neighbourhood Plan covering both the Town and Parish communities has been published and is undergoing Regulation 14 consultation; (4) recent experiences arising from COVIS-19 local down has demonstrated the very substantial and significant interdependence between the town and parish communities; (5) the population continues to grow (+30,000) with new applications in the pipeline; (6) Wiltshire Council is undertaking a review of its own Core Strategy. |
| 12-24 | Resident | Agree | To preserve the more rural nature of MWPC. | |
| 12-25 | Representative | Agree | MWPC have provided a comprehensive answer to the previous consultations on this point, and believe that they already provide Effective and Convenient Local Governance" that would be to the detriment, not improvement if the merger took place, as the current model reflects the Community Identity and Interests of the 5 distinct communities in the parish | The two councils work well together on joint projects without being one entity, the joint Neighbourhood Plan, the joint project to develop Shurnhold Fields and the Melksham Community Response offering during Covid-19 are shining examples |
| 12-26 | Resident | Agree | Melksham Without is fine just the way it is and I don't trust the competency of Melksham Parish. | It's completely unnecessary. |
| 12-27 | Resident | Agree | I love in Bowerhill and many residents including myself feel proud of what we have achieved without the need to be merged, and would live to keep it that way. | I don't feel that this is warranted |
| 12-28 | Resident | Agree | I am very happy with recommendation 12.1 Not to merge Melksham and Melksham without Parishes | |
| 12-29 | Resident | Agree | Current organisation works well | |
| 12-30 | Resident | Agree | it is my wish that Melksham Without Council continues as a separate authority | no |
| 12-31 | Resident | Disagree | We are living in a more elderly area and worry that funds available to us now will go to other areas. | |
| 12-32 | Resident | Agree | I want Melksham Without Parishes to remain a separate entity. | No. |

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| 12-33 | Resident | Disagree | Melksham is a single community consisting of 2 neighbouring parishes. Amalgamating the two parishes would make local governance more effective and convenient. Melksham and Melksham without share a common identity. If you ask someone who lives in Melksham Without where they live they will say "Melksham" not 'Melksham Without'. Community facilities are shared regardless of whichever of the two parishes one lives in. | To me, merging the two parishes is common sense. I hope the decision not to merge hasn't be influenced by a campaign run by 'interested parties'. |
| 12-34 | Resident | Agree | Two completely different areas (urban and rural) require a completely different style of management. | No. |
| 12-35 | Resident | Agree | So that local voices can be represented properly. there is a huge cultural difference between the town of Melksham and the surrounding rural communities and villages and they should have fair representation. | |
| 12-36 | Resident | Agree | So that local voices can be represented properly. there is a huge cultural difference between the town of Melksham and the surrounding rural communities and villages and they should have fair representation. | |
| 12-37 | Resident | Agree | Melksham without should remain a separate parish and serve the needs of Melksham without residents | |
| 12-38 | Resident | Agree | Effective and convenient governance exists now. A lot of work is done for the people of Melksham Without, and to combine the two councils would inevitably mean that the interests and needs of the rural community would become secondary. | No |
| 12-39 | Resident | Disagree | As a resident of Melksham Without, I am strongly in favour of merging Melksham Town Council & Melksham Without. To have separate councils is an archaic legacy of the past and is not logical. Melksham has grown significantly over the past 30 years and is a large town with a single identity. Although I live on the outskirts of the town, I certainly identify with living in Melksham where the vast majority of the shops and amenities which I use are located. Having two councils incurs additional costs which in my opinion cannot be justified in the current climate. I fail to see any sensible reason for resisting the proposed merger. | No |

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| 12-40 | Resident | Agree | Melksham Without Parish Council is very supportive of the communities surrounding Melksham, and a larger council including both Melksham Town and Melksham Without areas would be too unwealdy to allow the smaller villages currently in Melksham Without a voice. | |
| 12-41 | Resident | Agree | I agree and would like to thank the council officers for recommending NOT to merge Melksham and Melksham Without Parishes. | No. |
| 12-42 | Resident | Agree | lived here for forty years and believe the current situation has held up and performed well | |
| 12-43 | Resident | Disagree | Unnecersary Financial burden on two councils - ONE named council is better for the community to identify with - aims and objectives under one authority | Future expansion of Melksham will be better served by ONE council - less bureaucracy - consideration in how other small authorities have succeeded in amalgamations |
| 12-44 | Resident | Disagree | I believe the 2 councils should have merged-it would have saved money in my opinion. | no |
| 12-45 | Resident | Agree | I believe that effective and convenient local governance are best met by not merging Melksham and Melksham Without Parishes. I further believe that Melksham Without Parish community identity and interests are best served by not merging these two parishes. | I am most grateful that the proposed recommendation is not to merge these two parishes. |
| 12-46 | Resident | Agree | The current arrangement serves the needs of both Town and Parish residents. | |
| 12-47 | Resident | Agree | | |
| 12-48 | Resident | Agree | Increase costs and loss of local accountability. | |
| 12-49 | Interested Party | Amendment | Disagree that area north of Sandridge Common should be transferred as it is too far from the others transferrable to Melksham East Ward and as such should remain in Melksham Without. | |
| 12-50 | Resident | Disagree | A merger of Melksham and Melksham Without Parishes makes common sense. The geographical boundary is becoming less clear. The needs/services of both are near identical. More cost effective to have the one Council. The identity of one Melksham will be more effective within the County. Yes, merge the two parishes. | |
| 12-51 | Resident | Agree | MWPC focus on many local focus activities, requirements and get results. The bigger the Council the less likely of activities they currently address will be tackled. MWPC are very good and a credit, whilst the bigger Wiltshire Council cover "bigger" matters also successfully - thus we have a good set up. Don't change what's working. | |
| 12-52 | Resident | Agree | | |

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| 12-53 | Resident | Agree | Melksham Without has different characteristics and rural communities from the urban town there is no affinity between the two, and there are natural and manmade barriers/definitions between the two. | |
| 12-54 | Resident | Agree | Melksham Without has different characteristics and rural communities from the urban town there is no affinity between the two, and there are natural and manmade barriers/definitions between the two. | |
| 12-55 | Resident | Agree | We feel that a merger would have inevitably lead to a conflict of interests and that the voice of our parish council would no longer have been heard, because urban town councils have different minorities. It is significant that the proposed merger was put forward by the town council who recommended a central community hub. In our opinion, this would have been incompatible with community interests as a whole and the effect would have been that of a takeover, rather than a merger. | We consider that we are currently very well served by our parish council and that the proposed merger would have nrough not advantages but a genuine risk of being swallowed up in a larger authority. |
| 12-56 | Resident | Disagree | | |
| 12-57 | Resident | Agree | The villages around Melksham should retain their individual identities and rural feel without being absorbed by the town. | No |
| 12-58 | Resident | Agree | It is more efficient to keep the area around Melksham with its own local governance. They do a magnificent job for us and I wish to keep them looking after our community's interests. | |
| 12-59 | Resident | Agree | Better support for the residents in these parishes | none |
| 12-60 | Resident | Agree | I don't want to merge with melksham, shaw is a separate village | No |
| 12-61 | Resident | Agree | I don't want to meet with Melksham, Shaw is a separate village | |
| 12-62 | Resident | Disagree | Melksham Parish Council does not even have elections [unclear word] [unclear word] [unclear word] on planning | Stronger Council, Melksham Town Council cannot expand - more administration saving, land to expand into, housing/jobs. let people have their say at local elections by voting for it. |
| 12-63 | Resident | Agree | In my experience of chairing a Parish Council for many years, the more remote the decision makers the more difficult it is to get effective action for local issues. This gets with the propose formation of a Residents Association for the SN12 7GB area. | The rapid increase in building in the Melksham Without Parish |
| 12-64 | Resident | Agree | My sisters live on Bowerhill and I know they do not want Bowerhill to be looked after by the Town Council. Melksham Without will do an excellent job. | |

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| 12-65 | Resident | Agree | It would make the ward too big, and that if recommendation 13- 13.1 - 13.2 - 13.3 - 13.4 and 13.5 went ahead | |
| 12-66 | Resident | Agree | Because I believe that staying as an individual parish will be better to stay on its own and not with Melksham Town Council | |
| 12-67 | Resident | Disagree | It best to keep things individual | |
| 12-68 | Resident | Agree | I agree with the arguments put forward in the Draft Recommendations that Melksham Without should maintain its own identity. | |
| 12-69 | Resident | Agree | I wish Bowerhill to remain a separate community from Melksham. | No |
| 12-70 | Resident | Agree | I wish Bowerhill to remain a separate community from Melksham. | No |
| 12-71 | Resident | Agree | I agree with the decision because the two entities cover quite different areas, one is urban whilst Melksham Without Parishes cover non urban areas. The local councilors for Melksham Without Parishes know their local residents concerns and are best placed to deal with any such matters as they arise, both now and in the future. | |
| 12-72 | Resident | Agree | I agree that we should not merge as the emphasis of decisions would be led by the town centre needs and requirements | Maybe you should consider using the A350 as a natural demarcation line and align us within the proposed new Shaw and Whitley ward |
| 12-73 | Resident | Agree | Two parishes work well now and more likely to be effective continuing unchanged. | |
| 12-74 | Resident | Agree | Melksham & the surrounding villages often have different needs & priorities. A merger would therefore be detrimental to the villages with the probability that Melksham's needs being prioritised. | It would be desirable to keep clear spaces between the town & villages to ensure clear demarcation & ensure seerate identities are upheld. |

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|-------|----------|-------|--|--|
| 12-75 | Resident | Agree | I beleive it is vital for areas such as Melksham Without to maintain its separate identity from that of the Town area, in order to preserve the integrity, independence and more rural aspect. The individual characters of these areas cannot be well represented by any Council which is dictated by more 'Town centred issues and indeed would be the main focus of their work.The creation of one large 'Melksham Area Unitary Council' would see all the diversity we have around us merging into one great URBAN SPRAWL which benefits no one. Melksham Without Parish Council need to be able to move on now with their very good work, with certainty that this matter has been addressed once and for all, not with the uncertainty of mergers snapping at their heels. Needless to say I fully support the recommendation NOT to merge. My thanks Robert Palin | I think my above comments cover this as well |
| 12-76 | Resident | Agree | The current arrangements for the parishes provide effective local governance and certainly give clear community identity and look after the residents' interest so why change what effective. | |
| 12-77 | Resident | Agree | Melksham Without parish Council continue to work hard for the smaller areas of Melksham as well as working with Melksham Town Council. I agree that the merger should NOT take place. | |
| 12-78 | Resident | Agree | I believe that by retaining the two Councils a greater degree of scrutiny is maintained over proposals that affect both communities. | |
| 12-79 | Resident | Agree | I agree with the recommendation not to merge the Melksham town council with the parish councils of Melksham Without. I live in Berryfield, which has its own identity and community, with village hall facilities currently being developed for the villagers of Berryfield. I would not wish to see the Melksham Without civil parishes lose their individual identities by being merged into an urban mass, the overseeing of which would not understand the nuances of each of those outlying parishes and their more rural nature and requirements | Melksham town is expanding, but to join together all of the parishes with the town would be to take away the individuality of each outlying, mostly more rural area. In the end Melksham would be one homogenous mass of residents and housing, losing the interesting geography and history that make it what it is. Wiltshire is quite a unique county in having small market towns surrounded by semi-rural villages. Once that identity was lost, it couldn't be restored. |

| | | | | |
|-------|----------|-------|--|--|
| 12-80 | Resident | Agree | It is quite correct that both existing parishes are viable and effective entities. Cooperation between them can continue without any need for a merger. There would be no improvement in Local Governance or Community Identity for the rural villages if part of a large merged council. The villages have more in common with each other and surrounding places than with the town. Any merger process would undoubtedly be complex and give rise to a period of instability due to conflicting requirements to the detriment of the whole area. | |
| 12-81 | Resident | Agree | There is no advantage to being merged with Melksham Town Council. Melksham Without Parish Council do a very good job of looking after the villages involved. | |
| 12-82 | Resident | Agree | The various communities within Melksham Without Parish Council have their own identities, with the Parish Council having the interests of its residents at its core, looking after the interests of its residents effectively. | |

Recommendation 13 - Melksham Without

13.1 -That the area of the Hunters Wood Ward be transferred to the parish of Melksham as part of the Melksham East Ward.

13.2 - That the area known as the 'Land north of Sandridge Common' as shown above be transferred to the parish of Melksham as part of the Melksham East ward.

13.3 - That the Melksham East Ward continue to contain four town councillors.

13.4 -To request that the LGBCE amend the Melksham East Division to be coterminous with the proposed revised Melksham East Ward.

13.5 - That the Beanacre, Shaw and Whitley Ward be increased to four parish councillors, and be renamed Beanacre, Shaw, Whitley and Blackmore.

| Reference | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree/Amendment | Amendment Detail | Reasoning | Additional Comments |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--|
| 13-01 | Resident | Agree | | Decision appears to be in line with the relevant Guidance. | None |
| 13-02 | Resident | Agree | | These are evolutionary and incremental changes to reflect reality and therefore sensible. | No |
| 13-03 | Resident | Agree | | It makes sense that the newly built-up areas on the edge of town become part of the town governed by the Town Council. | No. |
| 13-04 | Resident | Amendment | That 13.2 be revisited as remaining within the perview of Melksham Without | N/A | N/A |
| 13-05 | Resident | Disagree | | I believe that transferring Land north of Sandridge common to Melksham parish would mean building more houses | |
| 13-06 | Resident | Agree | | Too many parishes results in more disagreement. | No |
| 13-07 | Representative | Agree | | | |
| 13-08 | Resident | Agree | | One more councillor should allow more aspects of any local issue to be considered without making decision making more difficult. | No |
| 13-09 | Interested Party | Agree | | These areas fall more easily within the boundary for the Melksham Town Council and are viewed by residents as being part of the Town. | The Town Council will benefit from the additional income generated |
| 13-10 | Interested Party | Disagree | | I DO NOT agree Recommendation 13.5. I believe adding an additional parish councillor will involve additional council tax costs for the councillor, support and infrastructure required. To the best of my knowledge, there has not been a substantial increase in the population or infrastructure in these areas so I question the need for more bureaucracy | |
| 13-11 | Resident | Agree | | | |
| 13-12 | Resident | Agree | | Shaw & Whitley are rural villages and it is fine grouped in with Beanacre and Blackmore. | no |
| 13-13 | Representative | Agree | | The housing areas involved fit much better with the Town. | |
| 13-14 | Resident | Disagree | | I believe the recommendation would cause an unnatural balance within the area | |
| 13-15 | Interested Party | Agree | | | |

| | | | | | |
|-------|------------------|-----------|--|---|--|
| 13-16 | Resident | Agree | | The proposals seem a reasonable manner in which to proceed i view of the ever expanding township and firm boundary idetification | For consideration Recommendation 13.5 the combination of Blackstock with Beanacre, Shaw and Whitley Should be renamed as Beanacre, Blackstock , Shaw and Whitley |
| 13-17 | Resident | Agree | | I agree that the proposals in question would be better suited if changed to the recommendations. | |
| 13-18 | Interested Party | Amendment | | Disagree that area north of Sandridge Common should be transferred as it is too far from the others transferrable to Melksham East Ward and as such should remain in Melksham Without | |
| 13-19 | Resident | Agree | | As Melksham develops and expands the proposals are practical and make sense. | |
| 13-20 | Resident | Agree | | | |
| 13-21 | Resident | Agree | | Melksham Without has different characteristics and rural communities from the urban town there is no affinity between the two, and there are natural and manmade barriers/definitions between the two. | |
| 13-22 | Resident | Agree | | Melksham Without has different characteristics and rural communities from the urban town there is no affinity between the two, and there are natural and manmade barriers/definitions between the two. | |
| 13-23 | Resident | Disagree | | This is areas of natural beauty and should remain as it is for the enjoyment of the residents and visitors to Melksham, | |
| 13-24 | Resident | Agree | | These parts are contiguous with the town and are not a true part of the rural area around Melksham. | |
| 13-25 | Resident | Agree | | These parts are contiguous with the town and are not a true part of the rural area around Melksham. | |
| 13-26 | Resident | Agree | | | |
| 13-27 | Resident | Agree | | I live in a village setting and believe I should be represented by like minded Councillors. | |
| 13-28 | Resident | Agree | | That Shaw Whitley and Beanacre and Blackmore remains separate from Melksham | |
| 13-29 | Resident | Agree | | The primary reason for responding here is to fully support the decision NOT to transfer Giles Wood (and the BRAG picnic area) from Seend into Melksham. | |
| 13-30 | Interested Party | Agree | | Believe it to be best for the areas in question | No |
| 13-31 | Resident | Disagree | | Continual adjustments to wards, transfer from Melksham Without to Melksham Town, will be on-going with all the new developments and adoption of Recommendation 12 with an appropriate number of councillors would be a more logical, efficient solution. si | |

| | | | | | |
|-------|------------------|----------|--|--|---|
| 13-32 | Resident | Disagree | | | |
| 13-33 | Resident | Agree | | These changes morfe effectively differentiate the features of the two communities, | |
| 13-34 | Interested Party | Agree | | 13.1 I agree with reasons given in clause 125 of the recommendations document that the new development in the Hunters Wood ward should be transferred to Melksham town parish. It is clearly an expansion of the urban area of the town itself. 13.2 The area known as the 'Land north of Sandridge Common' comprises the new development of 'Sandridge Place' and is also an extension of the town urban area and should be part of Melksham town parish. I agree that it fits best with the adjacent developments in the East division, but it could alternatively be placed in the Forest division. 13.4 I fully support requesting the LGBCE to amend the unitary division boundaries to include this area in a Melksham Town division. Community identity should over-ride arbitrary variances in electorate numbers. 13.5 The LGBCE determined that Melksham Without PC should continue to have 13 members and the Bowerhill division should be a parish ward represented by 7 members. This allows for the addition of the eastern part of the old Blackmore ward. If the Hunters Wood ward is transferred from the parish, then it is appropriate that the councillor seat should be added to the 'northern' ward to take account of the addition of the western part of the old Blackmore ward. The proposed ward name is entirely appropriate. | The Core Strategy to 2026 and the draft Melksham Neighbourhood Plan do not suggest any further expansion of the town into the rural parish. |
| 13-35 | Resident | Agree | | With so many houses we have being built, there is a good need to change the wards to bring them up to date with amount of housing we now have | |
| 13-36 | Resident | Agree | | | |
| 13-37 | Interested Party | Agree | | The new developments in 13.1 and 13.2 are clearly both extensions of the urban area and should be intergrated into the town itself, just as other areas of expansion have been in the past. | As there is no further expansion of the town suggested up to 2026, this boundary revision will suffice for some considerable time. |
| 13-38 | Resident | Disagree | | I believe that both Melksham Town and Melksham Parish Councils should be abolished and a new integrated Melksham Council should be created. | The various issues described in answer to Recommendation 12 also apply here. |
| 13-39 | Interested Party | Agree | | It makes sense for these developments to be part of Melksham Town | |

| | | | | | |
|-------|----------------|-------|--|--|--|
| 13-40 | Representative | Agree | | MWPC have already submitted a comprehensive proposal for 13.1 and 13.2 as have Wiltshire Council, and MTC concur. MWPC recognise where new developments sit better in the urban context of the town parish and therefore have recommended this change to reflect the Community Identity and Interests of the new development sitting better in town than with the rural villages | |
| 13-41 | Resident | Agree | | | |

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| Ref | Date Received | Sender | Recommendation | Summary |
|-----|---------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---|
| 1 | 07/04/20 | Melksham Without Parish Council | 13 | Withdrawing a proposal from the pre-consultation survey |
| 2 | 16/04/20 | West Ashton Parish Council | CGR | Letter from parish on CGR process, and letter in response, and objections to pre-consultation survey proposal |
| 3 | 19/05/20 | Local resident | 11 | Objecting to a proposal included in the pre-consultation survey |
| 4 | 08/06/20 | Cllr Christine Crisp | 9 | Supports recommendation |
| 5 | 15/06/20 | Calne Without Parish Council | 9,10 | Supports recommendations |
| 6 | 19/06/20 | Local resident | 11 | Opposes recommendation |
| 7 | 26/06/20 | Local resident | 11 | Opposes recommendation |
| 8 | 02/07/20 | Local resident | 4 | Email from local resident to Spatial Planning, with response |
| 9 | 03/07/20 | Local resident | 4 | Related to 08 - Email from local resident to Spatial Planning, with response |
| 10 | 25/06/20 | Local resident | 4 | In response to letter from council, also attached, opposed to recommendation and questioning process |
| 11 | 02/07/20 | North Bradley Parish Council | 11 | Letter from solicitors for parish council, opposing recommendation |
| 12 | 27/06/20 | Local resident | 11 | Opposes recommendation |
| 13 | 03/07/20 | Local resident | 4 | Related to 08 and 09 - Email from local resident to Spatial Planning, with response |
| 14 | 03/07/20 | Local resident | 11 | Opposes recommendation |
| 15 | 06/07/20 | Local resident | 4 | Related to 08, 09 and 13 - Opposes recommendation |
| 16 | 06/07/20 | Local resident | 11 | Opposes recommendation |
| 17 | 06/07/20 | Local resident | 4 | Opposes recommendation |
| 18 | 06/07/20 | Local resident | 4 | Opposes recommendation |
| 19 | 06/07/20 | Local resident | 4 | Related to 10 - Opposes recommendation and draws attention to what they believe is an error in the draft recommendations document |
| 20 | 08/07/20 | Local resident | 11 | Opposes recommendation |
| 21 | 09/07/20 | Wilcot Parish Council | 7,8 | Supports recommendations |

| | | | | |
|----|----------|---|------------|---|
| 22 | 09/07/20 | Local resident | 11 | Opposes recommendation |
| 23 | 09/07/20 | Local resident | 24 | Requests deferment, and includes previous submission for alternative merger option |
| 24 | 09/07/20 | Petition Organiser | 9 | Comments on recommendation, including reference to responses to pre-consultation survey, and potential options for future division of Calne Without |
| 25 | 09/07/20 | Manningford and Woodborough Parish Councils | 5 | Supports recommendations, with clarification to exact boundary line along the roads |
| 26 | 10/07/20 | North Bradley Parish Council | 11 | Opposes recommendation |
| 27 | 10/07/20 | Dr Andrew Murrison MP | 11 | Responding to comments at 26, opposes recommendation |
| 28 | 10/07/20 | Melksham Without Parish Council | 13 | Clarifying position |
| 29 | 06/07/20 | Local resident | 11 | Opposes recommendation |
| 30 | 08/07/20 | Local resident | 11 | Opposes recommendation |
| 31 | 10/07/20 | Local residents | 11 | Opposes recommendation (12 signatures) |
| 32 | 10/07/20 | Local resident | 11 | Opposes recommendation |
| 33 | 17/06/20 | Local resident | 11 | Opposes recommendation |
| 34 | 17/07/20 | Interested Party | CGR and 11 | Comments on CGR process including consideration of alternative proposals, and supporting Parish Council at 26 |
| 35 | 24/07/20 | Local resident | 11 | Opposes recommendation |
| 36 | 28/07/20 | Interested Party | 11 | Opposes recommendation |

From: Teresa Strange
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL REQUEST TO WITHDRAW THEIR PROPOSAL FOR Community Governance Review- Scheme 11 SEEND
Date: 07 April 2020 10:13:41

Dear Colleagues

Melksham Without Parish Council met on 9th March 2020 and resolved to withdraw their proposal for Scheme 11 Seend under the CGR process. Please take this email as formal notification of that intention.

I apologise for the delay in passing this information on to you... the unprecedented events of recent weeks has meant that the MWPC Officers' attention has been concentrated on community support and we are only now catching up on parish council business.

Keep safe!

Kind regards,

Teresa

Teresa Strange

Clerk

Melksham Without Parish Council

[REDACTED] (Please ring as texts will not be received as this is diverted to a staff member's 'phone)

From: Teresa Strange
Sent: 11 February 2020 13:14
To: Sue Bond [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL REQUEST TO AMEND THEIR PROPOSAL FOR Community Governance Review- Scheme 11 SEEND (remove Giles Wood)

To: Seend Parish Council
CC: Pauline Helps, Secretary, BRAG
Wilts Cllr Jonathan Seed, Summerham and Seend
Wilts Cllr Nick Holder, Melksham Without South
Wilts Cllr Richard Clewer, Chair, Electoral Review Committee
Community Governance Review officers
Cllr Alan Baines, MWPC

Dear Sue

Melksham Without Parish Council met last night and approved the request of BRAG (Bowerhill Residents Action Group) to remove Giles Wood from their Community Governance Request to move the boundary between Seend and Melksham Without (see attached).

By copy of this email we have also informed the CGR team at Wiltshire Council and the relevant Wiltshire Councillors.

Melksham Without Parish Council would very much like to meet with yourselves to discuss

where the boundary line between Giles Wood and the Bridleway to the picnic area could be redrawn..... perhaps with Cllr Seed and the landowners too if appropriate (from MWPC it would be myself and Cllr Alan Baines). We hope that Seend Parish Council will be amenable to this revised request to Scheme 11.

We look forward to hearing from you.....

With kind regards,
Teresa

Teresa Strange
Clerk
Melksham Without Parish Council
Sports Pavilion
Westinghouse Way
Bowerhill, Melksham
Wiltshire, SN12 6TL
01225 705700
clerk@melkshamwithout.co.uk
www.melkshamwithout.co.uk

Want to keep in touch?

Follow us on facebook: Melksham Without Parish Council or Teresa Strange (Clerk) for additional community news

On twitter: @melkshamwithout

On Instagram: melkshamwithoutpc

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-----Original Message-----

From: Pauline Helps [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 January 2020 11:42
To: Teresa Strange <clerk@melkshamwithout.co.uk>
Subject: Community Governance Review- Scheme 11

Hi Teresa

BRAG had their meeting last night and it was agreed that I send the PC a formal letter to ask them to consider a revised proposal to Scheme 11.

This is attached for consideration. I'll write again with other issues arising from the meeting once I have written out the minutes!

Have a good weekend

Regards

Pauline

West Ashton Parish Council



Please reply to the Clerk – Mrs C Hackett, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] email: westashtonpc@outlook.com

Email:

philip.whitehead@wiltshire.gov.uk

16th April 2020

Dear Mr Whitehead,

Ref: Community Governance Review

I refer you to the decision notification on Tuesday the 7th April that the government added paragraph 107 to the Planning Practice Guidance which sets out changes that have been introduced to neighbourhood planning in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The key message is that neighbourhood planning can continue, including consultations subject to compliance with current guidance on isolating. Paragraph: 107 Reference ID: 41-107-20200407 - Revision date: 07 04 2020. All referendum(s) for neighbourhood plans cannot take place until 6th May 2021.

Similarly the Community Governance Review relies on consultation and representation at public meetings, which clearly also should be curtailed because of the COV-19 pandemic and central government guidelines to “Stay at Home” except for essential defined needs.

It therefore seems perfectly reasonable to postpone the Community Governance Review (CGR); it does not make sense to go ahead with the CGR when it is impossible to hold proper consultation meetings with the parish councils, electors and other interested parties when they are unable to make representations. In the Trowbridge area there are three parishes affected by the CGR: North Bradley; Southwick and West Ashton, all would lose large areas of their parishes if the proposals by Trowbridge Town Council are carried through without any opportunity to make a robust case for no change at this time.

I would draw your attention to the letter sent to Wiltshire Council by the solicitors “Thrings” ref: FMQ/W7289-1 on behalf of the three parishes mentioned above that in summary states:-

- The proposed changes are fundamentally premature. Trowbridge Town Council relies on a proposed urban extension and a number of housing allocations to demonstrate a need for a boundary change. Whilst it may be the intention for an urban extension to be delivered, and for housing to be brought forwards on other allocated sites, this is simply at too early a stage for it to form the basis of a boundary change. There is no current justification in terms of size or population to justify severing this land from its current community. Indeed, only schemes 15 and 17 show any substantive change to the predicted population numbers of the areas in question.
- West Ashton is now making progress with its neighbourhood plan, despite the delays caused by the internal issues of Wiltshire Council, and this would largely be undone by the proposed changes.

It is only a few years since the last CGR was carried through and the parishes lost significant land to Trowbridge Town Council and who are now after yet more land even though in the case of West Ashton’s loss there has been no progress on the “Land West of Biss Farm”, formally given planning permission in 1999 for employment. There is very little likelihood of Ashton Park commencing before

West Ashton Parish Council



Please reply to the Clerk – Mrs C Hackett, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] email: westashtonpc@outlook.com

2025! Therefore any change now, which is opposed by the three parishes, would be premature and grossly unfair in the current pandemic situation and a good reason for an appeal to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Some final points:-

1. Who benefits from the increase in revenues in TTC?
2. The Land West of Biss Farm has had planning permission since 1999 – Persimmon has yet to build on it – It was formally intended to be a business park.
3. Is Ashton Park simply a Persimmon Land Bank?
4. House building rates are only reported as some 120 per year again making any change very premature and will have no effect electoral numbers.
5. In the light of “2” above - What chance is there of a business park ever being built on the proposed West Ashton site in Ashton Park? Indeed, persimmon have now been discussing with planning a change from employment/business to residential.
6. Wiltshire Council’s track record is not good based on the last CGR decision that went against the recommendations of the working group

There is no practical reason why any parish boundary changes are needed or indeed necessary at this time.

West Ashton is opposed to this wholesale land grab by Trowbridge Town Council that is founded entirely in their financial gain.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Covington
Chairman West Ashton Parish Council

Cc:
richard.clewer@wiltshire.gov.uk
andrew.murrison.mp@parliament.uk
[REDACTED]

Cabinet Office
Wiltshire Council
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN
CGR@wiltshire.gov.uk

29 April 2020

Dear Cllr Covington,

Thank you for your letter to the Leader of the Council dated 16 April 2020 requesting details of the ongoing Community Governance Review. As Chairman of the Electoral Review Committee I have been asked to respond.

Community Governance Reviews are conducted under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and taking account of statutory guidance prepared by the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

There is a requirement that Wiltshire Council consult appropriately on any draft recommendations that it has prepared, but the method and timing of that consultation is not set out in statute or by the guidance.

For the 2019/20 Community Governance Review the Council through its Electoral Review Committee has undertaken significant levels of engagement and pre-consultation with parishes, interested parties and the public beyond merely consulting upon any draft recommendations.

This has included early engagement with parishes on submitted proposals prior to the commencement of the review, individual sessions with potentially affected parish councils and unitary councillors from potentially affected areas, public meetings on submitted proposals, regular briefing notes circulated to parish councils, an online survey and a physical survey sent to those resident in areas potentially subject to change.

In that context, in which parish councils, electors and other interested parties have had multiple opportunities to make representations on possible options, the Committee believes it is reasonable to proceed with the Community Governance Review process. In particular it notes that a decision would need to be made this year for changes to take effect for the next unitary and parish elections in May 2021. A failure to do so in some cases would in the view of the Committee be detrimental to effective and convenient local governance and/or community identity or interests, and therefore the resolution of this has been determined to be an essential need for some areas.

Further to its meeting on 24 March 2020 at which it formulated its draft recommendations, it is therefore the intention of the Committee to undertake appropriate consultation on an adjusted timetable, taking into account the impact of the current Covid-19 situation.

Presently, it is intended a consultation will take place from 15 May to at least 10 July 2020. This will be by way of briefing notes, press releases, online survey and physical surveys. It should be noted that it is not a requirement of the Act or the Guidance to hold public

meetings or to physically write to those potentially affected, so long as consultation is appropriate. It is therefore not the case that parties would be unable to make representations.

However, the Committee has directed that those who reside in an area should receive a physical communication, which even during the present situation they would be able to respond to with physical mail during their daily exercise or essential activities.

In relation to public meetings, the Committee is keen to hold these if possible whilst still feeling it necessary for a decision to be made by Full Council in September 2020 in order for any changes to take effect for the 2021 elections for reasons as stated above. This is one reason why the consultation period has been pushed back and extended, so that should public restrictions be relaxed to some degree for June, July, or even August, public meetings could be held. If this proves possible, the Council will communicate this with parishes and in briefing notes and press releases, and advise electors resident in potentially affected areas to be alert to the possibility public meetings may be arranged and advertised in such a manner, including potentially extending further the consultation period if possible. Some form of streamed meetings relevant to specific areas may also be possible.

In relation to other points in your letter in opposition to proposals from Trowbridge Town Council, these will be recorded as a representation for future consideration by the Committee. For information, the Committee has not included in its draft recommendations that there be any changes to the governance arrangements of West Ashton.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Richard Clewer
Chairman of the Electoral Review Committee

Item 3

Further to our earlier telephone conversation about this proposal thank you for your update.

This is just to record my support for Wiltshire Council's decision to REJECT the proposal to move the area including Church Lane, Oldbrick Fields and The Nestings out of Trowbridge and into Southwick.

As I said on the phone residents of this area head south down Firs Hill (A361) past Southwick Country Park and eventually pass the sign 'welcome to Southwick'. These roads are part of Trowbridge on the north side of the green belt, while Southwick lies to the south of it. I could see no sense in the Southwick proposal.

Best regards, S W

8 June 2020

I support the Committee's proposal to reject this application and expressed my views in an email in February, which I attach herewith. I have not changed my view and hope that the Committee will continue to favour rejection of this proposal

Sincerely

Christine

To the Electoral Review Committee

11 February 2020

THE PROPOSAL TO SPLIT DERRY HILL AND STUDLEY FROM CALNE WITHOUT PARISH

I have represented Calne Rural Division since 2009 and the greater part of Calne Without Parish falls within my Division. Various boundary changes over the years have meant that I have represented all areas of Calne Without Parish at one time or another since election to Wiltshire County Council in 1997 and also all the villages surrounding Calne and even parts of the town itself.

I do not support the proposal to make a separate parish of Derry Hill and Studley that is currently on the table. Whilst Derry Hill and Studley would probably be quite self-sufficient as a parish council, I believe the effect on the remaining hamlets would be extremely detrimental. Hardly any of them possess any public meeting places at all. It is true there are the George Inn at Sandy Lane, the Wellington Barn at Calstone, and the Blacklands Leisure Club, but all these are private property.

The register MT2 for Middle Ward Part 2 covers Chilvester Hill (26 electors) on the edge of Calne, the hamlets of Fishers Brook (25 electors), a couple of miles away and Ratford (23 electors) a couple of miles away from both the above. Also on the register is the hamlet of Mile Elm (40 electors) which is on the opposite side of Calne from the above. Also on this register at present is Cherhill Way which is part of the new development which is adjacent to Calne Town and which will become part of the town shortly.

Calne Without Parish is named for the fact that it surrounds Calne Town and it is true that some of the hamlets and villages are remote from one another. Being the largest settlement by far, the parish has managed to be cohesive by focussing on Derry Hill and Studley as the centre for recreation and schooling. If this centre were removed, the outlying settlements would struggle. Should the petitioners be allowed to have their way, I believe the future for the representation of these settlements would be bleak. If it were felt that this was the way forward, I feel a more large-scale upheaval would be necessary. For example, Ratford might be successfully incorporated into Bremhill parish. Chilvester Hill and Lower Compton might be incorporated into Calne town, although there might be some strong objections to that! When the proposal to ally Stockley with Heddington was made at Heddington Parish Council meeting by the instigator of the petition, the response was not favourable – in spite of the names always being coupled by the Heddington and Stockley Steam Rally! Compton Bassett has a successful parish council with only 177 electors, but they have a church, pub and village hall. Lower Compton and Calstone (East Ward Part 1) have 577 electors, but no pub and no hall.

I would urge members to consider that a move to split up Calne Without Parish into smaller groups would require a great deal more thought and planning than has been given to the current proposal. If there are any further questions the Committee might wish to put to me, I will be delighted to answer them.

Christine Crisp

Wiltshire Councillor for Calne Rural Division

Calne Without Parish Council

Email: clerk@calnewwithout-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Richard Clewer
Chairman of the Electoral Review Committee

15th June 2020

By email: CGR@wiltshire.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Clewer,

Community Governance Review 2019/20 – Consultation on Draft Recommendations

Calne Without Parish Council considered the Electoral Review Committee's recommendations at its meeting on the 8th June 2020 and agreed the following unanimous response.

1. In supporting Wiltshire Council's Electoral Review Committee's draft Recommendation 9, the Parish Council acknowledges that the Electoral Review Committee recognised compelling evidence and support for a new Parish Council for Derry Hill and Studley but that it also saw the need to consider this more broadly in the context of the remainder of Calne Without Parish, the adjacent Parishes and requests for change from Calne Town Council as soon as practicable.
2. In respect of Recommendation 10 the Parish Council supports the recommendation.

I would be grateful if you would keep me informed of progress on this matter and any prospective dates for Council meetings so that I can keep Councillors informed.

Yours sincerely,

S Glen

Sarah Glen
Clerk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 June 2020 11:16
To: Clewer, Richard <Richard.Clewer@wiltshire.gov.uk>
Subject: White Horse and Park Wards

We strongly object to Trowbridge Council taking over these wards

Regards [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 June 2020 13:22
To: Whitehead, Philip <Philip.Whitehead@wiltshire.gov.uk>
Subject: LAND GRAB

Dear Sir, ref Trowbridge Town Council's proposed boundary changes

My husband and I live in the parish of North Bradley and have done so for a long time. Over the years we have very much enjoyed being part of village life, as we have found it to be a very active community. We are therefore very much opposed to plans to take part of this land. If Trowbridge council is allowed to annex part of our village, you will be destroying part of this enjoyment.

There is also the likelihood of more land grab in future, even if a false promises to the contrary are given .

-We would also like it to be noted that the building of a large number of properties, which include a care ho-me would be better placed on land housing derelict properties in the Town

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

█

Thank you for your email. We understand your concerns, however the references in the Draft Governance Review Recommendations Report are correct as they reflect development that is due to take place in the area. The proposed changes for Showell refer to the proposed development in the adopted Chippenham Site Allocations Plan Policy CH1 South West Chippenham Allocation which includes built development such as housing, employment and community facilities as well as a Country Park. This can be viewed at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/csap-adopt-adopted-may-2017..pdf> (Page 30/31) The site does now have outline planning permissions and reserved matters applications with further details have been and are in the process of being submitted, so this will lead to the sites being developed and built out and will lead to some of the area being more urban in nature.

Regards
Louise

Louise Tilsed
Senior Planning Officer
Spatial Planning Team
Wiltshire Council
█

From: █
Sent: 01 July 2020 14:46
To: Spatial Planning Policy <SpatialPlanningPolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk>
Cc: █
Subject: CGR : Scheme 4 Lacock
Importance: High

Dear Sir/Madam

I note from your web page that the *“Spatial Planning Service carries out research and develops the policies that plan for physical, social and economic development in Wiltshire. Mindful of the necessity to protect and enhance our built and natural environment, the spatial planning service works with local communities to deliver change while protecting our heritage for future generations.”* Therefore it is on that note that I believe you may be able to help with a CGR deadline of 10th July 2020.

I represent nine households in Rowden Hamlet, which are currently represented by Lacock Parish Council. With the ongoing Community Governance Review (CGR), Scheme 4 Lacock, there is a significant risk that this rural hamlet which is a World Heritage site with historic records dating back to Lacock in the 13th Century could be transferred to Chippenham Town Council. This transfer is based on an error in the draft recommendations, omitting that Rowden Hamlet is in the heart of the countryside, in a Conservation Area. We have outlined the error below:

The CGR draft recommendations document states that, *“Whilst the areas in question were largely undeveloped at the present time, significant development was projected and the characteristics of the areas would be urban, not rural such as was the case with the remainder of Lacock and Langley Burrell Without parishes, as the parish councils themselves had noted. As a result, though comments including a petition from local residents in the Showell ward had been received emphasising*

community connections with Lacock in that case, the Committee considered that the developing position of the area was such that it would increasingly be more appropriate for it to be transferred within the town boundary.”

Whilst this makes reference to the petitions submitted by the residents, it is incorrect to state in the case of Rowden Hamlet that the characteristics of the areas would be urban, since it will remain rural in nature owing to its position in a Conservation Area and at the centre of what is to become Rowden Country Park. If uncorrected, this error could lead to the committee making the wrong decision regarding Rowden Hamlet.

The oversight of the removal of the hamlet from Lacock Parish impacts the local heritage for generations to come and, as such, needs urgent consideration ahead of the CGR deadline of 10th July. It is hoped that Spatial Planning would be delighted that this error has been picked up and would support our case by resisting the proposed change.

Please could you advise of your thoughts. Our ideal would be to have a chance for a zoom call to discuss the matter and know that this error has been identified and corrected.

Kind regards



[REDACTED]

The Conservation Area contained within the South West Chippenham allocation and which is now part of the area included in the draft Community Governance proposals is the Rowden Conservation Area centred around Rowden Manor. It isn't part of the Lacock Conservation Area, which is separate and centred around Lacock Village which is further south and remains in the Lacock Parish Council/Corsham Without area. The reasons why the whole site including the Country Park is included in the proposed changes is explained in the consultation document on Page 13.

The Community Governance Review is not being led by Spatial Planning. It is another part of the Council which is overseeing this review. It is being undertaken in accordance with Community Governance legislation. This consultation provides you with another opportunity to comment on the proposals. A report will then be compiled with recommendations and will then be taken through our Cabinet/Full Council committee process for approval. These meetings are open to the Public to ask questions and attend.

Regards
Louise

Louise Tilsed
Senior Planning Officer
Spatial Planning Team
Wiltshire Council
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 July 2020 15:11
To: Tilsed, Louise <Louise.Tilsed@wiltshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Spatial Planning Policy <SpatialPlanningPolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: CGR : Scheme 4 Lacock

Hi Louise

Thank you for your note. I think that the point has been missed that the hamlet we live in houses the Lacock Parish Saxon fort that protects Lacock Church and is part of the same conservation area as Lacock.

Our Parish site cannot be developed, and therefore will not be more urban in nature, but infact, exactly the same as it currently is.

Is there any way that our case or petition can formally be heard?

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

Wiltshire Council,
Bythesea Road,
Trowbridge,
Wiltshire,
BA14 8JN



25 June 2020

Ref.: CGR.25.6.CB

For the attention of: Kieran Elliott, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Dear Mr Elliott,

Wiltshire Council CGR Draft Recommendation 3.3: Lacock

Thank you for your letter dated 12 June, which was in response to my letter of 1 June. Whilst I understand what you say, it still seems wrong to me and the other residents that the proposed change has proceeded to the recommendation stage when the objective of the CGR has not been satisfied. It is stated that the objective of the CGR is to ensure the governance arrangements of town and parish councils continue to reflect the identity and interests of the local communities. Given that every resident who would be affected by the proposed change has objected to it, both by individual responses and through the petition signed by every resident, would you please advise how it fulfils that objective?

In the current lockdown environment, the residents have not been afforded the opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with those driving this change. Whilst you have sought the views of those affected by the change, these have been ignored. Forcing the change through against the will of the residents is undemocratic and warrants independent scrutiny. In your above referenced letter, you say that "...in considering the likely position in five years from the commencement of the review, the positions of the two parish councils, public comments and other evidence and arguments set out in the draft recommendations, the Council determined that the proposal made by Chippenham Town Council should be recommended". Without the opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with the decision makers, it seems the views of the residents affected by the proposal have not been afforded the weighting they deserve. It really feels as if the decision was made before any consultation; as if the consultation process was nothing more than a tick-box exercise. Would you please arrange urgently for a face-to-face meeting with the residents so that this can be discussed before it proceeds any further? This could be performed in a suitably

socially distanced manner in the debating chamber of the Chippenham Town Council offices at Monkton Park.

Additionally, I am still awaiting a response to my letter of 12 February, sent on behalf of all the residents to Mr Cunningham. In that letter I asked what tangible benefits would be enjoyed by the residents as a result of moving from Lacock Parish Council to Chippenham Town Council. This needs to be answered, since without any benefit to the residents, there remains no justification for the change. Would you please address this point too?

In view of the above arguments, and whilst still at the draft recommendation stage, alternative arrangements need to be considered for the residents of Rowden Hamlet as has been the case for Showell Farm.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A small black rectangular redaction box covering contact information.

Democratic Services
Wiltshire Council
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN
CGR@wiltshire.gov.uk

12 June 2020

Dear 

I have been asked to respond to your letter of 1 June regarding the Community Governance Review. I apologise you did not receive a further response to your previous letter. A copy of your letter and petition in respect of the proposals for Lacock and Chippenham parishes was however provided to the Electoral Review Committee ahead of its meeting on 24 March 2020, as was the letter from Michelle Donelan MP on behalf of the residents of Rowden Lane. These documents along with others were also made available in public documentation, and the petition was specifically referenced as having been considered in the Draft Recommendations document.

It is therefore the case that the points raised by yourself and other residents and your interests were fully considered and taken into account. However, in considering the statutory guidance on community governance reviews in particular the need to consider the likely position in five years from the commencement of the review, the positions of the two parish councils, public comments and other evidence and arguments as set out in the draft recommendations, the Committee determined that the proposal made by Chippenham Town Council should be recommended.

As the letter you received indicated this recommendation is currently being consulted upon, and the Committee will be considering any fresh responses and evidence in late July/August in order to form Final Recommendations, which would then be considered by a meeting of Full Council in September. I hope this letter clarifies that the points as raised by your petition were provided to the decision-makers and taken into account, though I appreciate you disagree with the draft recommendation made by the Committee.

Yours

Kieran Elliott
Senior Democratic Services Officer

THRINGS

Community Governance Review
County Hall
Trowbridge
BA14 8JN

2 July 2020

Your Reference:
Our Reference: FMQ/W7289-1

Direct Line: 0117 930 9572

Email: fquartermain@thrings.com

Dear Sirs

Wiltshire Council Community Governance Reviews 2019-2020 – Further Representations on behalf North Bradley Parish Council

As you know, we are instructed North Bradley Parish Councils (“our Clients”) in relation to the ongoing Community Governance Review of boundaries of the Trowbridge Town Council and North Bradley Parish Council.

Previous representations have been made during the consultation on the terms of reference for the Community Governance Review. Our clients have now had the opportunity to consider the Draft Recommendation of the Electoral Review Committee (May 2020). Unfortunately, our Clients continue to have a number of concerns about the proposed changes which do not seem to have been addressed by the Electoral Review Committee. We write to set these continuing concerns out in full with the hope that the Electoral Review Committee will give them proper consideration before the final recommendations are submitted to the Full Council for approval later this year.

Background

1. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolved the power to take decisions about matters around the creation of parishes and their electoral arrangements to local government bodies. Wiltshire Council (“the Council”) is therefore the responsible body for undertaking community governance reviews for those parishes that fall within its administrative area.
2. From 2017-2019 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (“LGBCE”) undertook an electoral review of the Council. This resulted in a number of recommendations which in turn has led the Council to conclude that a community governance review is necessary.
3. On 9 July 2019 the Full Council of the Council delegated authority to its Electoral Review Committee to undertake community governance reviews. At a meeting on 31 October 2019 the Electoral Review Committee resolved to undertake those reviews subject to published terms of reference (“the ToR”). The ToR include the following:

The Paragon • Counterslip • Bristol • BS1 6BX • Tel: 0117 930 9500 • Fax: 0117 929 3369 • DX: 7895 Bristol
Email: solicitors@thrings.com • www.thrings.com Also in Bath, London, Romsey and Swindon

Thrings is the trading style of Thrings LLP, a limited liability partnership registered under No.OC342744 in England and Wales, authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. A list of partners (members of Thrings LLP, or employee or consultant with equivalent standing and qualifications) is available at its registered office: 6 Drakes Meadow, Penny Lane, Swindon SN3 3LL.

“Trowbridge, Hilperton, North Bradley, West Ashton and Southwick.

Review to Cover:

Internal and external boundaries of the Parish of Trowbridge and neighbouring parishes as listed and associated warding and other arrangements in respect of the areas impacts by the LGBCCE final recommendations for the unitary divisions of Southwick, Trowbridge Drynham and Trowbridge Park, and other areas within the parishes of Hilperton, West Ashton, Southwick, North Bradley adjoining the parish of Trowbridge and areas of Trowbridge adjoining the parishes of West Ashton and Southwick.”

4. In March 2010 the Government produced guidance entitled “guidance on community governance reviews” (“the Guidance”). The Guidance is expressly not an authoritative interpretation of the law as it pertains to community governance reviews, however, the Council is required to have regard to the Guidance in reaching any decisions.
5. The Guidance requires that community governance is reflective of the identities and interests of the community in any given area, and that it is effective and convenient. It states that the Council should consider a number of influential factors in its decision making, including:
 - 5.1. The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
 - 5.2. The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.
6. Consequently, the representations in this letter will focus on the effects of the proposals on those factors.

The Recommendations

7. Following consultation on the ToR a number of recommendations have been published. The recommendations that affect our Client, and against which they object, are set out at Recommendation 11 of the May 2020 Draft Recommendations. This states as follows:
 - 11.1 *That the area of the White Horse ward of North Bradley Parish Council be transferred to Trowbridge Town Council as part of the Trowbridge Drynham ward, coterminous with the Unitary Division of the same name and to be represented by three town councillors.*
 - 11.2 *That the area of the Park ward of North Bradley Parish Council be transferred to the Trowbridge Town Council as part of the Trowbridge Park ward, coterminous with the Unitary Division of the same name and to be represented by three town councillors.*
 - 11.3 *That North Bradley Parish Council be comprised of eleven parish councillors without warding arrangements.*
8. The reasoning for these recommendations is “paragraphs 73,78,80,83,54,85 of the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews”. We anticipate that the reference to paragraph 54 may be a typographical error intended to read “84”, however this does not affect our Clients objections.

Objections

9. We have previously written (dated 24 February 2020) to set out concerns with these proposals. Our Clients continue to have a number of concerns about the proposals and consequently object to the suggested changes.
10. The first ground of concern is that the proposed changes remain fundamentally premature. Simply, there is no current justification in terms of size or population or community cohesion which would justify severing this land from its current community.
11. Whilst development proposals, including those at a “deliverable” stage in planning terms, affect the areas those schemes will take a substantial time to build out. This fact is recognised in the

population assessments undertaken as part of the review process. On any rational assessment, until those new homes are delivered these areas will remain rural in character and have no substantially increased population. Whilst it may be that at a future date these areas should be transferred, that must be a consideration for a future community governance review. To make this change now is unjustifiable.

12. It is relevant that of the schemes which we previously covered in our representations, those which the Councils own evidence suggested a demonstrable population affect within the next five years have not been taken forwards. This indicates that the Council have not properly addressed the issues in making their recommendations.
13. It remains clear that the recommendations affecting North Bradley are pre-emptive of future development plans rather than reliant upon them. Boundary reform that pre-empts development serves to destroy existing social cohesion based entirely upon predicted outcomes rather than current assessments. Fundamentally, it is only once development has occurred that any urbanising effect of community cohesion can be properly assessed.
14. Consequently, a realignment of parish boundaries based upon these assumed developments will be premature and unjustified. Indeed, this prematurity is recognised in the text of the draft recommendations where it confirms that there is a risk that slow development rates might lead to “an unreasonable and unviable ward”¹.
15. The current proposals will only seek to split land from its existing community. There is nothing within the Guidance which would support the severance of rural land from a rural parish for the benefit of a town council. Indeed, the effect of the changes proposed in the recommendations is reduction in the size of parish by some 25%². Further the result of the proposed boundary change is absurd. By following the River Biss and not the current south east border line a long narrow area of land (circa 1.125km long and varying in width from approximately 60m to 250m in width) sits between the West Ashton parish boundary and the proposed new south east boundary of North Bradley parish. This is clearly harmful to community cohesion.
16. Whilst it is accepted that Council Precepts cannot form a consideration in relation to this governance review the application of CIL receipts is a relevant consideration. By seeking to have all prospective development around Trowbridge incorporated within Trowbridge Town Council, the Council is facilitating the pooling of much needed parish resources within the town council. This is to the detriment of our Client and the community that they serve. Consequently, our view is that the proposals will only emphasise the division between the town of Trowbridge and the rural communities around it. This will have a disastrous effect on overall community cohesion.
17. Finally, it is relevant that the adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015 sets great importance on the distinction between Trowbridge and the rural communities around it. It states:
“it is recognised that the villages surrounding Trowbridge, particularly Hilperton, Southwick North Bradley and West Ashton, have separate and distinct identities as villages. Open countryside should be maintained to protect the character and identity of these villages as separate communities. The local communities may wish to consider this matter in more detail in any future community-led neighbourhood planning”

¹ Paragraph 73 of the May 2020 Recommendations

² A plan prepared by local councillors is enclosed which demonstrates this point.

18. Despite this, the Council is now considering a substantial erosion of the separation that exists with large areas of otherwise rural land which contributes significantly to that "separate and distinct" identity absorbed in to Trowbridge on the basis of development potential. This has significant repercussions in terms of the protection of that identity, but also future (and indeed current) neighbourhood planning. Consequently, the proposed boundary changes are directly at odds with the Council's own planning policy.

Conclusion

19. For the reasons set out above, the recommendations in their current form will destroy the existing cohesion in North Bradley with no justification and little identifiable benefit. Simply put there is no rational justification for these proposals in terms of parish size, population, or community cohesion.
20. Whilst it maybe that future development occurs such that the size, population or boundary location in each of these areas would justify a change, to make any changes prospectively and on the basis of a justification provided by development plan documents that are either unadopted or talk about development in the most general of terms would be wholly premature.
21. Consequently, the recommendations in relation to North Bradley should be excluded from the community governance review and the parish boundary should remain as they currently stand.

If we can be of any further assistance in relation to this matter, please don't hesitate to contact the writer on the above contact details.

Yours sincerely,



Thrings LLP

Item 12

Wiltshire Council



27th June 2020.

Sir/Madam

We have a strong suspicion that the members of the Trowbridge Council have strong sympathies to China and Russia. Their behaviour is similar in that you are aiming to take our land which does not belong to you and has not done so since 1894.

We will do all we can to prevent this travesty and preserve the identity of North Bradley and Yarnbrook, because we are sure you have your sights on that. These areas are where we live, where we have bought property and you should take cognisance that opposition to your land grab is strong. It gives the appearance of the London syndrome in swallowing all around the centre and this must not go ahead.

The other serious side to all of this is the question "Where is all the water to come from" More houses less water to the aquifers. The surface water i.e. rivers and streams are drying up with a flow at a minimum. I hope this situation strangles your conscience to know the devastation you are aiming to cause.

Yours faithfully,



c.c. to Robert Jenrick MP. Andrew Murrison. Horace Prickett. Philip Whitehead. Wiltshire Times.
Cllr Roger Evans.

[REDACTED]

This webpage on the Wiltshire Council website provides all the information about the Community Governance Review.

<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wiltshire.gov.uk%2F%2Fcouncil-democracy-cgr&data=02%7C01%7CCommittee%40wiltshire.gov.uk%7C259fc72c9c0c40fa6edf08d81f4fc3bf%7C5546e75e3be14813b0ff26651ea2fe19%7C0%7C0%7C637293774724457619&data=EDk1VJxvOvtSD%2FUW%2FYcYX60C%2B9npuryphTXLQ37DKaY%3D&reserved=0>

The draft Recommendations Report is available to view at

<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcms.wiltshire.gov.uk%2FecSDDisplayClassic.aspx%3FNAME%3DSD4468%26ID%3D4468%26RPID%3D21716557%26sch%3Ddoc%26cat%3D14165%26path%3D14165&data=02%7C01%7CCommittee%40wiltshire.gov.uk%7C259fc72c9c0c40fa6edf08d81f4fc3bf%7C5546e75e3be14813b0ff26651ea2fe19%7C0%7C0%7C637293774724457619&data=eE3wuXGbZJXg8b0pWHVAXH4J4GhsK%2Fbq52BaT2l0dZ0%3D&reserved=0>

Page 12-14 explains the reasons for the proposed changes at Chippenham.

This is the link to where you can submit comments on the Community Governance Review:

<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsurveys.wiltshire.gov.uk%2Fsnapwebhost%2Fs.asp%3Fk%3D158819314903&data=02%7C01%7CCommittee%40wiltshire.gov.uk%7C259fc72c9c0c40fa6edf08d81f4fc3bf%7C5546e75e3be14813b0ff26651ea2fe19%7C0%7C0%7C637293774724467616&data=%2BiqGnWkDLOGFmljFTLx%2FDTTc0wJF3Ok%2FFt2i4aQ%2FAYk%3D&reserved=0>

On the right side on the webpage, a contact email address is provided which is for our Democratic Services Team and who are leading on the Governance Review. They are the team to contact about the Community Governance Review.

Regards
Louise

Louise Tilsed
Senior Planning Officer
Spatial Planning Team
Wiltshire Council
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 July 2020 12:42
To: Tilsed, Louise <Louise.Tilsed@wiltshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Spatial Planning Policy <SpatialPlanningPolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: CGR : Scheme 4 Lacock

Hi Louise

Thank you for your information below, I'm sure dealing with the public is not the most favoured part of your job but I really appreciate the response.

Can I ask you a couple of things? Firstly, why is Showell remaining in the Lacock Parish?

And secondly, as we are seriously running out of time, are you able to tell me who at Wiltshire Council I should be contacting who is responsible and accountable for the CGR?

We have just simply been concerned with COVID and that the 'public' meetings are not inclusive and that the information endorsed by many interested parties in this matter is acknowledge and we know that this has not just slipped through the net.

I really appreciate your help, thank you.

Kind regard



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 July 2020 10:42
To: Complaints Mailbox <Complaints@wiltshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Moving of boundary at North Bradley

Dear Sirs

As residents of North Bradley, we would like to register our complaint against the movement of the North Bradley boundary which will include the village as part of Trowbridge.

It has always been classed as a rural area and, as such, has not been part of Trowbridge. North Bradley Parish Council have held meetings about neighbourhood plans for building homes in the area, but we do not see why the remainder of the area should be swallowed up to become part of Trowbridge town.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Elliott

Thank you for your email and furnishing us with the process of the Committee when considering the Final Recommendations for the Full Council to consider in September.

Unfortunately we have not particularly finished with submitting our views due to the fact that surely there has been quite a **significant mistake** in the documentation.

Showell has remained in Lacock Parish despite proposals for quite heavy urbanisation. Not being a planning expert I googled the Taylor Wimpy development for Showell - and indeed, the area looks as though it will be highly developed and urban.

Land at Showell Nurseries

We have submitted an outline planning application for a residential development of up to 100 new homes on land at Showell Nurseries, Chippenham. The application includes the provision of 40% affordable homes, ensuring that local people are able to live and work in the local area.

The land, which is situated near Pottenstein Road, gives us an opportunity to deliver a mixed development of homes, from one-bedroom apartments up to four-bedroom family homes, with parking and public open space.

The proposals submitted to planning Councils reflect the comments made by local people, Chippenham Town Council and Lacock Parish Council.

This site forms a key part of the Wilts & Aveon Growth Strategy as it is part of the extension site to the Chippenham City Allocations (approved in May 2017). The larger Rowden Park proposals have already gained planning permission and we will be working with the developer as they proceed with their more detailed plans to ensure that the sites complement each other.



Our proposed development site is outlined in red in this location plan.

Therefore, the draft recommendations report is incorrect in it's assertion Rowden Hamlet will be urbanised as a result of the development:

“Whilst the areas in question were largely undeveloped at the present time, significant development was projected and the characteristics of the areas would be urban, not rural such as was the case with the remainder of Lacock and Langley Burrell Without parishes, as the parish councils themselves had noted. As a result, though comments including a petition from local residents in the Showell ward had been received emphasising community connections with Lacock in that case, the Committee considered that the developing position of the area was such that it would increasingly be more appropriate for it to be transferred within the town boundary.”

The Rowden Hamlet, by contrast, is a rural hamlet in a Conservation Area and as such will remain in the countryside and cannot be developed in to an urban Hamlet.

Additionally, Rowden Hamlet has a history relating to Lacock that dates back to the 13th Century in the form of the Saxon Fort and fortress lines between Rowden Hamlet and Lacock. Rowden Hamlet is listed as a site of national heritage and has always sat in Lacock, in the countryside and cannot become urban due to the conversation status. The residents of Rowden Hamlet have strong links to Lacock and indeed, businesses run by the Rowden Hamlet market themselves on the positioning with the Parish of Lacock.


This begs the question to be raised in to the actual decision making process of;

- a) Maintaining Showell in the Parish of Lacock
- and/or
- b) Removing the 8 houses of Rowden Hamlet from the Parish of Lacock

Which leads the conclusion that there has to be a mistake. Rowden Hamlet has further claim and criteria than Showell, to be granted the same exclusion as the Showell nurseries area.

Therefore, please could you advise of the best course of action to ensure we have an owned, observed and balanced view of the deciding factors in the decision making. We cannot just fall back on Acts and Government legislation that are somewhat hidden and behind closed doors. The case is very clear, the Rowden Hamlet have been mis-represented in the draft recommendations and should remain in the Parish of Lacock.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 July 2020 12:00
To: Whitehead, Philip <Philip.Whitehead@wiltshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Fw: Wiltshire Council taking part of North Bradley . . .

Subject: Re: Wiltshire Council taking part of North Bradley . . .

Hello Mr Whitehead,

We are writing to ask for your help in stopping the proposal from Wiltshire Council to take over a large part of the White Horse ward of North Bradley to transfer to Trowbridge Town Council as part of the Trowbridge Drynham Ward.

We are an active village community with a fantastic school that would not be able to expand to take more children, and a beautiful village church. We have had a number of fairly new housing developments which are in keeping with our village so they have not been intrusive. As we are a village community, we are a friendly village and this has been demonstrated recently in the Corona virus outbreak when a volunteer group was quickly set up to help vulnerable residents with shopping etc. I am sheltering as I am on the Government at risk register because I have T-cell large granular lymphocytic leukaemia, and for the past 16 weeks a lovely young couple have done our shopping, an example of our village community spirit.

We understand that life cannot stand still and changes will be made as the years go by, but my husband comes from Manchester and he is really annoyed that we would be losing our village identity as has happened over the years with the smaller villages and towns around Manchester which now come under Greater Manchester. We do not want North Bradley to lose its village status and become another part of Trowbridge, which is a start if this takeover is allowed to happen.

Please do all you can to stop this takeover of a large part of North Bradley by Wiltshire Council happening to our village.

Thank you, Mr Whitehead,

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]



5 July 2020

Wiltshire Council,
Bythesea Road,
Trowbridge,
Wiltshire,
BA14 8JN
[For the attention of Kieran Elliot, Democratic Services]

SENT BY EMAIL AND POST

Dear Mr Elliot,

I refer to the CGR consultation letter sent to me on 14 May 2020 and I respond to the draft recommendations therein.

I disagree with your recommendation 3.3 for a number of reasons:

1. You appear to have ignored the previous objections of every resident in this Rowden hamlet area that you propose to merge. As a local community with a strong and historic affinity with Lacock we had all lodged objections to the loss of our democratic right to remain under Lacock local governance.
2. You have not achieved the objective of your CGR as your recommendations do not reflect the identity and interests of our local community.
3. Nor is this hamlet representative of an urban area. We live in a very rural country environment within a designated Conservation Area, disconnected from the increasing urbanisation of recent housing and commercial developments that have encroached on the farmland - green belt. The so-named "Rowden Country Park" that has been ring-fenced by such development will maintain a buffer and hopefully permit our hamlet to retain its rural and obvious non-urban status.
4. It would appear that a convenient line has been drawn along the proposed Southern Relief Road and all land inside presumed to be taken under Chippenham's urban governance. Showell Farm - within the Showell Ward of Lacock - will not be transferred to Chippenham local governance despite its industrial and residential development boundaries. However Rowden hamlet within the same ward is surrounded by open fields and so it is therefore logical to also leave its local governance within Lacock.
5. To leave Rowden hamlet under Lacock's governance retains Wiltshire's commitment to the principles of the Conservation Area that was established to protect the rural and historic nature of the hamlet. To absorb the hamlet into the urban area of Chippenham goes against these principles.
6. A change to our local governance would be seen as a reduction in Wiltshire's commitment to climate change initiatives.
7. There are no material benefits to your proposed change - we have a private unmaintained road, a private sewer and no urban facilities such as street lighting, cleaning nor an acceptable broadband service.

Please reconsider your recommendations and leave the Rowden hamlet under the continuing local governance of Lacock.

Yours sincerely,



CC - Cllr Richard Clewer, Chairman of the Electoral Review Committee



Dear sirs

I am writing in support of Rowden Hamlet remaining within the parish of Lacock. Fellow residents have expressed the reasons for this with great eloquence and have offered historical background evidence. I wish to add my name to the list of residents who feel strongly that we remain a rural hamlet. We are within a conservation area and a site of historic significance and as such need to maintain our rural status and our historic connection with the ancient parish of Lacock.

It is important that the river valley area is protected against further urbanisation in order to preserve the historic and environmental treasures it contains. As such the parish of Lacock will benefit from the council tax it receives from Rowden Hamlet far more than the comparatively vast parish of Chippenham can benefit from just 8 more houses contributing to its coffers.

I hope that the final decision for the parish boundary will result in Rowden Hamlet remaining in its rightful and historical place within the parish of Lacock.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Dear Mr Elliott,

Further to my letter, reference CGR.25.6.CB, dated 25 June 2020, I feel it is important to draw your attention to an error in the Community Governance Review 2019/20 Draft Recommendations document, dated May 2020. Paragraph 25 of the document states:

“Whilst the areas in question were largely undeveloped at the present time, significant development was projected and the characteristics of the areas would be urban, not rural such as was the case with the remainder of Lacock and Langley Burrell Without parishes, as the parish councils themselves had noted. As a result, though comments including a petition from local residents in the Showell ward had been received emphasising community connections with Lacock in that case, the Committee considered that the developing position of the area was such that it would increasingly be more appropriate for it to be transferred within the town boundary.”

Whilst this correctly makes reference to the petitions submitted by the residents, it is incorrect to state in the case of Rowden Hamlet (Showell Ward) that the characteristics of the areas would be urban. Rowden Hamlet will remain rural in nature owing to its position in a Conservation Area and at the centre of what is to become Rowden Country Park. If uncorrected, this error could lead to the committee making the wrong decision regarding Rowden Hamlet.

Rowden Hamlet, at the centre of Rowden Country Park, will be considerably less urbanised than the Showell nurseries area, which, it is noted, will continue under the governance of Lacock Parish Council. The same exception should be afforded Rowden Hamlet and, indeed, the whole of Rowden Country Park.

I have already notified Jonathon Seed (member, Electoral Review Committee) and Jane Durrant (Chair, Lacock Parish Council) of this error, but would you please ensure that the members of the Electoral Review Committee are formally advised of the error in paragraph 25 so that the committee will be better able to make an informed decision?

Thank you and regards,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 July 2020 13:44
To: andrew.murrison.mp@parliament.uk
Cc: Whitehead, Philip <Philip.Whitehead@wiltshire.gov.uk>; jenrickr@parliament.uk
Subject: Trowbridge Council taking the land of the North Bradley Parish

Dear Sirs,

We write to object against Trowbridge Council's intentions to grab land belonging to the parish of North Bradley. The only possible reason for this is, of course, to increase revenue.

We have reluctantly agreed to the proposed Neighbourhood Plan but now suddenly and perhaps rather sneakily Trowbridge Council want to take the area suggested in the plan. The plan allows for a gap of fields that should not be built on keeping the North Bradley parish separate and protecting and preserving wildlife. Perhaps because of the Covid-19 pandemic it provided the council with an ideal opportunity of a virtual get together to make decisions knowing most people are isolated and unable to get to meetings, discussions etc.

Whether the Town Council buy the land to build on, with proposed planning or already built upon is irrelevant. Once they have the land they will not stop until the entire area dividing North Bradley from Trowbridge is built on. Parishes such as North Bradley should be preserved and kept distinct and separate from town/urban areas. We moved from Woking in Surrey to North Bradley on retirement, to get away from the constant rush and busyness of the urban surroundings. But it seems the Government are intent on digging up our 'green and pleasant land' in order to spread the urban sprawl vast and wide destroying wildlife habitat, the preservation of the countryside and the destruction of individual communities making them into yet another vast busy faceless urban area.

Living in Woodmarsh, North Bradley we enjoy keeping bees at the bottom of our garden which overlooks fields behind the White Horse Business Park. We are visited by a variety of birds, hedgehogs, bats and grass snakes and have seen Roe deer in the field behind us. Why does this have to be taken away from us? Where do people go to find peace and quiet free from anxiety and stress?

There are so many buildings (brown sites?) in Trowbridge which could be converted into housing; old mills, Bowyers site and other old buildings which are standing rotting away. If we have to have building then this is the place to put it. But no it is far easier, cheaper and more convenient to buy up the green land and build upon it. This doesn't make Trowbridge Council look good since they are blatantly ignoring these potential brown sites with which they could tidy up and make something of and for their town. No, the easy option is to destroy the countryside leaving their rubbish behind as an eyesore.

There has been very little unemployment so anyone coming to live here would just be using it to commute outside the area. How does that help our environment? More noise, traffic and air pollution to be added to the atmosphere and our parish. It is not wanted. Neither are the actions of Trowbridge Council to take over our village.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Item 21

Good afternoon,

Wilcot and Huish (with Oare) PC supports the following recommendations:

7.1 That the area shown above be transferred from the parish of Pewsey to the parish of Wilcot, Huish and Oare (see Recommendation 8.3).

7.2 That the Electoral Divisions of Pewsey Vale West and Pewsey be amended to be coterminous with the parish boundaries of Pewsey and Wilcot, Huish and Oare.

8.1 That the parishes of Wilcot and Huish be merged into a single parish.

8.2 For the combined parish to have no warding arrangements, with nine councillors.

8.3 For the combined parish to be called Wilcot, Huish and Oare.

The Parish Council wishes me to thank you for ensuring the Review and resulting Draft Recommendations accurately reflect the Parish Council's concerns and wishes in this matter.

Thankyou,

Ruth Kinderman, Clerk, Wilcot&Huish (with Oare) PC

Item 22

[REDACTED]

25 June 2020.

Council Leader - Cllr Philip Whitehead
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Trowbridge,

philip.whitehead@wiltshire.gov.uk

Dear Cllr. Whitehead,

Governance Review – North Bradley Parish, Wiltshire

I am greatly concerned at the proposed 'land grab' of approximately 25% of the parish of North Bradley to Trowbridge Town Council in the proposed Governance Review. The Parish Council has existed in its present shape since 1894 and has, I believe, served the residents well and they deserve better consideration from their County Council.

The fields, that runs alongside the Woodmarsh Road, which act as a buffer between Trowbridge and the village of North Bradley has specific reference made to them in Wiltshire Councils Core Strategy, which states that the Parish's of 'Southwick, West Ashton, **North Bradley** have separate & distinct identities as villages. Open countryside should be maintained to protect the character & identity of the villages as separate communities' The proposed transfer to Trowbridge Town Council does not allow the Parish to retain its identity. Is Wiltshire Council Core Strategy not fit for purpose? Can it be ignored, overruled? The transfer proposals will destroy the parish with no visible benefits to the parish/residents as a whole.

North Bradley Parish Council has a Neighbourhood Plan, at Regulation 16 and their referendum had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. However, the consultations for the Governance review continued. The normal consultations did not take place and meeting dates were confined to Briefing Notes and nothing else. With the pandemic it was obvious that attendance would be very limited. I feel the pandemic was an opportunity for the Council to technically 'bury bad news'.

I believe the changes are also premature? There is no justification for the transfer of these green fields which have no properties on them so little if any revenue. These fields have approval from North Bradley's Neighbourhood Plan for a small development of 175 properties, to the North of the fields, leaving the bulk of the fields green space and including a bat corridor for protected species. I can only suppose that Trowbridge Town Council has its eye on this potential development as a money earner, which I have serious doubts would they would benefit the Parish with.

I have not explained all my objections but hope this letter is sufficient for you to realize the feeling I have at Trowbridge Town Councils blatant attempt to take part of the Parish of North Bradley. Also their lack of concern for the residents and the identity of the Parish of North Bradley, which I certainly hope are not shared by Wiltshire Councillors.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Copy to Kieran Elliott W.C. 9.7.19

Good afternoon Kieran

I hope you are keeping safe and well.

I have refrained from submitting comments on the Recommendations until the last moment because I wanted to see if full engagement with the issues was possible. I have now completed and submitted the SNAP survey form with an updated view.

The submission that I lodged on 30th November 2019 remains valid. I attach it again

However some of it has been overtaken by decisions taken since, which directly impact on consideration of Recommendations 12 and 13 - for example:-

- (a) the impact of the COVID-19 lock-down in diverting public attention from proper consideration of the issues and restricting opportunities for proper public engagement in the decision making;
- (b) the government allocation of £135m funding for a by-pass round Melksham;
- (c) the publication and Regulation 14 consultation of the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan encompassing both the Town and parish boundaries
- (d) further applications for new housing development
- (e) evidence of the high level of inter-dependency in addressing the need for the Melksham community.

For that reason, I believe the Council should consider a new option - to defer any decision of Recommendations 12 and 13 until 2021 to allow proper public engagement and consideration of this matter.

Best wishes

[Redacted signature]

10th July 2020

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Melksham Town, Melksham Without Parish and Seend

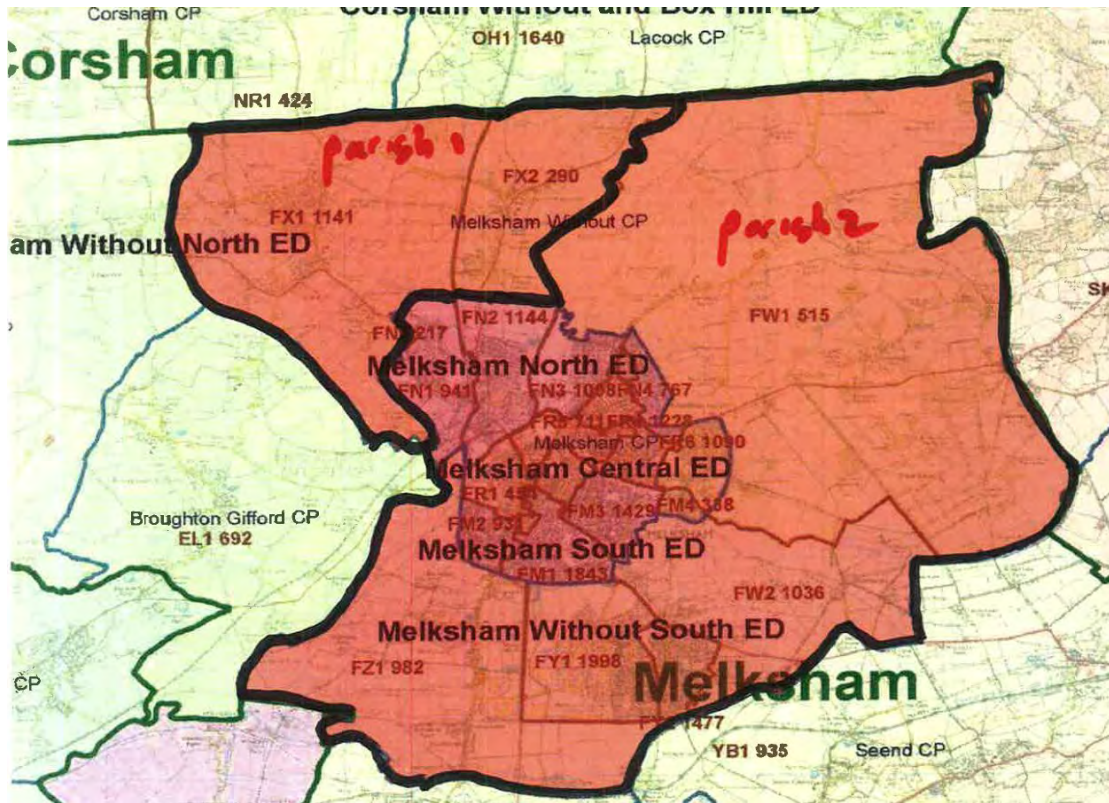
The Case for integrating the areas of
Berryfield, Bowerhill and East of Melksham
to create a new single Melksham Council

Including

- (B) creating a new Parish of Beanacre, Shaw and Whitley
- (c) transferring the BRAG land from Seend for inclusion in a new Melksham Council boundary

Prepared by

N W



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PROMOTING COMMUNITY COHESION: The Case for one integrated Council for Melksham

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE PROPOSAL

- 1. Dissolve both Melksham, Town and Melksham Without Parish Councils;**
- 2. Create a single integrated Melksham Council within the Polling Districts boundaries of (see map):**

| | | |
|--|---|--------------|
| Melksham Town: | FR1, FR2, FR3, FR4, FR5, FR6, ZY1, ZZ1, ZZ2, ZZ3, ZZ6 | 4,421 voters |
| | FN1, FN2, FN3, FN4, FN5, ZY2, ZY3, ZZ7 | 4,308 voters |
| | FM1, FM2, FM3, FM4, ZZ4, ZZ5, ZZ4, ZZ8 | 4,571 voters |
| Melksham Without Parish: FZ1, FW1, FW2, FY1, FY2 | | 6,008 voters |
| with TOTAL CURRENT ELECTORATE (excluding new housing development) 19,308 voters | | |
- 3. Review the number of Wards**
- 4. Create a new separate Parish to include the historic villages of Beanacre, Shaw and Whitley, with a combined current electorate within Polling Districts of FX1 and FX2 of 1,431;**
- 5. Transfer all the 'BRAG' land from Seend Parish into the proposed new Melksham Council area**

THE PROPOSAL

1. Melksham is a long established market town, surrounded by agricultural farming land. In 2019, Melksham celebrated the 800th anniversary of the granting of a Royal Market Charter. Third tier civic governance is currently provided by Town and Parish Councils; derived from the former Urban and Rural District Councils serving the industrial and agricultural nature of these former communities.
2. However, new development in the Melksham area has seen rapid growth over recent years to the point that it already exceeds Wiltshire Council's 2026 housing projection. More new housing estates are currently under development, being occupied or in the pipeline – particularly to the east and south of Melksham area.
3. All these developments adjoin existing housing in Melksham or the commercial and industrial premises on the large Bowerhill and Hampton trading estates. They are built on green field sites, which effectively closes the rural green buffer between Berryfield, Blackmore, Bowerhill; and the town, and further contributes to the further urbanisation of the entire Melksham local community.
4. Melksham Without Parish Council (MWPC) has already transferred 750 new East of Melksham houses to the Town Council; and it is understood that in response to this community governance review is proposing to similarly transfer the 100 Sandridge Place houses and the 450 new houses under construction East of Melksham. ²
5. Wiltshire Council has long included Bowerhill with town for planning purposes. It's plans to achieve government demands for more houses in the period to 2036 is to transfer Melksham into the Chippenham Housing Market Area, which has a revised target of around 22,500 new houses – possibly with around 3,000 in the Melksham area. ³

6. Data produced by Wiltshire Council in August 2018⁴ suggested that the number of voters in each Polling District within the proposed integrated Melksham Council boundaries (as shown in the Map on page 2) is as indicated in the TABLE A below:

TABLE A

The proposed Integrated Melksham Council boundary – by Polling District

| WiC ED | Ward Description | Polling District | Estimated Voters | | Suggested New Ward |
|-----------|---|---------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | | | 2018 | 2024 | |
| 96 | Melksham South 1 | FM1 | 1721 | 1843 | Melksham South |
| 98 | Melksham South 2 | FM2 | 897 | 931 | Melksham South West |
| 96 | Melksham South 3 | FM3 | 1377 | 1429 | Melksham East |
| 95 /96 | Melksham South 4 | FM4 | 326 | 338 | Melksham South East |
| 96 | Melksham South 5 | ZZ4 | 132 | 137 | Melksham South West |
| 96 | Melksham South 6 | ZZ5 | 536 | 556 | Melksham South West |
| 96 | Melksham South 7 | ZZ8 | 0 | 0 | Melksham Central |
| 94 | Melksham North 1 | FN1 | 684 | 941 | Melksham North West |
| 94 | Melksham North 2 | FN2 | 1101 | 1144 | Melksham North West |
| 97 | Melksham North 3 | FN3 | 969 | 1008 | Melksham North East |
| 97 | Melksham North 4 | FN4 | 739 | 767 | Melksham North East |
| 94 | Melksham North 5 | FN5 | 35 | 217 | Melksham North West |
| 97 | Melksham North 6 | ZZ7 | 184 | 191 | Melksham Central |
| 97 | Melksham North 7 | ZY2 | 4 | 4 | Melksham North East |
| 97 | Melksham North 8 | ZY3 | 6 | 6 | Melksham North East |
| 94/98 | Melksham Central 1 | FR1 | 431 | 454 | Melksham North East |
| 97 | Melksham Central 2 | FR2 | 674 | 702 | Melksham Central |
| 98 | Melksham Central 3 | FR3 | 39 | 40 | Melksham Central |
| 98 | Melksham Central 4 | FR4 | 1183 | 1228 | Melksham Central |
| 98 | Melksham Central 5 | FR5 | 648 | 711 | Melksham Central |
| 97 | Melksham Central 6 | FR6 | 1018 | 1090 | Melksham East |
| 97 | Melksham Central 1 | ZY1 | 2 | 2 | Melksham East |
| 96 | Melksham Central 7 | ZZ1 | 10 | 10 | Melksham South West |
| 96 | Melksham Central 8 | ZZ2 | 0 | 0 | Melksham South West |
| 97 | Melksham Central 9 | ZZ6 | 191 | 198 | Melksham East |
| 96 | Melksham Central 1 | ZZ3 | 0 | 0 | Melksham South West |
| 94 | Blackmore 1 | FW1 | 308 | 515 | Melksham North East |
| 95 | Blackmore 2 | FW2 | 156 | 1036 | Melksham South East |
| 95 | Bowerhill 1 | FY1 | 1484 | 1998 | Melksham South |
| 95 | Bowerhill 2 | FY2 | 1423 | 1477 | Melksham South West |
| 93 | Berryfield | FZ1 | 654 | 982 | Melksham South West |
| | TOTAL | | 16,934 | 19,955 | |
| | AVERAGE PER WARDS (x7 Average per Councillor @ x3 ward | | 2,418 806 | 2,850 950 | |

7. The PARISH 2 proposal below assumes that the Melksham Council has **SEVEN** Wards each with an average voter range of around 2850 by 2024 to take account of planned new housing development. It is suggested that each Ward should have **THREE** Councillors – electing a total of 21 Councillors in total every four years – with the number of extra voters in the proposed Melksham South Ward being addressed by having extra Councillors elected - say 4 or 5 - in order to maintain balance with the average per Councillor.

8. A Suggested Ward structure with two options for seven and five Wards in a new integrated Melksham Council is detailed in the following TABLE B.

TABLE B

Proposed Ward Allocation for New Integrated Melksham Council

| WC ED | Suggested Ward Description | Polling District | Estimated Voters 2018 | | Estimated Voters 2024 | | Cllrs |
|----------|---|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| 94 | Melksham North Split approx 20: 80 | FN1 | 684 | 1900 (633) | 941 | 2392 (797) | 3 |
| | | FN2 | 1101 | | 1144 | | |
| | | FN5 | 35 | | 217 | | |
| | | FR1 (part) | 80 | | 90 | | |
| | Melksham North East | FN3 | 969 | 2403 | 1008 | 2691 | 3 |
| | | FN4 | 739 | | 767 | | |
| | | FW1 | 308 | | 515 | | |
| | | ZY1 | 2 | | 2 | | |
| | | ZY2 | 4 | | 4 | | |
| | | ZY3 | 6 | | 6 | | |
| | | ZZ6 | 191 | | 198 | | |
| | | ZZ7 | 184 | | 191 | | |
| | Melksham East | FM3 | 1377 | 2723 | 1429 | 2859 | 3 |
| | | FM4 | 326 | | 338 | | |
| | | FR6 | 1018 | | 1090 | | |
| | | ZY1 | 2 | | 2 | | |
| | Melksham South West | FM2 | 897 | 2229 | 931 | 2616 | 3 |
| | | FZ1 | 654 | | 982 | | |
| | | ZZ1 | 10 | | 10 | | |
| | | ZZ2 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| | | ZZ3 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| | | ZZ4 | 132 | | 137 | | |
| | | ZZ5 | 536 | | 556 | | |
| | Melksham South ** | FM1 | 1721 | 3205 | 1843 | 3841 | 3, 4 or 5 |
| | | FY1 | 1484 | | 1998 | | |
| | Melksham South East | FW2 | 156 | 1579 | 1036 | 2513 | 3 |
| | | FY2 | 1423 | | 1477 | | |
| | Melksham Central Split approx 80: 20 | FR1 (part) | 345 | 2544 | 363 | 2681 | 3 |
| | | FR2 | 674 | | 702 | | |
| | | FR3 | 39 | | 40 | | |
| | | FR4 | 1183 | | 1228 | | |
| | | FR5 | 648 | | 711 | | |
| | | ZZ8 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| | | | TOTAL | 16,934 | TOTAL | 19955 | 21 - 23 |

** Melksham South - extra voters could be addressed by having additional Councillors – either 4 or 5

Suggested Ward Allocation for New Integrated Melksham Council

Based on guidance provided in answer to my question at the 14th February pre-consultation meeting in the Assembly Hall, Melksham I have tried to allocate Polling Districts and the number of Councillors per ward to the revised boundaries authorized by the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

TABLE B(ii) below assumes that Option 24(c) is proposed to create a new Shaw, Whitley and Beanacre Parish Council.

The proposed Wards or a new integrated Council is detailed in the following:-

TABLE B(ii)

| ED | Suggested Ward Description | Polling District | Estimated Voters 2018 | | Estimated Voters 2024 | | Cllrs |
|----|---|--|--|---------------|---|------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| 94 | Shaw and Whitley Beanacre Parish Council | FX1 FX2 | 1094 279 | 1373 | 1141 290 | 1431 | tba |
| 94 | Melksham North Split approx. 20: 80 | FN1 FN2 FN5 FR1 (part) FW1 FZ1 | 684 1101 35 80 308 654 | 2862 (573) | 941 1144 217 90 515 982 | 3889 (972) (778) | 4 or 5 |
| 95 | Split approx 20: 80 Melksham South East | FM4 (part) FW2 FY1 FY2 | 65 156 1484 1423 | 3128 (625) | 67 1036 1998 1477 | 4578 (915) (763) | 5 or 6 |
| 96 | Melksham South Split approx. 80:20 | FM1 FM3 FM4 (Part) ZZ1 ZZ2 ZZ3 ZZ4 ZZ5 ZZ8 | 1721 1377 326 10 0 0 132 536 0 | 4102 (683) | 1843 1429 338 10 0 0 137 556 0 | 4313 (862) (718) | 5 or 6 |
| 97 | Melksham East | FN3 FN4 FR2 FR6 ZY1 ZY2 ZY3 ZZ6 ZZ7 | 969 739 674 1018 2 4 6 191 184 | 3787 (757) | 1008 767 702 1090 2 4 6 198 191 | 3968 (992) (796) | 5 or 6 |
| 98 | Melksham Forest Split approx. 80 :20 | FM2 FR1 (part) FR3 FR4 FR5 | 897 345 39 1183 648 | 3112 (659) | 931 363 40 1228 711 | 3273 (818) (692) | 4 or 5 |
| | | | TOTAL | 16991 | TOTAL | 20021 | 23 or 27 |

9. The integrated Ward proposals above seeks to relate adjoining Polling Districts - regardless of their original Town / Parish allocations - to seek a approximate equal balance in the number of voters served by any one Councillor – shown in brackets (voter / Councillor ratio in BLUE).
10. Population growth projection data from various sources for the Melksham Community Area suggested a rise from 24,100 (2006) to 26,590 (2011) and then up to 29,810 (2026) ⁵.

The 2011 census showed the actual population was 28,343 ⁶, which already exceeds the 2026 projection used to plan facilities and services, and more recent 2018 ONS data indicates this has risen again to 30,867.⁷

11. In order of size of populations by civil parish in Wiltshire, Melksham Town ranks as 7th and Melksham Without Parish is 17th. However, the combined total of one integrated Melksham Council (24,052) would rank as the 4th largest population in Wiltshire - after Salisbury, Trowbridge and Chippenham.⁸

INTRODUCTION

12. Wiltshire Council describes Melksham as “ one of Wiltshire’s oldest towns “⁹. Originally a Saxon settlement on a ford across the River Avon, in medieval times Melksham became a centre for a range agricultural and wool-based cloth weaving activity. It was surrounded by farming land and served as a royal forest during the Middle Ages.
13. As the weaving industry started to decline during the early 1800s, Melksham evolved to use the closed mills along the River Avon for manufacturing purposes. In 1940, the Royal Air Force took over agricultural land in the Bowerhill area to create No 12 Technical Training School and also the Berryfield area became married quarters housing.
14. When the RAF closed these training facilities during the mid 1960’s, the land did not revert to farming but was used instead to build housing and industrial estate premises for distribution, manufacturing and warehousing. Today the land at Bowerhill and Berryfield is largely covered in houses and the large industrial and commercial estates separated from Melksham town only by the A350 and A365. These housing developments and those in Blackmore to the East of Melksham area have been built on green field sites, immediately adjoining the Town Council boundary.
15. There is high level of mutual dependency with local both town and parish residents of all ages equally using Melksham’s many facilities and services, and enjoying the local events and Festivals wherever they are located within the town or parish.
16. When asked where they come from, most parish and town residents are proud enough of their local community to respond first by saying ‘Melksham’, only sometimes then expanding to include ‘Bowerhill’. However, few local residents - especially recent ‘incomers’ - realise that the Parish Council makes little or no financial contribution towards their costs of such facilities and services.
17. Melksham faces many challenges over the coming decades if it is to contribute effectively to meeting future national and Wiltshire targets for new housing; whilst identifying the community, employment, health and infrastructure needs to support the rapidly growing local population.

REASONS FOR ONE INTEGRATED MELKSHAM COUNCIL

Population Growth

18. The Melksham area has experienced very significant population growth over the past few years. A lack of five-year land supply and Wiltshire’s consequential inability to resist large scale planning applications has resulted in a significant increase in the number of developments for large numbers new houses currently approved by Wiltshire Council or under construction in the Melksham area.
19. Estimated forecasts population growth for the Melksham Community Area over the period from 2001 to 2026 was forecast to rise from 24,100 to 29,810 (19%) with a projected forecast for 2011 of 26,590.⁵
20. However, the 2011 census showed that the population of the Melksham Community Area as being 28,343 ⁶, and more recent mid 2018 ONS data indicates this has risen again to 30,867. ⁷

21. Information included in the recent 2020 – 2036 Melksham Town Review:
 - a) indicates that the population is split between Town (16,678), Parish (7,374) with the other rural Parishes (6,885).⁸
 - b) in the mid 2018 order of the largest Wiltshire populations by civil parish, Melksham Town is 7th and Melksham Without Parish is 17th - but the combined total of one integrated Melksham Council (24,052) ranks 4th (after Salisbury, Trowbridge and Chippenham).⁹
22. Public domain data reported by the Wiltshire and Swindon Information Network (WSIN) reports that the 'Mid-2018 Lower-layer Super Output Area Population estimates' file produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) indicates the population of Melksham community area has now grown to 30,867 ⁷.
23. Respective town and parish websites claim 23,000 and 7,500 residents ¹⁰ - a total for the Melksham Community of 30,500, which is broadly in line with the ONS figures.
24. So during the intervening period from 2011 to 2018 census, the population of the Melksham Community Area has grown significantly to a point that it already exceeds the Wiltshire Council's previously projected population for the year 2026.
25. This data is also broadly supported by figures produced by the recent review of Wiltshire Electoral Divisions produced by the Local Government Boundary Commission,¹¹ which has allocated the registered voters to each Melksham Division according to the Table below.

| URBAN (Melksham Town) | | RURAL (Melksham Without) | |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Melksham East | 4183 | Melksham Without North & Shurnhold | 3,907 |
| Melksham Forest | 4196 | Melksham Without South & Rural | 3,845 |
| Melksham South | 4,128 | | |
| TOWN | 12,507 | RURAL | 7752 |

These figures do not take account of under-age or non-registered adult residents in the Melksham area.

This allocation reflects Wiltshire's need to 'balance its county wide electoral Division' rather than representing voter needs of the Melksham Community.

The Future Housing Market

26. Tables in Wiltshire Council's Chippenham Housing Market Report (2017) confirms that the target for 2,370 new homes needing to be built in the Melksham Area has already been achieved – and will exceed the target for future development to 2026 – so the revised target is zero new units.
27. Even though Melksham's 2026 housing target has already been exceeded, more new housing developments are currently under development / occupied or are in the pipeline having been approved by Wiltshire Council for the area.
28. More new housing is currently under development, being occupied or in the pipeline within the boundaries of the proposed single Melksham Council area. Melksham area. Large scale developments are taking place East of Melksham Extension (450), Sandridge Place (100), Bowood View off the Semington Road (150), Pathfinder Way, Bowerhill (235) – a total 935 new homes with another 70 units is various smaller projects in the town area.
29. These developments all adjoin existing housing in Melksham and further contribute to the urbanisation of the entire local community.

30. Wiltshire Council's future plans to meet the government's targets for new housing by the year 2036 is to transfer Melksham into the Chippenham Housing Market Area, which has a revised target of around 23,000 new houses by 2036. Inevitably this means over 2,500 more houses for Melksham. ¹²

Addressing Resident Concerns

31. There is growing public concern that community infrastructure investment is not keeping pace with new house building within the Melksham area. Residents currently see no apparent commitment between the two Councils to adopt common policies that require developers to provide the essential community, education, employment, health and infrastructure facilities / services to serve Melksham's rapidly rising population as a whole. This is becoming a matter of discussion in the letter pages of local media.
32. Integration of Polling Districts into one integrated Melksham Council need not change the character of established local communities nor the expectations of residents.
33. This is becoming a matter of discussion in the local media. Recent suggestions in the local press that creation of one integrated Melksham Council might double the precept for parish residents might be politically motivated mischief to 'maintain the myth' of 'village status', but the discussion reflects the fact that many local people are now questioning if the present split civic governance of two Councils representing Melksham residents is any longer 'fit-for-purpose'.
34. Also being discussed is the allocation of precept and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding, which is supposed to be allocated to provide the community infrastructure, retail and transport facilities needs of local communities. However the rapidly growing population of the Melksham community as a whole has not benefitted since relevant regulations came into force in April 2010.
35. Some examples of poor decision making arising from the lack of a consistent civic governance approach are:
- a) the plan to locate a primary school within the site of the Pathfinder Way development, to served pupils from this estate and the 450 new East of Melksham homes, which necessitates parents and their children having to cross the busy A365 Western Way unprotected at peak times when traffic is accessing the Bowerhill houses and industrial estates;
 - b) the allocation of the one million pounds offered by developers towards providing more secondary education places to the Oaks Community School without any engagement or consultation with local parents and residents;
 - c) the planners recommendation to refuse a request from the NHS for £150,000 - and accepted by developers - as a funding contribution towards meeting the cost of hard-pressed GP health resources struggling to meet the needs of the more patients than predicted for 2026 arising from new housing development - rejected in the planning process as no immediate use of the funds was identified in the parish area.
36. Many residents are simply not aware that the split governance arrangement even exists – and certainly what the impact might be in terms of providing facilities and services. They assume that there is only one Council with this responsibility - and they expect equitable sharing of the costs of providing the facilities and services that both town and parish residents rely on. Melksham needs better understanding and commitment to provide the facilities and services needed by the local community across the age range.
37. One Council would be better placed to liaise and collaborate in partnership with Wiltshire Council and other statutory / voluntary sector partners to plan, fund and provide the essential facilities and services to keep pace with Melksham's rapidly growing residential expansion.
38. These partners should benefit from reducing their administration costs and the pressure on their staff, resources and time needed to deal with just one Council; who in turn should also be able to more efficiently manage decision-making and an expanded staff team for the benefit of all Melksham residents.

BENEFITS OF ONE INTEGRATED MELKSHAM COUNCIL

39. Overtime, the integration of the Polling Districts identified in the foregoing paragraphs 6 and 8 to create one single Melksham Council would be better placed to deliver benefits for local third tier community governance, for local residents, and also to Wiltshire Council.
40. One Council would be better placed to liaise and collaborate in partnership with Wiltshire Council and other statutory / voluntary sector partners to plan, fund and provide the essential facilities and services to keep pace with Melksham's rapidly growing residential expansion.

Local Governance

41. The benefits for local community governance of an integrated single Melksham Council are likely to be opportunities:
 - a) to promote Melksham as one integrated Council serving a population of 24,052, which would rank as the 4th largest population in Wiltshire;
 - b) for the local community to deliver a more cohesive message when demanding the facilities and services needed to support its very rapidly increasing population and to use its resources to significantly enhance the local urban community as a whole;
 - c) a much stronger voice when decisions are being made about how and where Melksham develops for the future – building on its position as the 4th largest urban population in Wiltshire;
 - d) to create a credible and viable longer-term Melksham Neighbourhood Plan to 2036;
 - e) set future precepts to fund the facilities and services needed to support and benefit all Melksham residents;
 - f) to efficient use of the expanded resources and staff in Council planning and implementation of policies to achieve economies of scale and deliver essential facilities and services;
 - g) to strengthen the democratic balance of elected representation for the Melksham community by widening the geographic eligibility area to attract applications from residents, including existing town and parish Councillors, to offer themselves for election.

Local Residents

42. The benefits of one integrated Melksham Council for local residents are likely to be opportunities:
 - a) to demand the facilities and services that are needed to support a very rapidly increasing population and the resources to significantly enhance our local town.
 - b) to use the single Council status to address resident concerns about lack of investment to provide the essential community, education, employment, health and infrastructure facilities / services to serve Melksham's rapidly rising population as a whole;
 - c) to offer a much stronger voice a single source when decisions are being made about how and where Melksham develops for the future;
 - d) to reduce the cost of supporting two Councils by making more efficient use of the expanded resources and Melksham staff team available to enhance the whole Melksham community;
 - e) to strengthen Council planning and implementation of policies to achieve economies of scale and deliver essential facilities and services more efficiently;
 - f) to equitably share CIL, grant and other sources of funding and the setting of fairer future precepts to provide the facilities and services needed to support and benefit all Melksham residents;

- g) to help create an even stronger progressive community spirit in Melksham for the benefit of young and older residents of all ages.

Wiltshire Council

43. Wiltshire Council is also likely to benefit from into one single Melksham Council by:
- a) reducing Wiltshire Council's administration costs and officer time needed to:
 - liaise and carry out partnership working with one council rather than two;
 - carry out more efficient engagement to obtain community feedback;
 - avoid and resolve conflicting consultation feedback on development and implementation of Wiltshire Council plans, policies, and strategies;
 - create a viable organisation to enable the transfer or upkeep of assets that Wiltshire Council can no longer afford to maintain;
 - administer the collection and distribution of future precepts for one Council rather than two in the Melksham area;
 - comply with legislative requirements in dealing with planning applications.
 - b) creating enhanced opportunities for more efficient and effective partnership working to plan and deliver Wiltshire Council's Core Strategy policies, plans, facilities and services in the Melksham area;
 - c) scope to integrate Polling Districts across the Melksham area to better relate to availability of Polling stations;
 - d) a much stronger voice when decisions are being made. In short, we need more say about how and where Melksham develops for the future;
 - e) efficient use of the expanded resources and staff in Council planning and implementation of policies to achieve economies of scale and deliver essential facilities and services;
 - f) ensuring that a democratically viable third tier Council exists in Melksham with strengthened elected representation to articulate and help create an even stronger progressive community spirit for the benefit of local residents of all ages.

PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

44. Even though the combined Melksham population ranks the area as 4th largest within Wiltshire, there is no apparently consistent economic and strategic planning to provide essential employment facilities nor to alleviate local traffic congestion.
45. Wiltshire Council's current Core Strategy seems to view Melksham's role as being a largely domiciliary area, with a significant proportion of local residents seeking employment via outward commuting to Bath, Bristol, Swindon and farther afield – including along the M4 to London. This is evidenced by the higher than planned traffic congestion on Melksham roads at peak period and the surge in use of local rail services through Melksham Railway Station.
46. However, this no longer accords with the amount of manufacturing and other commercial accommodation in the town nor changes in the work-life balance expectations of modern society.
47. Melksham has succeeded over recent years, in attracting a number of major new employers to the area - Avon, Knorr Bremse, Gompels, GPlan, Herman Miller, Travelodge, and Wiltshire Air Ambulance - offering a range of jobs and broadening the range of skills required locally.

Employment

48. Wiltshire Council records that “ the proportion of employment in the manufacturing sector is the highest in Wiltshire (well above average both locally and nationally) and employment in the retail sector is also above average¹³.
49. Comparative analysis of the commercial premises in Melksham indicates space, position and number of premises against other urban areas in Wiltshire show: ¹⁴

| | Sq Mtrs | Postition | Premises |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| WILTSHIRE | 1,520,000 | - | 2,779 |
| industrial | 203,000 | 1st | 187 |
| office | 14,000 | 7th | 124 |
| warehouse / distribution | 193,000 | 2nd | 103 |

50. Wiltshire Council’s Core Strategy identifies that currently land is allocated for employment use in the Melksham area is primarily located in the Bowerhill and the Hampton Park trading estates in the parish adjacent to the A350 Semington Bypass; and at the Cooper Tires and Avonside Park sites in the town area north of the River Avon.
51. These sites provide employment for local people in a range of distribution, manufacturing and warehousing businesses. Other, largely low skill part time or zero contract, jobs are provided in the supermarkets, town centre shops and other local community retail premises; and at a range of local pubs and restaurants.
52. An integrated strategic approach will be needed to take advantage of future economic and employment creation opportunities. These could be created by the release of a substantial acreage of brownfield sites in both the town and parish – for example, arising from the recent decision by Cooper Tires to relocate most of its manufacturing activities overseas and Wiltshire Council’s closure of the Christie Millar Sports Centre site.
53. Attracting a wider range of artisan, local and national retail outlets and improved car parking facilities as part of a long-overdue town centre regeneration project is needed to enhance the shopping experience of Melksham and other local residents.
54. This can best achieved by a single integrated Council promoting the town’s combined population as the fourth largest town in Wiltshire. A single Melksham Council would be well placed to adopt a strategic vision of how the redevelopment of these projects as employment land sites can be achieved. This would broaden the experience, expertise and skills mix needed to support the local economy; and encourage schemes of apprenticeship, training and up-skilling within the local workforce. As a start to progress this approach, the Town Council is employing an Economic Development Officer to promote the benefits of locating businesses in Melksham.
55. The limited retail provision serving the Berryfield, Bowerhill and East of Melksham communities is consistent with the small district community developments now found in other local urban conurbations such as Chippenham and Trowbridge.
56. A single Melksham Council would also be well placed to ensure that the area benefits from its central location along the A350 north-south corridor linking to the M4 motorway and Poole; from future enhancement of the local highway network; and from the greatly improved rail links with the enhancement of its own station but also easy access to the national network via Chippenham, Trowbridge and Westbury.

Strategic Projects

57. One integrated Council is needed to provide a cohesive economic development strategy for the entire Melksham community. A strong voice is needed to promote several other local strategic projects that need to be explored to boost the local economy and create new employment opportunities in Melksham to take advantage of the town's central location along the A350; especially for large scale strategic and canal / highway projects
58. There is, as yet, no strategic vision for investing in the development of sustainable future economic and employment opportunities for the Melksham area agreed by the town and parish. The Town Council is developing proposals for regenerating the town centre, and some progress is belatedly being made via the long delayed evolving Neighbourhood Plan.
59. Wiltshire Council has previously identified land adjoining the Bowerhill trading estate as SHLAA sites with development potential for housing, but which might be better suited for employment purposes. Also some smaller brownfield sites exist in the town. An integrated approach is better placed to develop a plan for their development, regardless of location within an integrated Melksham Council boundary.
60. A strategic vision for the regeneration of Melksham's Town Centre, coupled with a cohesive plan for the redevelopment of any spare acreage at the Cooper Tires and Avonside Park sites, has the potential to create a significant number of new jobs for Melksham residents.
61. In July 2017 Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group identified a requirement to update the primary care facilities and services for the 120,000+ patient population of Bradford – Chippenham – Melksham and Trowbridge communities.¹⁵ Amongst other things, this included provision of a 'hospital hub'.¹⁵ The proposal created an opportunity, then supported by the landowner, to take advantage of Melksham's central location for creating a new build facility immediately adjacent the A350 Semington Bypass and next to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Base. This has not progressed as yet due to changes within the NHS Estates organisation, which have recently been implemented, but may still be an option for consideration, especially as the Damian GP surgeries is seeking to close in March. Investment in health related facilities will create many multi-skills jobs and be very beneficial in sustaining the economy of the Melksham area.
62. Wiltshire's Core Policy includes the safeguarding of land running through both the parish and town to restore the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal.¹⁶ The development to restore a link from the Kennet and Avon Canal to the town centre will initially create construction jobs and deliver some new housing. Once completed the proposal has major implications for both parish and town areas, as it potentially offers the prospect of providing additional community facilities, boosting the local tourism economy, and delivering environmental and recreational benefits.
63. Following a highways review that identified an much higher level than expected of traffic movements along the A350, Wiltshire Council has recently completed a transitional improvement of the Farmers Roundabout to reduce congestion. Longer-term Wiltshire Council has identified, with support from both town and parish, several options to meet the need for a by-pass round the east of Melksham.¹⁷
64. Although both Berryfield and Bowerhill have village Halls, the Berryfield one is no longer fit for purpose and needs to be replaced. This is reliant on developer contributions arising the new housing development along the former Semington Road.
65. Many jobs will be created during the construction phase of all the above projects, followed thereafter by a range of skilled / unskilled and full / part local employment opportunities – all of which will contribute towards the long-term economic prosperity of the whole Melksham community and of the wider Wiltshire.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

66. The intention of the CIL legislation introduced in the 2008 Planning Act was to use a one-off payment made by property owners / developers to help fund the cost of providing the local infrastructure needed by communities to support increased population arising new housing

developments. However the community of Melksham as a whole has not benefitted since the relevant Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations came into force on 6th April 2010.¹⁷

67. The resources of a single integrated Council working with Wiltshire Council and local partners can more efficiently enhance the wellbeing of all Melksham residents by using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other funding to deliver enhancement of such projects as the King George V Park, the Assembly Hall, the Library, and sports facilities at the Melksham House Campus, and the ongoing maintenance of allotments, green spaces, play areas local footpaths / cycle-ways.
68. A more efficient allocation of CIL funding is required to provide the community, infrastructure, retail and transport facilities needs of the rapidly growing population of Melksham. Under current arrangements, the parish benefits from the CIL funding because that is where most of the new housing is located. Unfortunately, many of the hard pressed facilities and services that residents rely on are located in the town. A single integrated Melksham Council would resolve this problem.
69. Wiltshire Council reported that in the 2016 Boundary Review the Parish Council has already recognised that where houses in new developments sit better with the town they should be transferred.² Around 750 houses have already been transferred and the Parish Council is now proposing to transfer a further 550 houses from East of Melksham and Sandridge Place developments. This suggests that the parish recognises these new housing developments are eroding the green buffer zones with the town and are contributing to the urban expansion of the whole of the existing Melksham communities.
70. The proposal to transfer this new housing should therefore carry with it the CIL funding in order to enable infrastructure developments that will benefit all local Melksham residents. This has not been the case to date. Instead the hard pressed local community, education and health facilities and congested highway network are expected to cope with existing arrangements without any investment for the future to cope with the increasing local population.
71. The work to achieve these transfers is an unnecessary administrative burden on Wiltshire Council and other relevant bodies, which could be avoided by transferring Berryfield, Blackmore and Bowerhill areas to create single integrated Melksham Council; and establishing a separate Parish for Beanacre, Shaw and Whitley.
72. One integrated Council for Melksham representing all local residents would be better placed to enable a strong local voice to be established for the community in its relationship with Wiltshire Council, other public bodies and local landowners / developers to ensure that CIL funding is used more effectively to identify and implement a planned strategic vision of what facilities and infrastructure to support a rapidly growing local population.

Education and Training

73. Historically, secondary education in Melksham was broadly focused on meeting the engineering, scientific and technical skill requirements of the town's main employer - Avon / Cooper Tires. Secondary education for most young people of Melksham is now provided in one secondary school (Melksham Oaks Community School), which relocated to a green field site on the town / parish boundary along the A365 Devizes Road.
74. Developers of the new East of Melksham houses have offered one million pounds towards providing secondary education places. This has been allocated to address growing demand pressure on places at Oaks Community School, which is already reaching capacity. The school is seeking to expand by constructing new or temporary classrooms – but the school 'has limited further development potential'.
75. This funding has been allocated without any engagement or consultation with parents and local people. There is a view amongst some parents and residents that a second secondary school will be needed in Melksham to provide some choice and address the demand for places for the growing population. There is also some concern as this new housing development will drag more children

along or crossing already congested roads. There is evidence that some secondary age children are already accessing school places in Corsham, Chippenham and Trowbridge.

76. Similar capacity issues exist for the primary schools serving Melksham Children. This is partially being addressed by the plan to locate a new primary school within the site of the Pathfinder Way housing development. This will draw pupils from this development and the 450 new East of Melksham homes but necessitate parents and their children to travel by car or risk crossing the busy A365 Western Way at peak times for traffic access the Bowerhill houses and industrial estates.
77. The assignment of the Canberra Youth Centre to Young Melksham to provide youth services to local young people is very welcome, but was achieved largely through the efforts of a voluntary community group with grant aid support from Wiltshire, the town and parish. A stronger integrated local voice might have achieved this outcome much quicker.
78. Further education is accessed at Wiltshire College campuses in Chippenham, Lackham and Trowbridge. It is likely that wider education and training skills will need to be available to Melksham residents as the range of local employment opportunities expands and the community and their personal aspirations evolve.
79. Land use development must go hand-in-hand with skills development if Melksham is to fully contribute to the future economic prosperity of the area and Wiltshire as a whole. There is currently a lack of a jointly evolved strategic vision for educating, support, training and skills development for the people of the town and parish which can only really be overcome by creating one integrated Melksham Council with the resources and skills available to identify and underpin residents' needs in future collaborative working with Wiltshire Council and other agencies.

Highways and Transport

80. It is reported that Wiltshire Highways Department's most recent analysis of traffic flows around Melksham confirms 30,000 – 40,000 movements per day, which is far more traffic using the A350 than it's previously planned capacity. Traffic congestion is encountered on a regular basis along Western Way, around the Farmers Market roundabout and on other roads into Melksham. This shows that the local road network cannot cope with this volume of traffic and fully justifies the recent upgrade work undertaken as a temporary fix.
81. However, the A350 is becoming an increasingly important north-south route. An Eastern by-pass around Melksham is one of several schemes that have been proposed to the Department of Transport by the Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body for potential future funding. The recently approved government funding for a bypass around Chippenham is questionable given the investment in upgrading the A350 to the west of the town. However either routes could then be extended to take most of the heavy vehicles and tourist traffic around Melksham – away from most of the residential areas. A long-term by-pass solution for Melksham is long overdue.
82. Both the recently opened eastern distributor road – built largely from housing developer contributions – and the Semington by-pass have both been designed to allow for eventual dual carriageways to allow for the extra traffic likely to be using local roads and the A350 in the future. Both the Parish and Town Councils support the development of an Eastern by-pass in principle – but an integrated Council may be better placed to work with Wiltshire Council, the Highways Agency and other partners to progress this.
83. There are still details that need to be considered, consulted upon, and finalised. It is vital that a strong Melksham voice is heard to achieve the significant community, education, health and infrastructure investment comes with - or preferably before – any new large scale new housing developments. This can best be achieved by a single integrated Council for Melksham working with partners to insist on robust conditions imposed on developers to invest in these infrastructure requirements.
84. The huge increase in rail traffic ¹⁸ using Melksham Station for employment, education or leisure purposes is testament to the move towards using public transport services by local people.

THE TWO COMMUNITIES ARE MUTUALLY DEPENDENT

85. Geographically, the Parish almost surrounds the Town boundary. Although much of the new housing is located at the fringes of the town, there is a high level of mutual dependence in the use that residents from both Council areas make of local facilities, services and infrastructure, wherever they may be located within the town or parish boundaries.
86. Town and Parish residents already share the use of Melksham's existing public and voluntary facilities / services that provide community, education, employment, entertainment, health, highway, leisure, play areas and open spaces, retail, social and transport.
87. Entertainment, community, social and recreation facilities for residents are provided within the town boundary at the Assembly Hall, in the King George V Park, the library, at the hospital and the three GP surgeries, in the Market Square, and in the future at the Campus. Recreational and sporting facilities - and most of the employment - currently exist within the parish but this will change when Melksham House Campus opens. Every year thousands of Melksham residents and people from much farther afield flock to the town to enjoy the Carnival, Christmas Lights, Food and River Festival, Party in the Park and the many shows and community activities hosted in the Assembly Hall.
88. The town centre area is the focal point for the main supermarkets, both national and local 'high street' business and retail services, and various market activities.
89. Demand pressure in Melksham for both primary and secondary school places is likely to intensify with future new housing developments; as will patient needs for local primary health and social care facilities services placed on the already overworked local GP surgeries – one of which (St Damians) is seeking to close, forcing patients to reregister with the other two or going to Bradford.
90. Residents from both town and parish make good use of local public transport services. Community public transport links around the Melksham area link passengers at the 'hub' in the Market Square to bus services to Bath, Chippenham, Corsham, Devizes, Frome and Trowbridge; and to the adjacent taxi rank.
91. The increase in number of trains calling Melksham railway station and the consequential upgrading of the platform has led to a surge in passenger numbers –raising Melksham to the highest percentage increase in passenger use in Britain ^{A12} - and greatly improving rail access via Chippenham, Salisbury, Swindon, and Westbury to the national network.
92. The many voluntary and community groups operating in the Melksham area provide facilities and services to local residents without making any distinction about which part of the wider local community they come from. Both the Town and Parish Councils provide grants – often together - to support these activities and the public events described.
93. Since 2014, the Town and Parish Councils have been working together to support the production of a long-delayed evolving Neighbourhood Plan to address local land use and planning issues within their respective boundaries. One of the reasons underpinning this joint approach was to produce a Plan to promote community cohesion, logical infrastructure and a united vision for when a boundary review takes place. Five years down the line, no Plan has yet been forthcoming and the process has not yet reached Regulation 14 stage in the adoption process, which - together with the lack of five-year land supply and consequential inability to resist large scale planning applications - has allowed developers to turn many green fields in and around Melksham into housing estates.
94. More recently, both Councils have agreed to collaborate on creating a mini country park in the Shurnhold Field. Both these projects take a joint strategic overview of the use of land, which falls within the control of both Councils, but much of the maintenance is now being undertaken by local volunteers with support.

95. However, there is growing public concern that provision of the facilities, infrastructure and services needed to support our rapidly increasing 30,000 plus population in Melksham are not keeping pace with plans for future new housing developments. A single integrated Council for Melksham would be well placed to reflect these concerns with local partners and to be an agent to spur delivery of plans to ensure that local people get the support that the community needs.

REVIEWING THE 'VILLAGE STATUS' ARGUMENT

96. Dictionaries define a 'parish' as being a "unit of local government in rural England ¹⁹, often coinciding with an original ecclesiastical parish" ²⁰. Neither Bowerhill, Berryfield nor the land East of Melksham have their own church - they are all part of the parishes of St Michaels Melksham – within the Town boundary - so do not meet the test of coinciding with an original ecclesiastical parish.
97. Historically, the market town of Melksham was surrounded by land devoted to farming. The land at Bowerhill was largely agricultural until 1940 when the Royal Air Force took it over to create the No. 12 Technical Training School and build married quarters housing in the Berryfield area. When these were closed during the mid 1960's, the land did not revert to farming but was used instead to build housing and industrial estate premises for distribution, manufacturing and warehousing.
98. Today the land at Bowerhill and Berryfield is largely covered in houses and the large industrial and commercial estates separated from Melksham town only by the A350 and A365, so becoming urban conurbations.
99. These housing developments and those in the East of Melksham area have been built on green field sites, immediately adjoining the Town Council boundary. For years Wiltshire Council planners have considered that Bowerhill is part of Melksham for planning purposes.
100. More recent planning decisions have allowed housing development of over 250 new houses on the land off Pathfinder Way, 150 along the Semington Road and a further 450 house off the Spa to extend along the south east of Melksham.
101. These developments further eradicate the rural buffer gap between the town and parish. The failure to protect the green space rural buffer between Melksham town and the Bowerhill and Berryfield communities effectively neutralises the aspirations of some of local residents to maintain the illusion of 'village' status.
102. Within the parish figures, the population of Bowerhill is reported as being 3000 electors, and of Berryfield being around 1,000 people ²¹. This is supported by the numbers of electors registered in the Bowerhill Polling Districts.
103. On paper, this number of electors should be sufficient to sustain a case for an application for a separate Parish Council. This option has been explored but discarded - largely because of
- a) the lack of historical recognition of 'village status' for Bowerhill;
 - b) the identity of Bowerhill as a village is subsumed within the Melksham Without Parish, and is not considered separately in dealings with Wiltshire Council and other statutory bodies;
 - c) the high level of mutual inter-dependency for community, employment, entertainment, facilities, services and road networks between the Bowerhill and Melksham communities;
 - d) new housing development has closure of the green buffer area between the communities;
 - e) the unusually high level a industrial, office and warehousing premises located in trading estates more usually found in urban areas;
 - f) recent experience suggests that the parish has struggled to attract enough candidates offering themselves for election to serve as Councillors.

- g) Integration of the Town and Parish Councils into a single Melksham Council creates a much stronger voice for local residents in dealings with Wiltshire Council and other statutory and voluntary bodies;
 - h) and provides an opportunity to establish a cohesive economic development strategy covering housing, employment, recreation, retail, skill development and transport.
104. The fact is that over the past seven decades Berryfield, Bowerhill and most recently East of Melksham have increasingly become large urban housing estate communities as green fields have been developed.
105. Melksham needs to build on the pride, community spirit and volunteer commitment that delivers the successful Carnival, Christmas Lights, Food and River Festival, Melksham in Bloom, Parkrun, and Party in the Park – all events that the parish makes little or no funding contribution towards.
106. Conclusion – the argument that Bowerhill and Berryfield should be called historic rural villages within a Parish Council area can no longer be sustained because these communities:
- (a) do not meet the test of a link to an original ecclesiastical parish;
 - (b) much of the land in these communities and east of Melksham are now largely covered by housing or industrial premises;
 - (c) recent Wiltshire Council planning approvals for new housing have largely eradicated the rural buffer with the town;
 - (d) the high level of mutual dependency for residents accessing the range of Melksham facilities and services.

For all the reasons outlined in the foregoing paragraphs, it is suggested that the Polling Districts listed in paragraphs 6 and 8 of this document, formerly being in the Melksham Town and Melksham Without Parish Council boundaries, are integrated to form a new Parish to be called Melksham Council.

CREATING A NEW PARISH COUNCIL FOR BEANACRE, SHAW AND WHITLEY

107. The Collins English Dictionary defines a ‘parish’ as being a “unit of local government in rural England, often coinciding with an original ecclesiastical parish”.²⁰ Both Beanacre and Shaw have parish churches - so meet the ecclesiastical parish definition test.
108. The three adjoining Beanacre, Shaw and Whitley communities have connecting boundaries; and are located in rural settings located to the north west of Melksham. Shaw and Whitley are recognised as being historical villages and ancient centres of population.
109. There has been little significantly large-scale new housing development and population growth within their boundaries of any these villages to breach the rural buffer between them and Melksham town.
110. The Parish Council already recognises the combination of Beanacre, Shaw and Whitley as a separate Ward for election and representational purposes.
111. Using Wiltshire Council’s Polling District data, the estimated number of voters in each Polling Districts listed in the following table indicates how a Beanacre, Shaw and Whitley Parish Council would compare with other immediately adjoining Parishes.

Proposed New Parish 1 - Beanacre Shaw and Whitley

| Parish | Polling District | Estimated Voters | | Cllrs |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| | | 2018 | 2024 | |
| Atworth | EC1 | 945 | 981 | 9 |
| Shaw and Whitley Beanacre | FX1, FX2 | 1094 279 | 1141 290 | 9 or 11 suggested |
| Broughton Gifford | EL1 | 667 | 692 | 11 |
| Keevil | FH1 | 371 | 385 | 7 |
| Lacock (Corsham Without) | OH1 | 828 | 1640 | 11 |
| Seend | YB1 | 901 | 935 | 11 |
| Semington | GF1 | | 839 | 9 |

112. This data tends to support the Melksham Without Website report that the total population of the respective communities as Beanacre (300), Shaw (500) and Whitley (1,000) – a total of c1,800^{xx}, and other adjoining local parish websites report their populations as being Atworth (1,275), Broughton Gifford (813), Keevil (437), Seend (1095) and Semington (969).
113. All of these adjoining parishes are viable and operate successful Parish governance arrangements^{xy}. A strong case exists for these three outlying rural Parishes to be given greater self autonomy to build closer links on geographical grounds. So it is therefore argued that, taken together, Beanacre, Shaw and Whitley are also big enough to sustain their own Parish Council.



114. There is a vibrant action group of volunteers (Community Action Whitley and Shaw (CAWS), of which all residents of the two villages are automatically residents, who might provide a basis for creating a viable governance arrangement.
115. Melksham Town Council has indicated their support for this proposal.

For the reasons outlined in the foregoing paragraphs, it is suggested that the Polling Districts listed in paragraphs 104 to 112 of this document, formerly being in the Melksham Without Parish Council boundary, are integrated to create a new Beanacre, Shaw and Whitley Parish

TRANSFERRING THE 'BRAG' PICNIC AREA LAND FROM SEEND PARISH TO MELKSHAM COUNCIL

116. In their response to this civic governance consultation, Melksham Without Parish Council is reported to have requested the transfer of the BRAG 'canal picnic area' land from Seend Parish Council. The proposal is worthy of serious consideration and support.²
117. The land suggested to be transferred is situated on the Melksham side of the Kennet and Avon Canal, immediately adjoining the Bowerhill housing estate.
118. The site is maintained by BRAG – a group of volunteers forming the Bowerhill Residents Action Group, who maintain the site and carry out a range of other community projects.
119. The site provides an important recreational amenity, which is widely used by Melksham residents from town and parish. Most of the public access to this land is generated from the Bowerhill side of the canal.
120. The Local Government Boundary Commission is recommending that Seend is transferred out of the Melksham Community Area.
121. The Parish Council's proposal to include the 'BRAG' site with the rest of the Bowerhill estate is therefore entirely logical.

For the reasons outlined in the foregoing paragraphs, it is suggested the proposal that land known as the BRAG 'canal picnic area' formerly being in the Seend Parish Council boundary is transferred into the proposed new Melksham Council area.

ORIGINAL SUBMISSION TO COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Please submit my comments to the community governance review consultation in respect of the Melksham, Town, Melksham Without and Seend area. I suggest for your consideration:

1. Merging the Bowerhill, Berryfield and East of Melksham areas into the current Melksham Town boundaries to create a single integrated Melksham Council with five Wards;
2. Creating a new separate Parish including the historic villages of Beanacre, Shaw and Whitley;
3. Transferring all the 'BRAG' land from Seend Parish into the proposed new Melksham Council area

Melksham Town Council and Melksham Parish Council have been working together for several years to support the production of an evolving Neighbourhood Plan. During this period, the Melksham Community Area has experienced very significant population growth to 30867¹, which in 2019 already exceeds Wiltshire's core policy 2026 target Population Estimates and Forecast of population for the area of 29810²

Historically, land east and south of Melksham was devoted to farming, until Bowerhill became RAF Melksham before becoming housing and industrial estates and Berryfield became married quarter housing. More recently, green fields east of Melksham have been developed to meet housing needs.

Even though Melksham's 2026 housing target has already been exceeded, more new housing developments are currently under development / occupied or are in the pipeline having been approved by Wiltshire Council for the area. Evolving housing developments on the Pathfinder Way and along the Semington Road and the commercial and industrial premises on the large Bowerhill and Hampton trading estates have effectively closed the rural buffer between the Town and Parish Council areas.

Melksham Parish Council has already transferred around 750 houses to the Town Council, and now suggests transferring several hundred houses more of these new houses to the Town Council. In reality, Bowerhill, Berryfield and East of Melksham are not villages - they are large urban housing estates.

Town and Parish residents share the use of Melksham's existing public facilities and services – but there is growing public concern that provision of community, education, employment, entertainment, health, highway, leisure, play areas and open spaces, retail, social and transport infrastructures are not keeping pace with these housing developments. I share the views of many local people who question if the present civic governance arrangement of two Councils representing Melksham residents is any longer 'fit-for-purpose'.

Melksham faces many challenges over the coming decades if it is to contribute effectively to meeting future national and Wiltshire targets. A very strong business case can be made to show how a single integrated Melksham Council would be better placed to (a) understand and reflect the needs of local people of all ages, and (b) to deliver economies of scale and enable efficient, constructive contribution towards future collaborative working with Wiltshire Council and other statutory bodies in the planning and delivery of infrastructure facilities and services to meet the demands of a rapidly growing population. I therefore suggest Proposal 1 above for consideration.

Conversely Beanacre, Shaw and Whitley are recognised as being historical villages and ancient centres of population areas, with connecting boundaries in rural settings located to the north of Melksham. There is a vibrant action group of volunteers (Community Action Whitley and Shaw (CAWS), of which all residents of the two villages are automatically members, who might provide a basis for creating a viable governance arrangement. There are already many smaller parish Councils with smaller populations within the Wiltshire County boundary that are viable. I therefore suggest Proposal 2 above for consideration.

The 'BRAG' land is situated on the Melksham side of the Kennet and Avon Canal area, maintained by the Bowerhill Residents Action Group, and with general public access from the Bowerhill area. Seend is being transferred out of the Melksham Community Area so it seems logical to include the 'BRAG' site when the rest of the Bowerhill estate is merged to create a new integrated Melksham Council. I therefore suggest Proposal 3 above for consideration.

Thank you.

Nick Westbrook 29 Sandridge Road, MELKSHAM SN12 7BQ

29th November 2019

SOURCES

- 1 Wiltshire Core Strategy – TABLE 5.9 Delivery of Housing 2006 – 2026 - Melksham
- 2 Melksham Without Parish Council Full Council Minute 101 / 19 – 24th June 2019
- 3 Chippenham Housing Market Area – Individual Settlement and Housing Market Profile – 2017
- 4 Electoral Forecast Data – August 2018
- 5 Population Estimates and Forecast – Table 2.0A Wiltshire Intelligence Network
- 6 Melksham 2011 Census Data - Wiltshire Council
- 7 2018 Community Area Population, Smaller Area Populations Chart – WSIN
- 8 Melksham Town Review 2020 – 2036 Demography Table – page 35
- 9 JSA for Melksham Community Area Executive Summary - page 6
- 10 Respective Melksham Town and Without Parish Council websites at 12.2019
- 11 Wiltshire Final Recommendations – Local Government Boundary Commission
- 12 Chippenham Housing Market Area 2017 (page 34) - Wiltshire Council
- 13 JSA for Melksham Community Area Executive Summary (page 14)
- 14 Melksham Town Review 2020 – 2036 Demography Table – page 6
- 15 Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group - July 2017
- 16 Wiltshire Core Strategy
- 17 Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations - 6th April 2010.
- 18 Trans Wilts data
- 19 Penguin English Dictionary (page 642) - Penguin
- 20 English Dictionary and Rogets' Thesaurus (page 623) - W H Smith
- 21 Melksham Without Parish Council website at 12.2019

Comments on Recommendation 9 - Creation of a new parish of Derry Hill & Studley

Firstly I would like thank the Electoral Review Committee for their time and efforts in considering the petition and other requests.

As the originator of the petition I am naturally disappointed that the recommendation is not to create a new parish council of Derry Hill and Studley in time for the May 2021 election. I am heartened though that there is now at least an acknowledgement that there is compelling evidence that a new parish of Derry Hill & Studley could be created if satisfactory arrangements can be made for the remaining part of the parish, I strongly believe that the remainder of Calne Without is perfectly capable of continuing to be a viable parish council from the May 2021 election.

I can appreciate the Committee's desire to explore other possible governance arrangements by combining wards with neighbouring parishes but this could have been undertaken much earlier, along with a consultation on Calne Town Councils requests for very simple boundary changes.

Sadly, the Committee have clearly rejected the view that the remainder of Calne Without could continue to be a perfectly viable council in its own right, despite it having the largest population of any parish in the Calne area. It already has 7 councillors, many of whom are long serving, experienced councillors. I think most people would find it hard to believe that an area with around 1250 voters, was not thought capable of sustaining a viable and competent parish council. Even if the quite reasonable request by Calne Town Council to incorporate the new housing development at Cherhill View into their boundaries was approved, there would still be around 900 voters in the remainder of Calne Without. A perfectly viable size for a parish council.

Calne Without PC has only in recent years provided any services at all and it would be inconceivable that the remaining part of Calne Without would have any difficulty in continuing to fund those few services that are currently provided. A contract to empty dog waste bins and the maintenance of a new (but little used) bus shelter should not prove a burden to the remainder of Calne Without

I and the vast majority of residents certainly don't believe a new parish could be damaging to community cohesion as there is little evidence of any community links or cohesion between Derry Hill/Studley and Lower Compton, Stockley or any of the other settlements in the remaining area. Community cohesion within a new Derry Hill & Studley parish could only flourish.

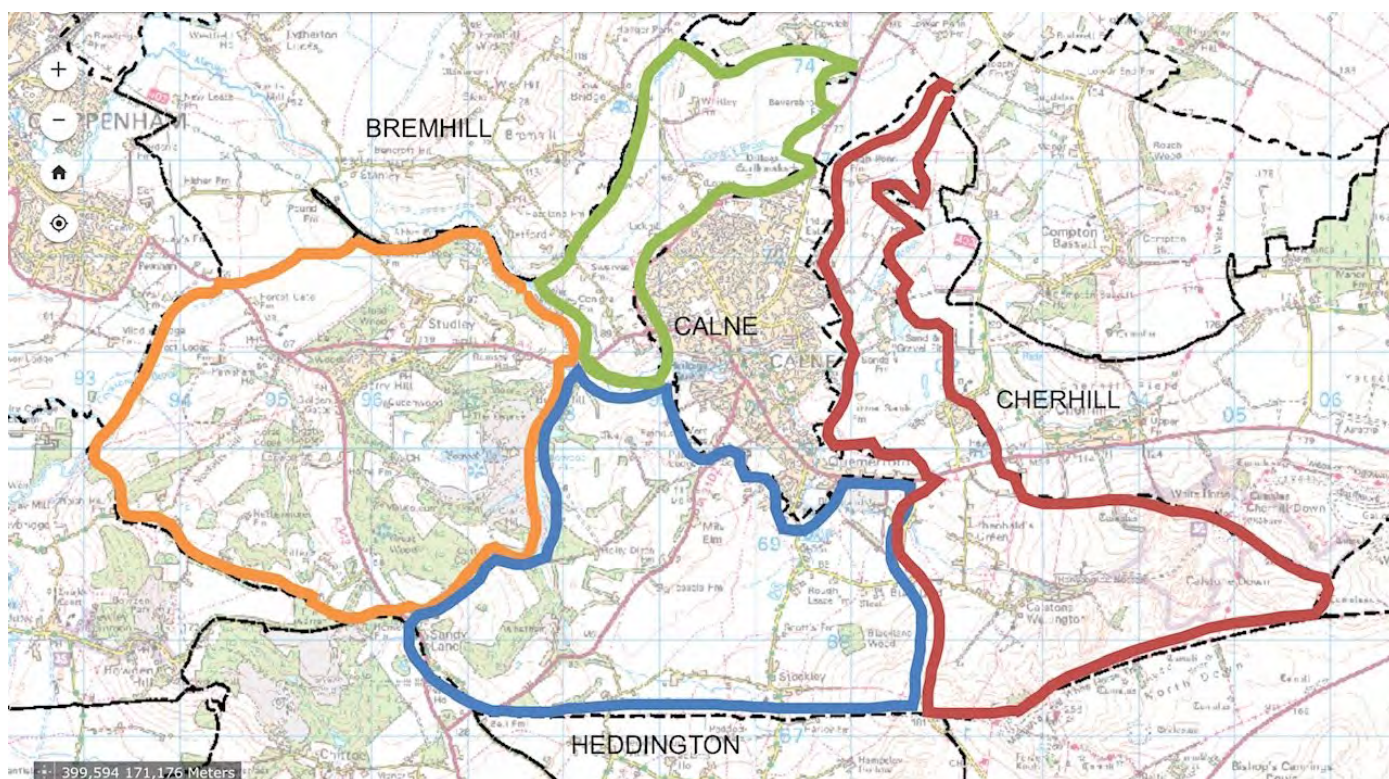
Whilst no one would deny that the remaining part of Calne Without has very few facilities, I think the Committee has misunderstood what connections there are between our local communities. That is because these settlements are all part of, or closely linked to, larger communities just across the parish boundary in adjoining parishes. People from Stockley, Calstone and Lower Compton do not use the facilities in Derry Hill & Studley nor have any recognisable links or cohesion with Derry Hill & Studley which are 5 miles away on the other side of Calne.

Stockley residents use the school, pub, village hall and church in Heddington which is only a mile away. They join with Heddington for their joint Steam Rally, and the Heddington and Stockley firework display. Similarly, residents of Calstone and Lower Compton use the school, pub, village hall and church in Cherhill which is again only a mile or so away. They even have to use polling stations in Heddington and Cherhill (not Derry Hill) to vote in Calne Without Parish Council elections.

Whilst I don't accept Wiltshire Councils view that the remainder of Calne Without is not capable of being a viable parish council on its own. I have always thought that there are benefits and opportunities for the remaining areas to amalgamate with their neighbouring parishes. Unfortunately, it was not appropriate for me as the originator of the petition to be prescriptive in setting out what should happen to the remainder of the parish. My thoughts were that with such overwhelming support for the petition, a new parish for Derry Hill & Studley would be created by May 2021, with the remainder of Calne Without continuing successfully as a parish until such time as the residents of that area judged that they should amalgamate with neighbouring parishes. Whilst I think that is likely to be the best way forward for the remainder of Calne Without, I didn't feel that it was really a decision for myself and other residents of Derry Hill & Studley. Just as a separate council for Derry Hill and Studley should not be blocked by parish councillors representing other communities. However with the Electoral Review Committee now recommended a much wider review in the future, I believe residents of the remaining parts of Calne Without would have an appetite to join with neighbouring councils such as Heddington and Cherhill if they were properly informed and consulted.

Whilst I strongly favour the creation of a new parish council in May, I welcome the committee's recommendation to expedite an early review and not invoke a two year delay.

The map below (apologies for my rudimentary IT skills) shows my suggestions of how Calne Without could be reorganised to create local councils based on existing communities with genuine links. The area bounded in orange is obviously Derry Hill & Studley. The red area which is the East Ward of Calne Without (containing Lower Compton and Calstone) could easily join with Cherhill PC and the blue area (the Middle Ward and Sandy Lane Wards) with Heddington PC. The green area has only about 90 voters, many of whom have strong links with Bremhill although some residents living close to the A4 may prefer to be part of Derry Hill & Studley. This could be accommodated and would not be unreasonable as the Boundary Commission have already decided that the green area should be part of West Ward from next May



With regard to Wiltshire Councils CGR survey, I was very surprised that the Committee didn't refer to the results of the survey, Having written to every household in the whole of Calne Without with a rather complicated survey which sought comments on over 20 proposals across the whole of Wiltshire, it seems regrettable that a summary of the huge 654 page document was not provided.

Having eventually found the responses to what was termed 'Scheme 40' which related to the petition for a separate parish council, I counted 84 responses to that part of the survey. 59 (70%) supported the creation of a new parish council for Derry Hill & Studley, 22 (26%) opposed it and the comments from 3 others relating to the need for consultation on the remainder of Calne Without joining with neighbouring parishes.

Putting aside the low response rate to the over complicated survey it would seem to provide a strong indication that even with a survey of every voter in the parish of Calne Without there was still a substantial majority in favour of a new parish council.

I'm disappointed that Wiltshire Council have not attempted any analysis of the responses or to prevent multiple responses from individuals. Simply reproducing all the responses received across the whole of Wiltshire in a huge 654 page document, leaving everyone to make sense of it, was not helpful.

Putting aside the low response rate to Wiltshire's over complicated survey it would seem to provide a strong indication that even with a survey of every voter in the parish of Calne Without there was still a substantial majority in favour of a new parish council.

Dear Kieran,

Both Woodborough and Manningford Parish Councils support:

Recommendation 5.1 That the area shown above be transferred from the parish of Manningford to the parish of Woodborough

- but with the caveat that the boundary is clearly on the southern side of the road to ensure the triangle at Freetrade is fully within Woodborough and that this is clearly shown on any map which is produced as a result of Implementing 5.1.

The first attachment shows a couple of screen shots highlighting the points where the boundary needs to be clearly defined to ensure no uncertainty in the future as to where responsibility lies!!

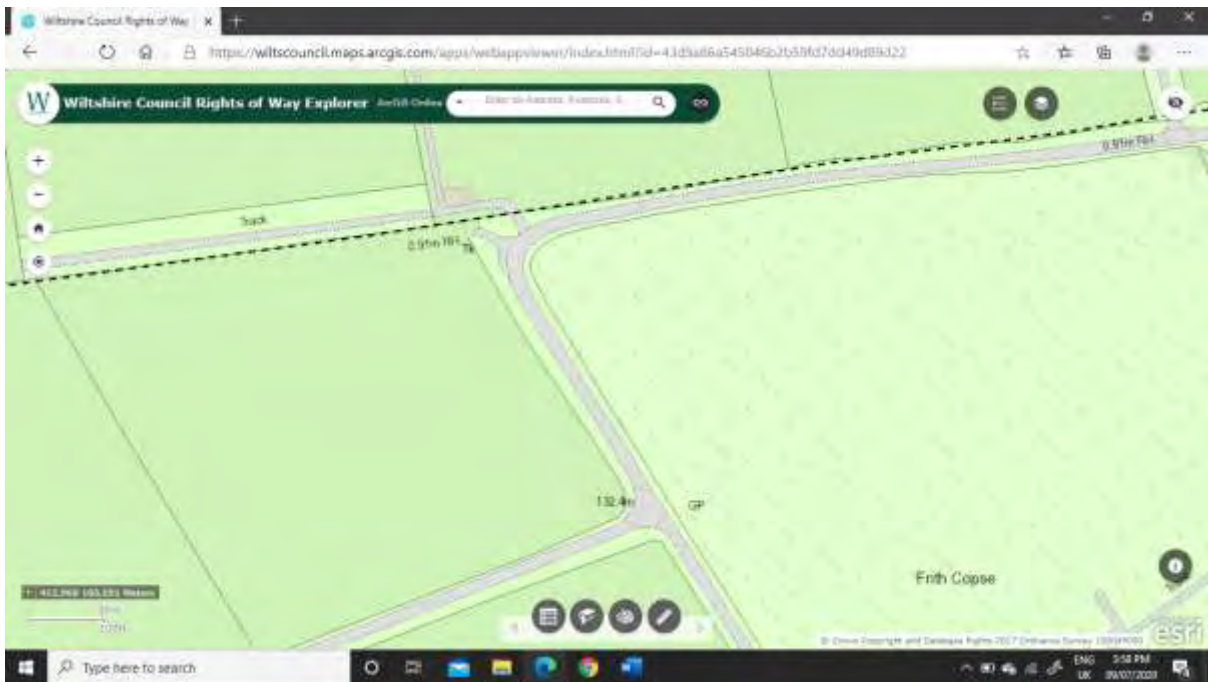
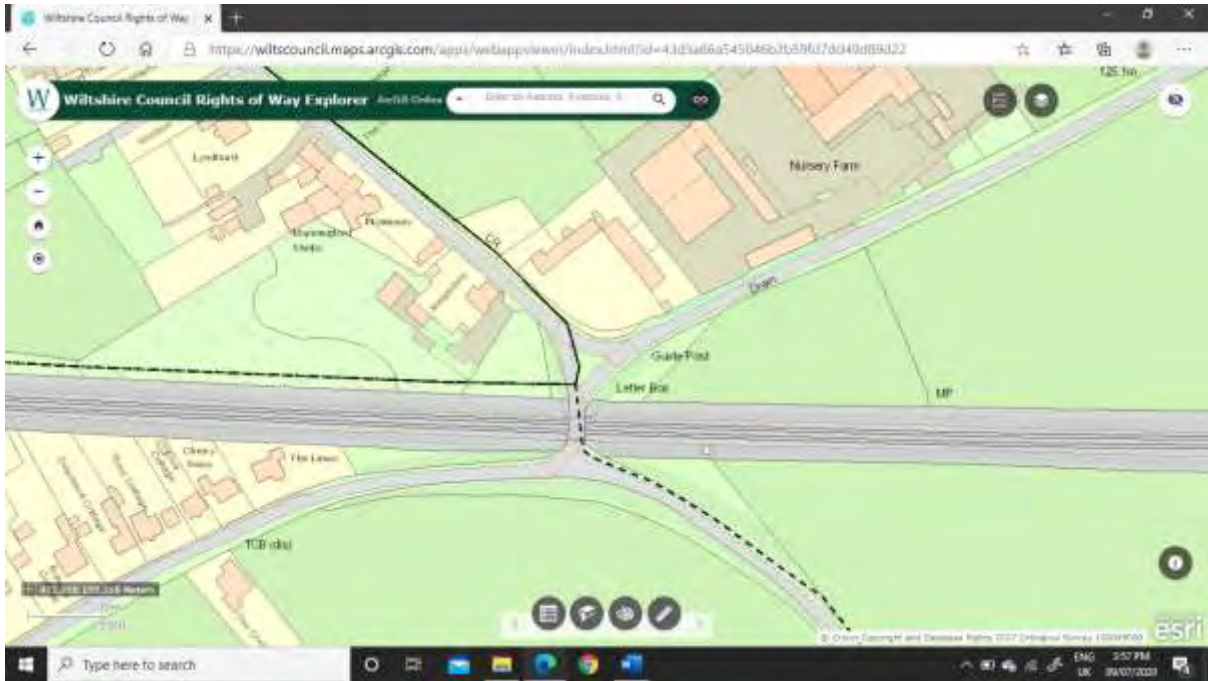
The current boundary shown running across the lower screen shot is of course the footpath denominated MANN2 and this will become a WOOD RoW once the Review is implemented. MANN2 does not continue beyond the suggested new boundary but terminates at the road.

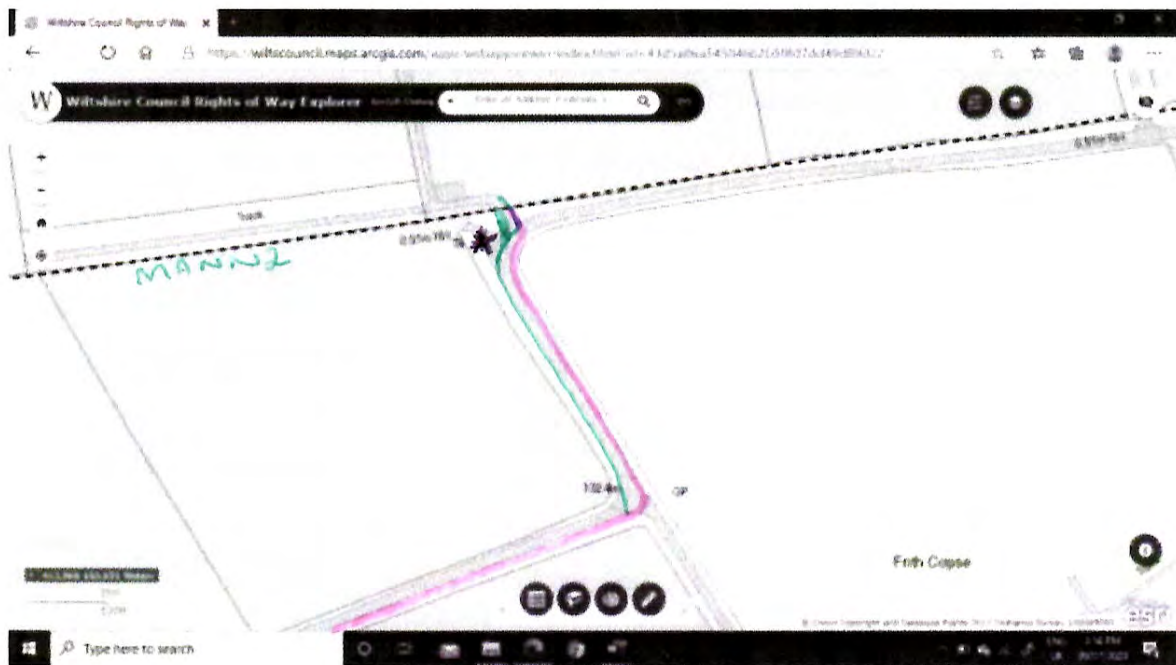
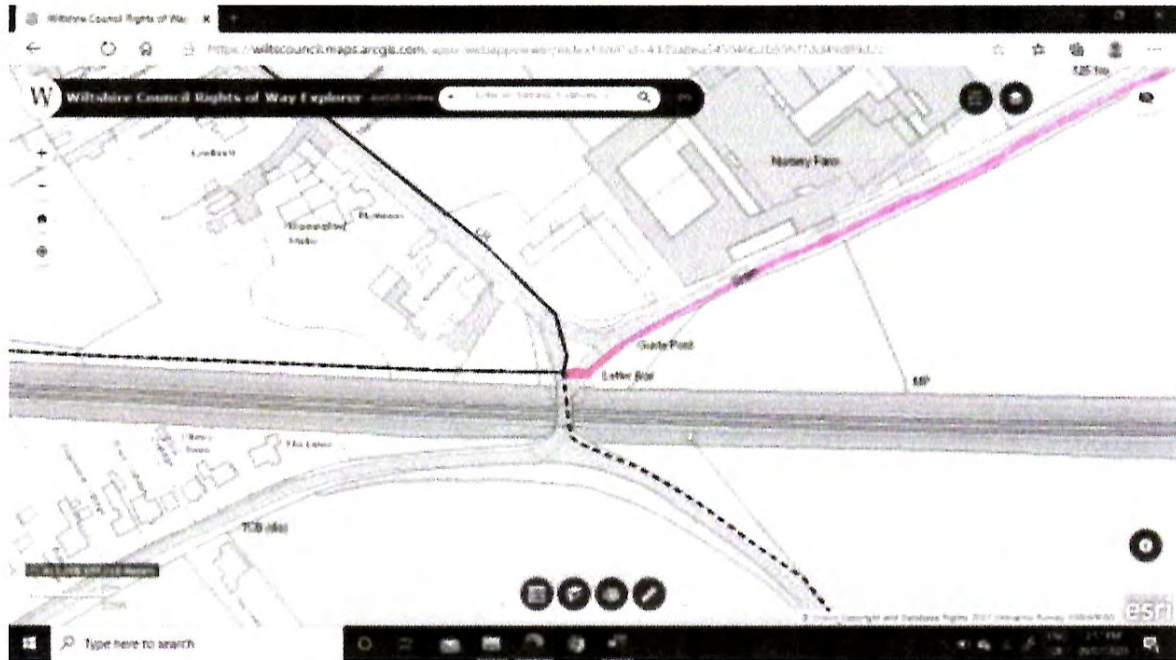
The second attachment is where I have shown - in pink - the suggested boundary. The western end near Freetrade is easy (top screenshot) but the eastern end near Frith Copse is a bit more tricky. The obvious course would be to continue the pink line round on the eastern verge but I think it would be simpler to keep the entire Copse, verge and all, in Manningford. Hence my green line. Most people access the footpath MANN2 via the pull-in I have marked with a black criss-cross, but I wonder whether we should be very specific and take the boundary to the track entrance. I am not convinced this map does full justice to the situation on the ground where the distinction between layby and footpath entrance has become blurred!

I thought I had sorted this out but on annotating the map I see it is not quite so straightforward as it appeared. So if you are happy to accept the support with caveat above as our official response to the CGR, I will ask my councillors to review the situation on the ground to ensure we get this boundary spot on.

Kind regards,

Ruth, Clerk to both Woodborough and Manningford PCs







NORTH BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

INCORPORATING

***NORTH BRADLEY, BROKERSWOOD AND
YARNBROOK***

North Bradley Parish Council's response to Wiltshire Council's Community Governance Review 2019-2020

Wiltshire Council's Electoral Review Committee has prepared draft recommendations where it believes parish governance arrangements in certain areas of Wiltshire should be changed. A consultation on the recommendations is currently underway from 15 May to at least 10 July and this is North Bradley Parish Council's response to Recommendation 11 which affects the boundaries of North Bradley.

1. This is entirely premature. The emerging Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (WHSAP) proposes two sites that are in or partly in the Parish of North Bradley. These are as follows:

Elm Grove Farm SHELAA 613, Wiltshire Housing Site Allocation Plan WHSAP Site H2.1 and Land Off 363 at White Horse Business Park SHELAA 298 (WHSAP Site H2.2), There are no buildings on 2.1 or 2.2 yet. Only one outline application is in, (still awaiting an amended Elm Grove Farm and Linden/Bovis Homes application) but none will not be ready for housing to start by next May 2021 deadline. Until it is known where precisely the houses will be sited, a decision cannot be made about whether they are akin to Trowbridge's urban area or the rural village.

2. The Trowbridge proposed land grab reduces the size of North Bradley Parish by over 25%.
3. The border proposed by Trowbridge Town Council is not logical. It follows the River Biss which is not the current south east border line. Using the river leaves a long narrow band c1.125km long and varying in width from c60m to 250m width, a total of c17.44 ha, which sits between the West Ashton parish boundary and the proposed new south east boundary.
4. Placing the land H2.1 and H2.2 (off Woodmarsh and Elm Grove Farm) within Trowbridge Town Council's limits will not speed up the expansion of their housing

supply. Both of these sites are already in the North Bradley Neighbourhood Plan. This has already reached Regulation 16, been approved and thus has now to be given considerable weight in any negotiations concerning territory. Indeed, transfer will have the opposite effect as both sites are contained within WHSAP already and North Bradley's Neighbourhood Plan. As already stated, North Bradley Parish Council has been in discussions with the developers of both sites. The parish council recognises of course that Wiltshire Council has a serious problem with the land supply as it fails to reach the 5.25 yr. allocation, currently showing a shortfall, at only 4.62 yrs. By transferring the sites to Trowbridge Town Council will not change that fact.

5. Regarding the existing properties and land that are being recommended for inclusion within the Trowbridge Town Council boundary, the three houses on Little Common and Woodmarsh are all of historical significance and are clearly of a rural nature. They do not fit into any "urban" scheme. More importantly, Drynham Lane residents are very particular about retaining their own separate hamlet and the Parish Council would like to think that the Elm Grove developers are taking residents' concerns into consideration when they submit their amended planning application. None of these houses want to be part of an urban development. Residents wish to preserve the rural integrity of their village now and in the future. In addition, the graveyard for North Bradley's Baptist church has been included within the urban development separating it from its Baptist Church which remains in North Bradley village. This will be impractical to administer.
6. Due to factors beyond the parish's control, the referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan was twice postponed and again postponed just a few hours before the March 19th. event. However, the Neighbourhood Plan has passed and been confirmed as having reached Reg. 16, which means that in essence the plan is now operative, carries weight and:

'that the plan can be given significant weight in decision making, as far as the plan is material to the application.' (Para. 107 Neighbourhood Plan Regs.) This applies exactly in this case.

7. Plus, advice from Wiltshire Council:
'Any parish Boundary change arising from the Community Governance Review (CGR) does not have an automatic effect on a designated neighbourhood area, which forms the foundation of a neighbourhood Plan'.
(Philip Whitehead, Leader of Wiltshire Council, 21st May)

This is supported by Briefing Note 20-20 recently issued. This states on page 2:

'Para. 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan makes special provision for areas with 'made' Neighbourhood Plans. This indicates that where the presumption of sustainable development applies, then the adverse impact of allowing development that conflicts with a Neighbourhood Plan is likely to significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits providing the following criteria all apply:

- i) The neighbourhood plan became part of the development plan less than 2 years ago;*
- ii) The neighbourhood plan contains policies and allocations to meet its housing requirement;*
- iii) The local planning authority has a 3-year housing land supply; and*
- iv) The local planning authority's housing delivery was at least 45% of that required over the last 3 years.*

The update of the five- year housing land supply is in progress, which will reset the base date to April 2019 (and cover the period to 31st March 2024). The allocations in the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (WHSAP), which will improve supply, will be included in the calculation.

In other words, the North Bradley Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan, through agreeing with the inclusion of sites H2.1 and H2.2 in the plan, are supporting WHSAP and its outcomes. Transferring this part of the parish to Trowbridge Town Council will not advance the provision of housing within the Trowbridge Housing Marketing Area (TMHA) in any way.

8. The referendum for the parishes' Neighbourhood Plan was to be conducted on March 19 after two false starts due to a General Election and other problems. The parish was notified of the cancellation at 19:20 on the 18th. because of instructions from central government forbidding public meetings under the Covid 19 Emergency Regulations. Even though the Neighbourhood Plan carries Reg. 16 weight (see above) it has been impossible to record the residents' wishes concerning the final Neighbourhood Plan document. The parish council was denied the opportunity to carry out a full series of public meetings in order to seek the views of parishioners on this transfer. Under central government restrictions this would have been illegal and impossible with all public venues forced to close.
9. To suggest that this transfer would lead to an immediate increase in house building within the Trowbridge Housing Marketing Area (THMA) (let alone by May 2021) is not supported by the historical record. An example of why this is so can be found in the transfer of land from West Ashton Parish Council to Trowbridge Town Council at the last Community Governance Review a few years ago. At that time large portions of the Ashton Park Extension (first proposed in 1999 and agreed in the time of West Wilts District Council) were transferred, and yet no formal applications or requests

for planning permission have come forward. Indeed, at that time much was made of the land north of West Ashton Road (C49)/Blackball Bridge and the Leap Gate access road, which were described by Persimmon at one meeting with them, as ready for an immediate start. No such immediate start has been made, so history suggests that a start by 2021 is unlikely and even more doubtful for completion by 2024.

10. Please also refer to the accompanying section 8, pages 22 – 30, of the attached North Bradley Neighbourhood Plan, referendum document, which explains precisely the position of North Bradley Parish Council in its support of the WHSAP and the THMA and its need for progression in housing supply.

In conclusion, the reason for North Bradley's strong objection to this Community Governance Review proposal is the loss of a separate identity for the village. The Parish Council's aim is to take forward the Wiltshire Core Strategy policy of preserving the separate identity and landscape setting of North Bradley, while balancing this with the need to provide housing for the Trowbridge Housing Marketing Area which is required by WCS CP 29 and as proposed in the WHSAP as in the accompanying document. The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) policy effectively modifies and adds detail to the early draft policies of the WHSAP. This should be read together with the other policies of the NP, especially policies 2 and 3. The plan does not seek to impose a blanket restriction, as this would be unreasonable. The aim of the council's objection is not to stop all development around the village but to make its just contribution to the THMA and the Wiltshire Core Strategy whilst preserving the integrity of the historic parish boundary.

North Bradley Landscape Gap and Housing Sites in the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (WHSAP)

| Context | References |
|-------------------------------|---|
| North Bradley Plan Objectives | 1,6 |
| Wiltshire Core Strategy | CP 1, 2, CP 29 (see especially paragraph 5.150), CP 50, 51. |
| NPPF | Paragraphs 8 (c), 28, 97 (e.g. Trowbridge FC ground), 127 (especially (c) and (d)),170. |

- 8.6 Paragraph 5.150 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy states:
'It is recognised that the villages surrounding Trowbridge, particularly Hilperton, Southwick North Bradley and West Ashton, have separate and distinct identities as villages. Open countryside should be maintained to protect the character and identity of these villages as separate communities. The local communities may wish to consider this matter in more detail in any future community-led neighbourhood planning.'

The purpose of this policy is to respond to the invitation in the WCS and establish a 'Landscape Gap' between Trowbridge and North Bradley while accommodating proposed strategic housing sites from the WHSAP.

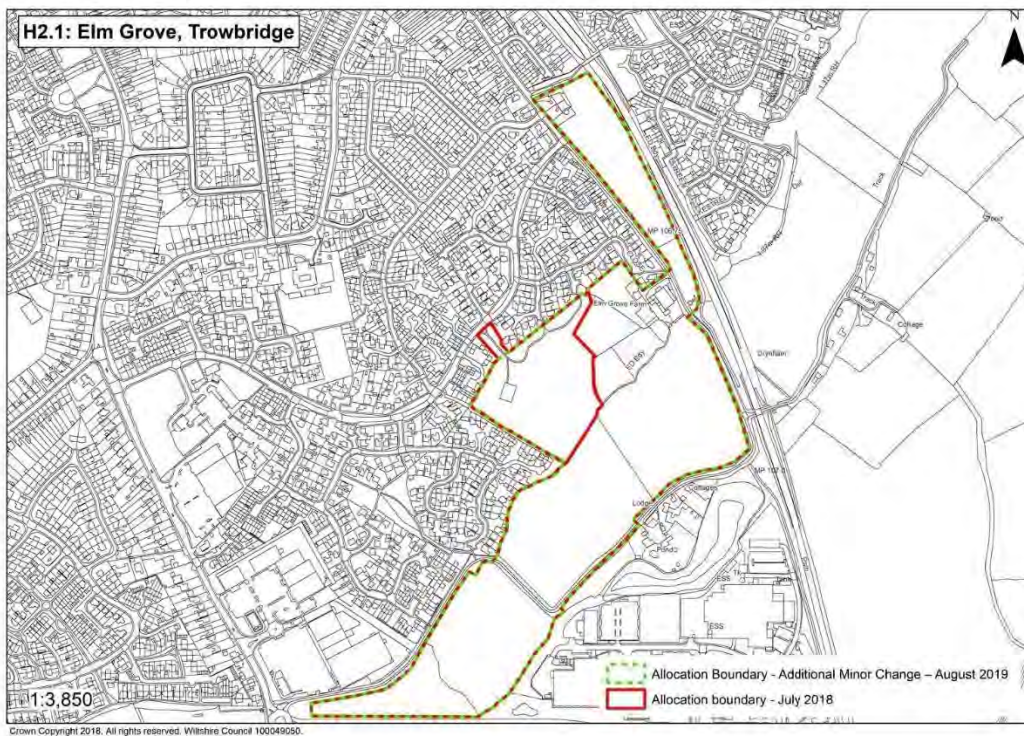
- 8.7 The emerging Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations PLAN (WHSAP) proposes three sites that are in or partly in the Parish of North Bradley. These are as follows:
- Elm Grove Farm SHELAA 613, WHSAP Site H2.1
 - Land Off 363 at White Horse Business Park SHELAA 298 (WHSAP Site H2.2) and,
 - Southwick Court SHELAA 3565 (WHSAP site H2.6).

Maps and basic descriptions of these proposed sites are given below:

- 8.8 In terms of the first two of these, it became clear during the plan making process that there could be a conflict between the wishes of the community (in the creation of a landscape setting 'gap' between North Bradley and Trowbridge) and the ambitions of Wiltshire Council's WHSAP, most particularly site 298 H2.2, located to the north-east of the village. Following community engagement, the Parish Council, supported by two Wiltshire Councillors, presented an argument to Wiltshire Council's Cabinet that, if the site could not be avoided (which the community preferred) then it should be reduced in size and development concentrated to the east and north, leaving as wide a landscape gap between the site and Trowbridge as possible. This was accepted and it was agreed that the LPA and the Parish Council should meet to discuss details. Wiltshire Council agreed to reduce the site in size from a level of 225 (proposed) to 175 homes.

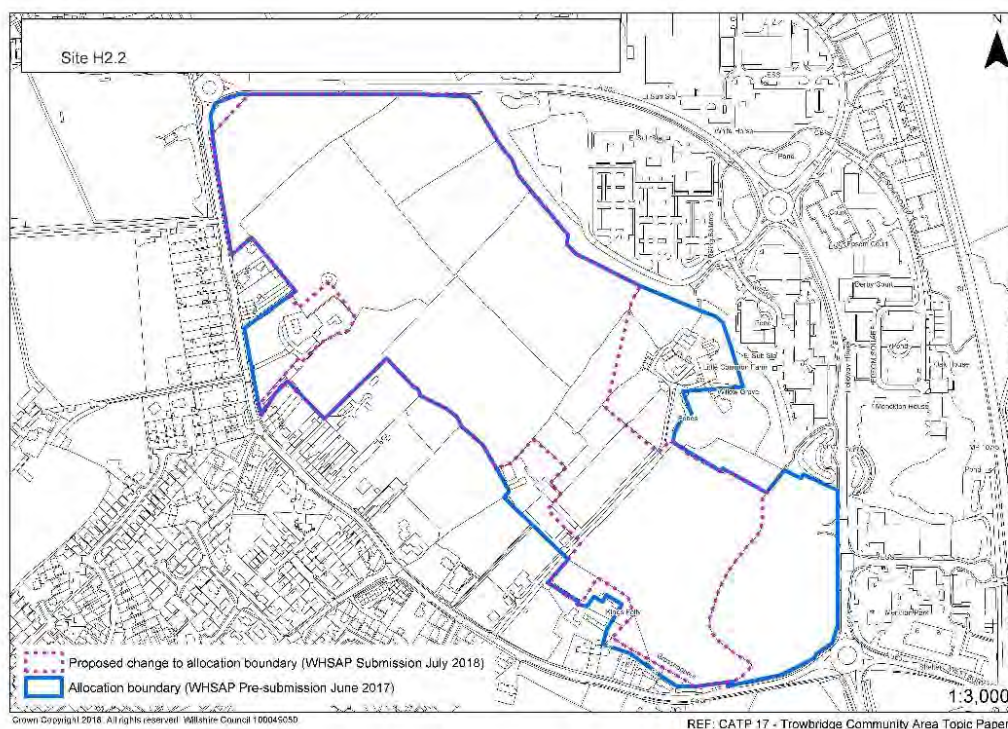
8.9 Elm Grove Farm SHELAA 613, WHSAP Site H2.1

The site is approximately 17.61 ha and is anticipated to accommodate approximately 250 homes and community facilities.



8.10 SHELAA 298 (WHSAP Site H2.2) Land off the A 363 at White Horse Business park

The site comprises 18.96ha of land and the anticipated number of new homes was 225 in the draft WHSAP, since reduced to approximately 175.



8.11 SHELAA 3565 (WHSAP site H2.6) Southwick Court

This site is located mainly in Southwick Parish, but has a small component in North Bradley Parish. The site is approximately 18.17ha in size and it is suggested that approximately 180 homes could be accommodated there.



- 8.12 While the need to accommodate some additional housing is accepted (particularly the 950 homes for Trowbridge referred to in CP 29 of the WCS) the North Bradley community does not believe that this would be sustainable if it destroyed the landscape setting of North Bradley. On the other hand, a neighbourhood plan cannot block a strategic scheme and compromise, through negotiation with the LPA, has proved to be necessary.
- 8.13 The accompanying Landscape and Visual Setting Analysis Report demonstrates why a Landscape Setting Gap is important and how this should be implemented, while accommodating the strategic sites proposed in the WHSAP. The conclusions of this expert and independent report are accepted.
- 8.14 The site at Elm Grove Farm (SHELAA 613, WHSAP Site H2.1) is on the north side of the A363 next to the built form of Trowbridge. In many ways, if development has to happen, this is an ideally located site, which seems likely to deliver sustainable development. It is therefore duly supported by this NDP as an acceptable location for housing or mixed-use development. Because the site is already being taken forward in the WHSAP it is not considered to be necessary to formally allocate it in this plan. However, the site needs to be carefully landscaped and there is also potential to incorporate significant public open space.
- 8.15 The site at 'Southwick Court' (SHELAA 3565 WHSAP H2.6) does contain a small element between North Bradley and Trowbridge. However, this is not felt to be significant enough an intrusion to oppose the site, which could be acceptable if correctly landscaped. Accordingly, the original landscape diagram provided in the Landscape and Visual Setting Analysis Report was revised following the Site Selection Report (April 2018) to exclude site 3565 H 2.6 from the proposed landscape protection area.

- 8.16 'Land Off the A363 at White Horse Business Park' site (SHELAA 298, WHSAP Site H2.2) did present a significant challenge to the aims of the emerging NDP. As taken forward in the proposed draft WHSAP following public consultation, this site was put forward for 225 homes. This was subsequently reduced to 175 homes. In addition, the NDP establishes a Landscape Setting Gap, designed to preserve in future a clear, undeveloped rural setting for North Bradley village. The Gap also serves to preserve biodiversity and prevent harm to the protected bats of the Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC. The extent of the Landscape Setting Gap is shown in the Policy Map above.

Policy 1: Landscape Setting Gap

The area shown on the Comprehensive Policy Map is designated as the North Bradley Landscape Setting Gap. The purpose of the designation is to protect the landscape setting of North Bradley village (the open spaces between the village and Trowbridge). This area will be maintained and where possible also enhanced for biodiversity and recreation. No development will be permitted in the North Bradley Landscape Setting Gap unless it is in accordance with policies in the development plan.

Where development is permitted, it must ensure that the functions, openness and landscape value of the Landscape Setting Gap is not harmed.

Existing facilities for informal recreation and sustainable transport must be preserved or enhanced. Any development must result in a net gain for biodiversity.

8.17 Main Evidence Base

Consultation Responses from Community Engagement
HRA – Wiltshire Council
Landscape and Visual Setting Analysis Report
NPPF – (as above)
SEA Scoping and Environmental Reports (AECOM, 2018)
Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy Draft Feb 2019
Wiltshire Council Core Strategy 2015 Policy 29 (especially paragraph 5.150)
West Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment 2007, Wiltshire Open Space Study
Wiltshire Housing Sites DPD Consultation Draft and evidence base.

8.18 Justification

The chief aim of the policy is to take forward Wiltshire Core Strategy policy in preserving the separate identity and landscape setting of North Bradley, while balancing this with the need to provide housing for Trowbridge as required by WCS CP 29 and as proposed in the WHSAP. The policy effectively modifies and adds detail to the early draft policies of the WHSAP. It should be read together with the other policies of the Neighbourhood Plan, especially policies 2 and 3. The plan does not seek to impose a blanket restriction since this seems unreasonable. It is not the aim of the plan to stop all development around the village, but to preserve the openness and greenness of the rural setting between North Bradley and Trowbridge. More detailed justification is found in the accompanying Landscape and Visual Setting Analysis Report.

- 8.19 The policy has secondary aims, reflecting the other important reasons why the spaces are so valued; as a resource for local biodiversity and recreation and sport (e.g. Trowbridge football ground which forms part of the Landscape Setting Gap to the north west, the footpaths and bridleways and the foraging area is used by the bats from the nearby SAC). It is the aim of the Plan to enhance these secondary elements of the Gap's importance for the benefit of the environment, for biodiversity and community and in the interests of achieving sustainable development over the parish as a whole.



View across Trowbridge Football Ground to Trowbridge

Housing - General

| Context | References |
|-------------------------|--|
| NDP Objectives | 2 |
| Wiltshire Core Strategy | CP 1, 2, CP 29, CP 43, CP 45 |
| NPPF | Paragraphs 11, 16, 28, 59, 62, 63, 69, 127, 170. |

8.20 The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group wanted to ensure that local housing needs were met, as this is a Plan Objective supported by community engagement. They therefore decided to gather evidence in the form of a housing needs survey (HNS) as a first step. The group also analysed recent windfall developments.

8.21 It was found that immediate local affordable housing need was relatively small. The HNS showed a current need for:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Subsidised rented housing | - None |
| Shared ownership / discount market homes | - 1 x 1 bed |
| Sheltered housing for older people | - None |

8.22 Housing Needed

In order to meet the above need an allocation of 5 homes would be needed based on the prevailing rate of 30% affordable applying in the Trowbridge Area. However, this does not take account of need later in the plan period (since the HNS figure is valid only until 2020 and the NDP runs until 2026). Nor does this low number build in any flexibility.

8.23 Past and Future Windfall Developments.

Data supplied by Wiltshire Council (Appendix 8) shows that 16 homes were delivered through windfall developments (non-allocated sites) over the last 10 years. Were this delivery rate to continue then one might expect around 14 to be delivered during the 9 years of the NDP plan period.

8.24 However, all of these schemes were for less than 5 units, meaning that they delivered no affordable housing. This does not necessarily mean that no sites larger than this and so delivering some affordable housing will come forward over the NDP plan period. However, it does show that windfalls have historically not been reliable sources of housing.

8.25 In addition to accommodating the large WCS strategic site (2,500 homes) at Ashton Park, the community's positive approach to housing is therefore:

- to support strategic sites at 'Elm Grove Farm' (613, H2.1) and 'Southwick Court' (3565, H2.6) and 'Land off White Horse Business Park' (298, H2.2) subject to reduction in numbers at H2.2.
- to allocate sites to meet need over the plan period including an allowance to ensure flexibility and ensure housing types are delivered that are needed by the community
- to add policy detail to manage development in conjunction with national policies and those of the development plan
- to add policy detail to encourage innovative ways of providing housing.

This approach plans positively, meets local need and broadly reflects the wishes of the local community.

- 8.26 In terms of innovative housing, one option is to encourage self-build. Self-build or 'custom-build' is now part of the Government's Housing Strategy (Housing Strategy for England 2011) to deliver more, better and more affordable homes and local authorities are encouraged in Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) to create policies to facilitate this.
- 8.27 All new housing in the NDP area will lead to recreational impacts on core bat roosts in woodlands to the south of Trowbridge in combination with other developments. Any development in the Plan area should refer to the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy (TBMS). Developer contributions may be required to provide mitigation measures as set out in the TBMS.

Policy 2 – Housing

The community supports small-scale housing schemes and infilling within the settlement boundary of North Bradley, as shown on the Comprehensive Policies Map, that will conserve the rural character and setting of the village. The following are particularly encouraged.

a. Self-Build Homes

sites delivering self-build housing will be encouraged within the settlement boundary of the village subject to acceptable impacts on the amenities of neighbours.

b. Eco-homes

Innovative designs incorporating renewable energy, sustainable construction methods or habitat enhancement are welcomed and will be encouraged subject to acceptable impacts on neighbours.

c. Retirement homes, sheltered accommodation or other homes specifically designed or adapted for the less able or for the retired population will be considered favourably.

d. Affordable homes comprising entry-level homes that offer one or more types of affordable housing as defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF will be supported.

e. All developments should aim to enhance local habitats for wildlife by design, such that development creates a net gain for biodiversity overall.

8.28 Evidence Base

Community Engagement / Consultation Statement
 SEA Scoping and Environmental Reports (AECOM, 2018)
 Scoping Report, Housing Needs Survey, Review of recent windfall development
 Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy Draft Feb 2019
 Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan, NPPF, PPG.

8.29 Justification

The policy responds to the NPPF's encouragement to 'plan positively', accepting the WHSAP strategic sites (albeit with caveats). Self-Build and other housing is also encouraged. Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraph: 025 Reference ID: 57-025-201760728). A net gain for biodiversity from development sites is sought as suggested by the SEA.

Housing Site

| Context | References |
|-------------------------|--|
| NDP Objectives | 2, 6 |
| Wiltshire Core Strategy | CP 1, 2, CP 29, CP 43, CP 45 |
| NPPF | Paragraphs 16, 18, 28, 29, 59, 62, 69, 127, 170. |

8.30 Site selection has reflected the aim of:

- Meeting local housing needs including those throughout the plan period
- Accepting the wishes of the community and creating a plan capable of passing referendum
- Delivering a balanced plan that includes both provision of development and environmental protection. A plan that on the one hand attempted to protect a large area of landscape, while not providing people with enough homes to live in in future years, seemed unlikely to be regarded as delivering sustainable development.

8.31 The SSR (Site Selection Report) explains part of the rationale for selecting the following site, although other information is contained within the Consultation Statement (CS) and the process is summarised in Section 7 of this Plan, and all three documents should be referred to in order to understand how the process unfolded. The total number of homes allocated over the whole plan period to 2026 is 25, with 30% of these being affordable. It is also noted that further housing is likely to be delivered by windfalls, potentially including the recently proposed development at The Pavilions (White Horse Business Park) Reference: 19/01835/PNCOU.

8.32 The site selected by the NDP is well-related to the existing developed area of the village and does not impact on the proposed landscape protection area indicated in Policy 1. It is suitable, available and deliverable as set out in the SSR.

8.33 The HRA for the WHSAP identified the Bath and Bradford on Avon SAC, an important habitat for bats, to be a constraint on development in the area. The HRA suggested that;

'...the need to protect important habitat features is expressly stated in the relevant policies.'

The HRA then went further and stated that ecological studies would be required in advance of development and that risk of harm to the bats through recreational pressure from new development would be managed through implementation of a Trowbridge Recreation Management Mitigation Strategy and by site specific HRA's on proposals.

With the above in mind, and reflecting the concerns of the County Ecologist expressed during the SEA and HRA Screening for the NDP, the NDP requires the above site to be accompanied by an appropriate ecological evaluation of impact and a statement explaining how it will meet the requirements of the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy.

8.34 The SEA, acting on advice received from Natural England, recommended that the NDP should seek a net gain for biodiversity. Since development is the most likely aspect of the plan that could harm biodiversity it seems appropriate to require development of the allocated site to deliver a net overall gain for biodiversity.

- 8.35 One site is allocated for development as set out below and is shown on the Comprehensive Policies Map. The site has various constraints. The main issues, identified in the policy below, will require addressing prior to development commencing. This is not an exhaustive list of all relevant planning matters.

Policy 3 – Housing Site

The site at 54 Woodmarsh, with an area of 1.12 ha, is allocated for approximately 25 homes, with 8 of these being affordable subject to:

- i. Access to be via Woodmarsh Road. Satisfactory and detailed site layout and access design to be agreed prior to development commencing. Due to the site shape and surrounding properties, in order to create a workable design under WCS Core Policy 57, it may be necessary to reduce the number of dwellings from the approximate figure indicated.
- ii. Screening and separation from neighbouring properties will be required to protect the amenity of those living there.
- iii. Suitable screening and sound reduction measures would be required to protect new homes from noise from Progressive Hall as it is used for meetings and in Summer has to have open windows for ventilation.
- iv. In view of the risks this development presents to the SAC, this development will be expected to be surveyed, designed and mitigated in full accordance with the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy. Full mitigation for loss of habitats must be achieved within the application boundary
- v. The design should deliver for a net gain for biodiversity
- vi. The design of any scheme must avoid harm to the historic but unlisted Kings Lodge and Progressive Hall, their settings or any other heritage assets including the Baptist Burial Ground to the north east.
- vii. Given the age of the settlement of North Bradley and the presence of archaeology shown in the Historic Environment Record, a field evaluation will be required prior to development to inform the significance of heritage assets impacted by the proposals.
- viii. Charging points for Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) should be included
- ix. Due to the lack of comprehensive public storm water drainage and sewerage in the area, drainage and sewerage from the site must be designed to prevent flooding. The advice of the Drainage Authority should be sought. Drainage should be designed to include SuDS where appropriate.

Point iv. reflects protected status of the bats of the SAC. NPPF paragraphs 170 and 174.

Point v. A net gain for biodiversity was recommended by the SEA and is required by NPPF paragraph 170

Point vi. reflects the comments of the LPA's Conservation Officer. Care will be needed with design to protect the historic but unlisted Kings Lodge and Progressive Hall.

Point vii. and point viii. respond to advice in paragraphs 189 and 102/104/105 of the NPPF respectively

Thank you. All noted. If approved, the boundary change would be contrary to WC policy as outlined and thus undermine and render challengeable the entire document.

Best,
Andrew

Item 27

RT HON DR ANDREW MURRISON MP

Item 28

Hi Kieran

Good to talk to you earlier.....

Thank you for the clarification on councillor numbers per wards for the current CGR proposals under Recommendation 13.

Recommendation 13.1 states

For Melksham Without Parish Council it had been requested that the additional parish councillor who would have represented Hunters Wood instead represented Beanacre, Shaw and Whitley, for a total remaining at thirteen

We discussed the current make up of the wards and what these would look like if the Recommendations in 13 were approved in September.

CURRENT CLLR SPLIT PER WARD

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Beanacre/Shaw/Whitley | 3 |
| Bowerhill | 6 |
| Berryfield | 2 |
| Blackmore | 2 |
| TOTAL | 13 |

PROPOSED CLLR SPLIT PER WARD

| | |
|--|--|
| Beanacre/Shaw/Whitley/Blackmore Hunters Wood) | 4 (AS PER RECOMMENDATION 13.1 absorbs cllr from Blackmore Ward from |
| Bowerhill | 7 (will take other cllr from Blackmore Ward as Sandridge Place is in |
| Bowerhill division as per LGBCE) | |
| Berryfield | 2 |
| Blackmore | NIL – will no longer exist |
| TOTAL | 13 |

Many thanks for your time, see you early September for the decision!

Kind regards

Teresa

Teresa Strange

Clerk

Melksham Without Parish Council

Sports Pavilion

Westinghouse Way

Bowerhill, Melksham

Wiltshire, SN12 6TL

01225 705700

clerk@melkshamwithout.co.uk

www.melkshamwithout.co.uk



Reference: RM298/CGR4

6th July 2020

Kieran Elliott
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
BA14 8JN

Dear Mr Elliott

CGR Scheme 4 : Lacock

With reference to the deadline of the 10th July for the Draft Recommendations for the above named Community Governance Review Scheme 4 : Lacock, please find this letter by way of representation of my views for provision to the Electoral Review Committee for consideration. My **objections** are four fold;

- The reference to Rowden Hamlet as urban, by way of transferring to Chippenham, is incorrect
- The historic connections of Rowden Hamlet, dating back to the 16th Century, have been over-looked
- The move of Parish, away from Lacock will significantly erode my Lacock based business and marketing
- Attraction of house buyers in to the Parish of Lacock, significantly differ in calibre to the house buyers within the Parish of Chippenham, impacting a property's marketability and price

As a resident of Rowden Hamlet : [REDACTED] the site is a scheduled monument with Historic England as home to the original 16th Century Saxon Fort, protecting the river valley line to Lacock and the 16th Century Saxon Church of St Cyriac's in Lacock.

I have been made aware of documentation within the CGR consultation process which makes the following reference and reasoning as to why Rowden Hamlet should be moved from the historic roots of Lacock Parish to Chippenham;

"Whilst the areas in question were largely undeveloped at the present time, significant development was projected and the characteristics of the areas would be urban, not rural such as was the case with the remainder of Lacock and Langley Burrell Without parishes, as the parish councils themselves had noted."

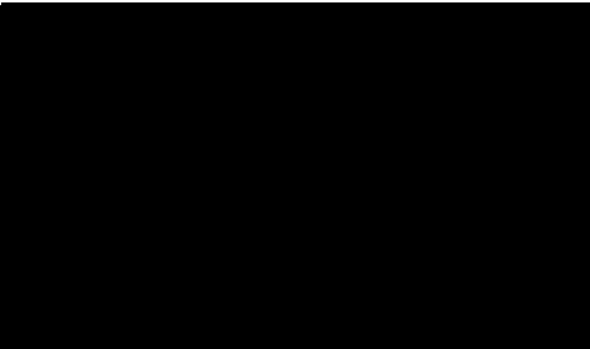
Rowden Hamlet, as part of Lacock Parish, sits within a rural conservation area. This area cannot be urbanised due to the conservation protection afforded to the Lacock Parish river valley. Rowden Hamlet's 16th Century Saxon fort site and river valley walks in to Lacock are sought out and frequented by tourists and form the basis of my only source of business and revenue, running holiday lets at The Dovecote and Deer Cottage, Lacock.

Lacock is a recognised tourist attraction for the London tourists extending their tourism to encompass Stonehenge, Lacock and Bath – and a personal consideration against the move of Rowden Hamlet away from Lacock Parish – is that it will completely displace my business and revenue.

It is my understanding that that the meetings of the Committee and Full Council will be most likely held virtually with members of the public able to participate with statements. Should the CGR Committee not amend its draft recommendation there is potential that the Full Council make not choose to approve the CGR Committee's draft recommendations.

Therefore, please could you advise me by return of the dates and process for these meetings. I should like this letter to be put forward for consideration to the Electoral Review Committee and as per the process made available publicly (anonymised).

Yours sincerely,





8/7/2020

Community Governance Review – North Bradley Parish

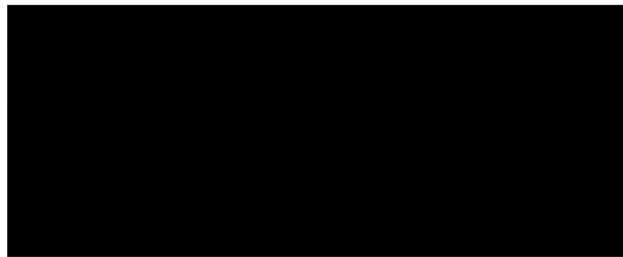
Please note, I object most strongly to the proposal to transfer parts of North Bradley Parish to Trowbridge Town Council.

This will destroy the parish in its present form. This has existed for well over a 100 years and the current proposal will remove c25% of its area. Furthermore, it is the area which is closest to the heart of the village and contains some of its oldest and most historic parts, namely the old Baptist Church and the village's graveyard, the only burial ground which still has plots available in the district.

The move is entirely premature as there are no buildings on either the Drynham Lane or Woodmarsh/Whitehorse Business Park sites, they are still open fields. Thus, neither can be considered part of the conurbation of the town. To insist that they are to be transferred in time for the next May elections does not make sense. Why would Trowbridge wish to destroy the parish by taking over these open spaces so early? Could there be some financial incentive?

North Bradley Parish accepts that there is a housing problem within Wiltshire and the Trowbridge Housing Marketing Area, which has only 4.6yrs of the 5.25yrs for which it should plan. The Parish Council, through the North Bradley Neighbourhood Plan, accepts that development and expansion of the settlement boundary is inevitable, but this will not happen by May 2021. Indeed, developers have already produced outline plans for housing on these sites, and with whom the parish council is actively engaged, but these will not be built and in existence for many years. At that time some discussion of boundary changes might be appropriate but are currently grossly premature and unwarranted.

Please note, that if a transfer is in in place by May 2021, your council will be doing a gross disservice to the parish of North Bradley.



Item 31

Community Governance Review
Democratic Services
Wiltshire Council
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
BA14 8JN

July 2020

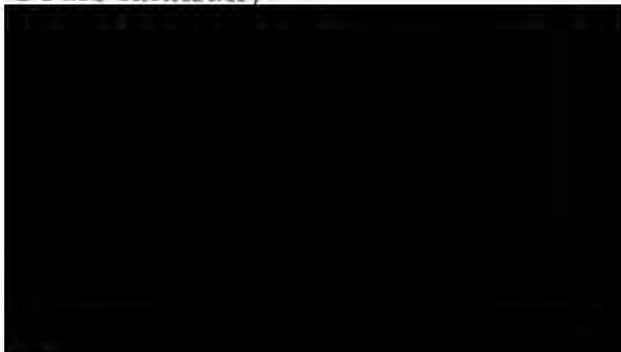
To whom it may concern

I am writing to object to Wiltshire Council's recommendation to alter to boundary for North Bradley.

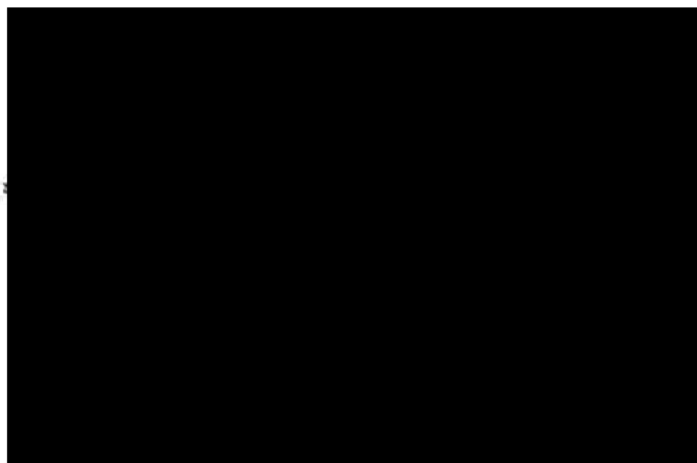
I want to keep North Bradley as it is, a rural village.

I do not want North Bradley to be part of Trowbridge.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Community Governance Review
Democratic Services
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July 2020

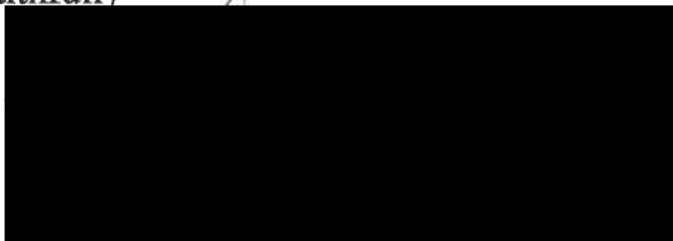
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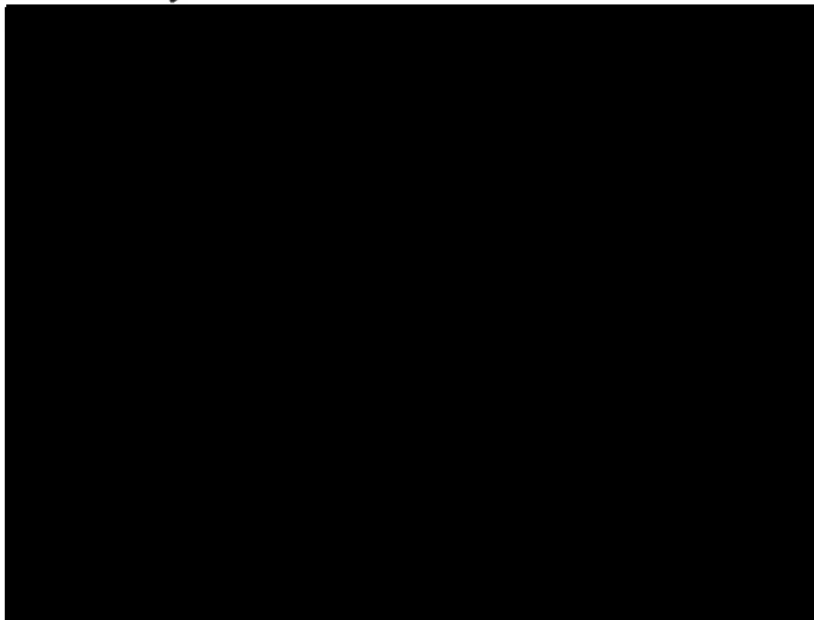
RE:- WILTSHIRE COUNCIL'S BOUNDARY REVIEW OF
NORTH BRADLEY VILLAGE.

I am writing to object to Wiltshire Council's recommendation to alter ~~the~~ boundary for North Bradley.

I want to keep North Bradley as it is, a rural village.

I do not want North Bradley to be part of Trowbridge.

Yours faithfully



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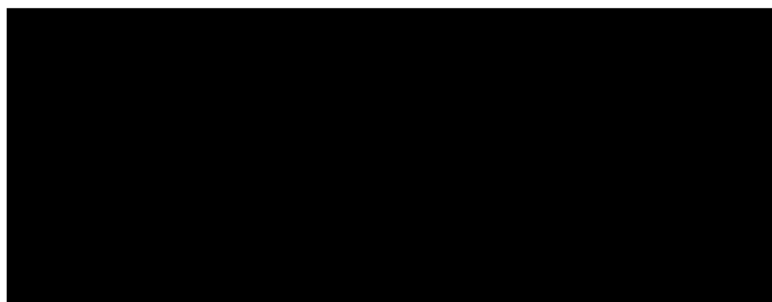
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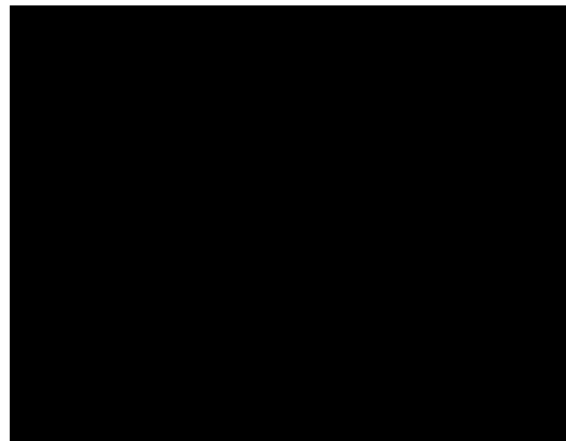
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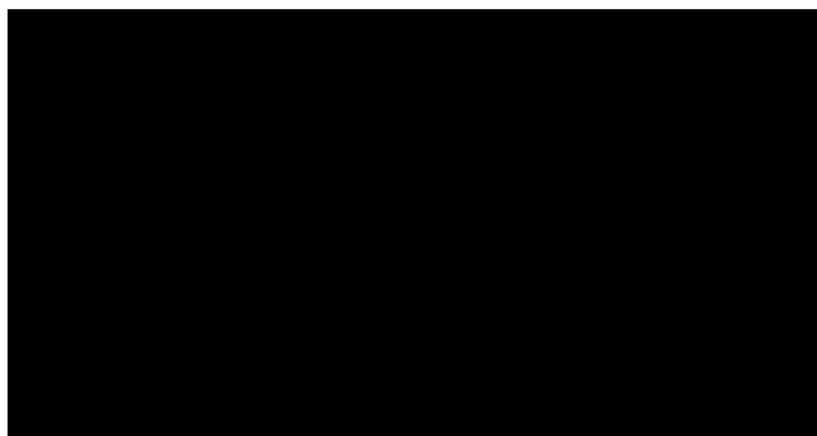
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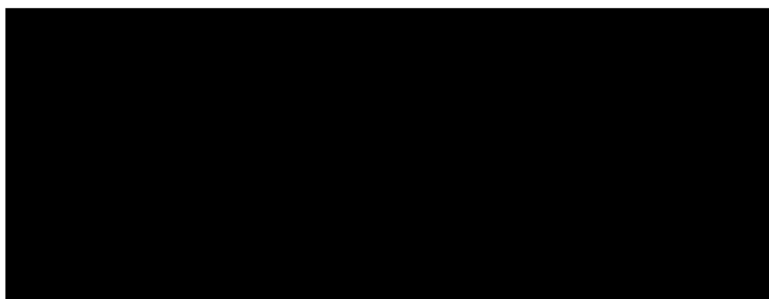
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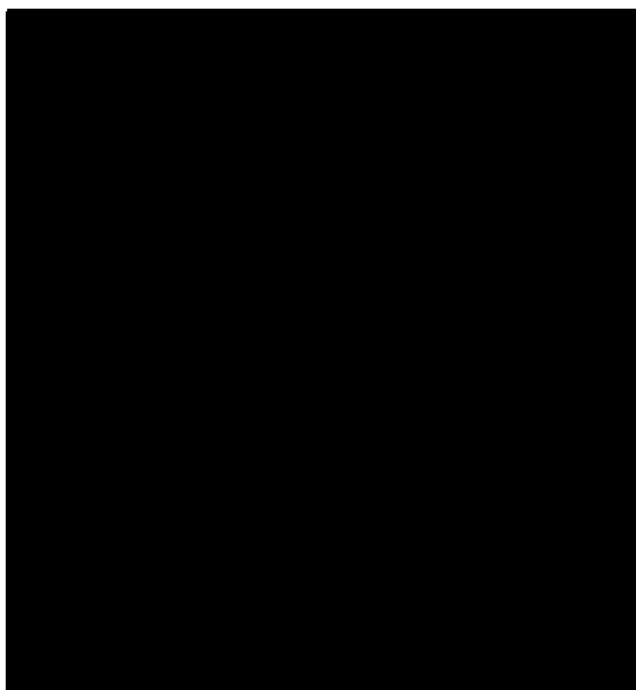
Yours faithfully

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July 2020

To whom it may concern

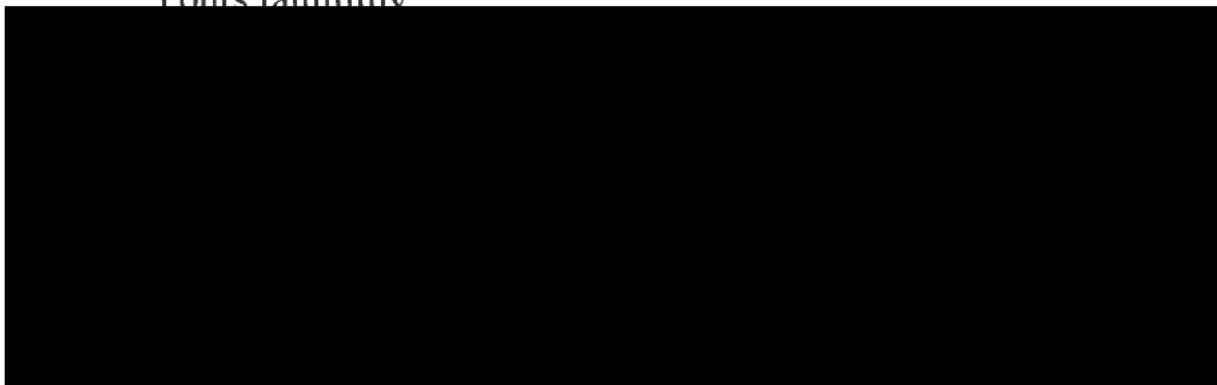


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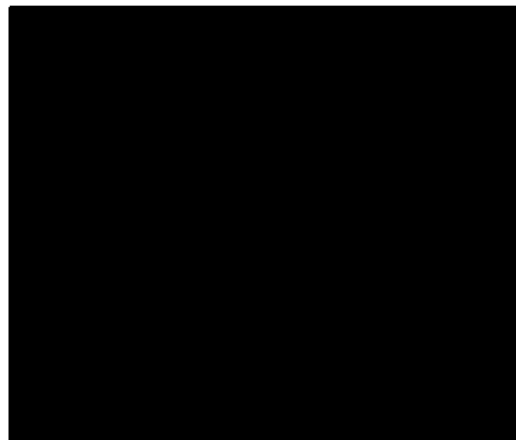
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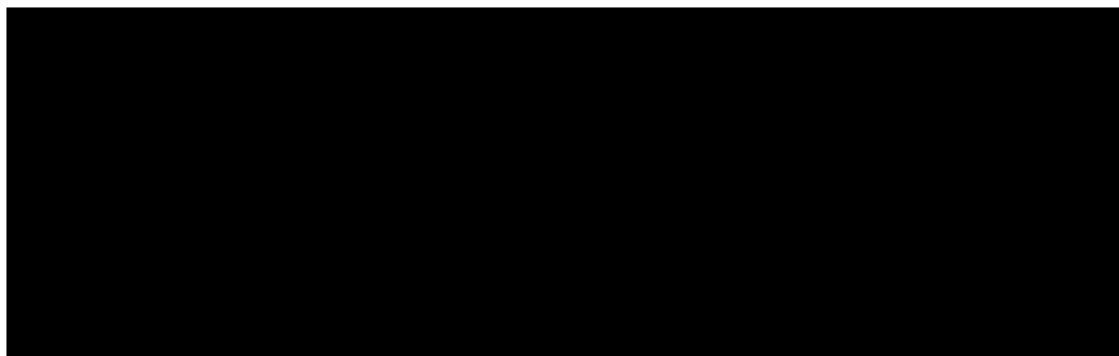
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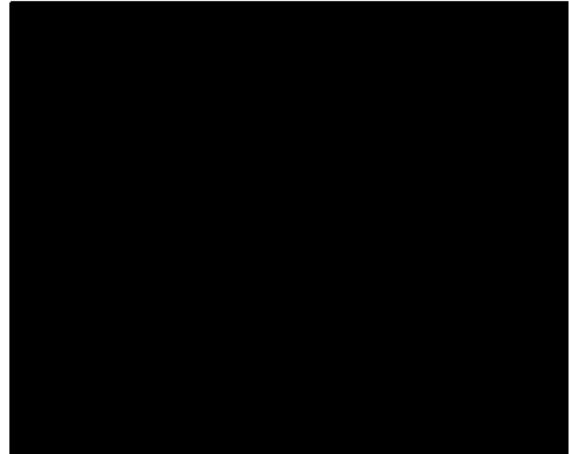
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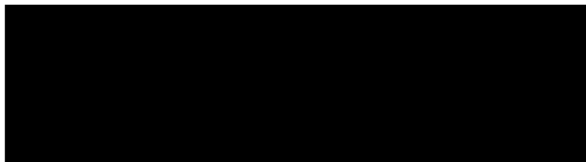


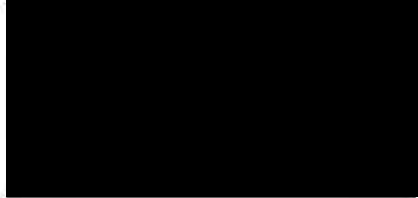
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I do not want North Bradley to be part of Trowbridge.

Yours faithfully





Community Governance Review
Democratic Services
Wiltshire Council
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
BA14 8JN

At July 2020


To whom it may concern

I am writing to object to Wiltshire Council's recommendation to alter *to the* boundary for North Bradley.

I want to keep North Bradley as it is, a rural village.

I do not want ^{*any part of*} North Bradley to be part of Trowbridge.

Yours faithfully



*My grandparents lived in Kings Farm
House, my mother, sister and brother were
brought up there my brother now deceased
was born there. I have lived in Bradley
since 1964. I see no valid reason why
our boundaries should be altered.*

Item 33

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 June 2020 14:35
Subject: The proposed changes to the parish boundary of North Bradley - update

Dear Sir

Update.

Unfortunately we were mis-informed... it is Trowbridge Town Council that is wanting the two Wards of North Bradley Parish. Please amend where necessary.

We still do not want to lose any of our Parish!

Yours

[REDACTED]

Re the proposed changes to the parish boundary of North Bradley.

We are concerned that Wiltshire Council is proposing to take the areas of the White Horse ward and the Park ward of North Bradley parish and merge them into Trowbridge. This will mean the considerable loss of about 25% of our village, and less of a clear break between North Bradley and Trowbridge. We fear that this may well lead to the Council swallowing up North Bradley and it becoming just another part of Trowbridge. Having moved to the village 12 years ago we have grown to love this village and its community spirit, and we do not want the integrity of the village to be lost. Please do not let this happen.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Dear Senior Democratic Services Officer,

This is my delayed response to the Community Governance Review consultation outlined in my telephone conversation with you on Friday 10 July 2020.

I gather that the reference to the parish of Southwick in your Circular e-mail headed Briefing Note Number 20-18 Community Governance Review Consultation and sent 06 May 2020 15:45 was in error and that the Draft Recommendations do not affect that parish.

I am doubtful that the procedure followed by Wiltshire Council during its previous Community Governance Review was lawful; Full Council was certainly entitled to reject all or any of the recommendations of its Working Party, chaired by Cllr Stuart Wheeler, but it was not entitled to adopt alternative proposals not recommended by its Working Party (without repeating the statutory consultation procedures laid down for Community Governance Reviews).

Accordingly, I draw your attention to the case law on Community Governance Reviews, namely:-

Offerton Park PC v Stockport MBC [2011] EWHC 2247 (Admin) - 24 August 2011 - <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2011/2247.html>

Campbell Park PC v Milton Keynes Council [2012] EWHC 1204 (Admin) - 26 April 2012 - <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2012/1204.html>

Britwell PC v Slough BC [2019] EWHC 998 (Admin) - 17 April 2019 - <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2019/998.html>

These cases are authority for the view that the statutory provisions and procedures set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 must be strictly adhered to, and that the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews (March 2010), being statutory guidance issued under Section 100(4) of the Act, must be properly understood and taken into account.

I agree with North Bradley Parish Council (summarised at [69] of the Draft Recommendations) that recommendation 11 is premature.

The Guidance (at [50] and [59]) indicates that its views should be regarded as "of central importance" and "the primary consideration".

It appears that the reasoning to the contrary in [70] to [76] and [78] to [81] of the Draft Recommendations is based entirely or almost entirely on a mistaken interpretation (and errors of law) of the scope of the provisions for Community Governance Reviews in the 2007 Act (and the statutory guidance on them issued in March 2010), and incorrectly elides them with the rules and regulations for the Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council carried out by the LGBCE.

In particular, the assertion in [69] "that statutory guidance was clear that it was not merely the situation as it existed which was relevant but also any change to the number and distribution of electors within five years of the start of the review, taking into account planning permissions, local plans and assumptions" and repeated in [75] and [79] is simply wrong; there is no such "relevant five-year period" stipulated in the statutory guidance for this purpose.

Indeed, while a broad reading of the 2007 Act might allow such an approach (although the present tense of Section 93(4) Duties when undertaking a review indicates otherwise), the relevant parts of the statutory guidance, particularly [15] and [26], are very clear that it is the present circumstances on the ground, and not future projections/forecasts/plans/assumptions etc., that are the relevant considerations (the repeated use of the word "following" in [26] is especially compelling).

The Britwell case demonstrates that misunderstandings/misinterpretations of the statutory guidance are fatal to the lawfulness of Community Governance Reviews.

As so much of the relevant parts of the Draft Recommendations are taken up with electoral projections, etc. (quite wrongly in my opinion), I have attached copies of the e-mails I sent on Thu 14/02/2019 16:16 and Sat 09/03/2019 16:31 on the 2024 Electorate of Wiltshire figures (which demonstrated that those projections were grossly inaccurate and excessive) and that I sent on Fri 05/04/2019 13:09 on the Electoral Review proposals for the parish of North Bradley (and it appears that retrospectively Wiltshire Council now shares those views).

Nevertheless, nothing in the outcome of the Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council seems to me to justify Recommendation 11.

For the reasons set out above, I do not consider that the recently adopted Wiltshire Housing Sites Allocation Plan has any direct bearing on this matter either, but there is plainly a major inconsistency in the Draft Recommendations between its treatment in the reasoning for Recommendation 11 and its treatment in the reasoning (at [82] to [92]) against very similar proposals elsewhere around Trowbridge, particularly since some of the projected development there is considerably more advanced than that in the White Horse and Park Wards of the parish of North Bradley.

Indeed, the large Ashton Park development (with its Outline Planning Permission) is proceeding so slowly that it seems to me unlikely to have made sufficient progress to significantly affect any of the figures shown for the electorate even in 2024.

Dear Senior Democratic Services Officer,

Attachment below of my e-mail sent Fri 05/04/2019 13:09 on the Electoral Review proposals for the parish of North Bradley.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 April 2019 13:09

[REDACTED]

Subject: Wiltshire electoral review (Ref: 15520) - Draft recommendations - February 2019

Dear Review Officer,

Thank you for your e-mail below.

Your figures for the 2018 electorate of the parish of North Bradley (polling district GC1) show clearly one of the problems I suspected as flowing from [194] of the LGBCE Report - that the proposed Park ward of North Bradley Parish Council will have only THREE electors at the 2021 election! Although Wiltshire Council has still not given me the corresponding figure for its proposed White Horse ward, I do not think it will exceed about SEVEN electors at the same election.

Turning to the figure of 372 you mention, it is in fact simply the difference between the 2018 electorate of the whole parish (1,426) and Wiltshire Council's forecast of the 2024 electorate of its proposed Village ward of the parish (1,798), so the way it has been dealt with by the LGBCE in its figures makes no sense at all.

The correct methodology would have been to identify the effect of the boundary changes it proposed to the Wiltshire Council scheme figures.

Unfortunately, that too is unclear - [160] of the LGBCE Report states "*We have modified those boundaries, however, by the inclusion of the White Horse Business Park and the site of proposed development which is adjacent to it in Trowbridge Drynham division*", but the location and nature of "*the site of proposed development which is adjacent to it*" is not explained any further, so how it affects the 2024 forecasts is uncertain.

The accompanying map also shows another and separate boundary change to the Wiltshire Council scheme transferring all the existing properties on the north east side of Woodmarsh and Westbury Road North Bradley from Wiltshire Council's proposed Village ward to the LGBCE's White Horse ward, and which (together with those at Drynham backing onto the White Horse Business Park and so presumably also being transferred to the LGBCE's White Horse ward) your e-mail's analysis of GC1 suggests amount to about 100 electors in 2018.

I do not think that removing the White Horse Business Park or the north east side of Woodmarsh and Westbury Road North Bradley from the Southwick Division assists either in *Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity* or in *Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government* (see [4] of the LGBCE Report).

If the effect of the LGBCE scheme is to exclude all the sites of expected housing development on the edge of Trowbridge from the Village ward of North Bradley, it will reduce the 2024 forecast electorate of that ward from 1,798 to 1,371, increase that for the White Horse ward from 541 to 968, and leave that for the Park ward unchanged at 1,462.

So the figures for 2024 in Appendix A of the LGBCE Report should be:-

Division 75 (Southwick) - 3,743 (instead of 3,830)

Division 82 (Trowbridge Drynham) - 4,433 (instead of 4,173)

Division 85 (Trowbridge Park) - 4,508 (instead of 4,681)

Whilst Divisions 82 and 85 still show good electoral equality in 2024 with the corrected figures, Division 75 (Southwick) does not (Variance -12%).

Hence it is still necessary to sort out the discrepancies in the electorate figures for dividing the parish of North Bradley into wards to demonstrate how it assists in *Improving electoral equality* (see [4] of the LGBCE Report). The unsatisfactory methodology used for the forecast 2024 electorates is at the root of this problem (see my previous comments sent Thu 14/02/2019 16:16 and Sat 09/03/2019 16:31).

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 01 April 2019 14:39

[Redacted]

Subject: RE: Wiltshire electoral review (Ref: 15520) - Draft recommendations - Feb 2019

[Redacted]

Thank you for your message.

The baseline figure for electors in North Bradley was 1426. The forecast was 3801.

For the baseline electorate for our proposed divisions, we counted entries from the register and made a marginal adjustment to reconcile the difference between the electors on the register and the figures in the spreadsheet.

In this way, we calculated the baseline electorates as

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| GC1 | 1426 |
| Southwick | 1316 |
| Trowbridge Drynham | 107 |
| Trowbridge Park | 3 |

To get the forecast electorate, we added to these figures we added electors in developments of which we were aware, 1462 in Trowbridge Park and 541 in Trowbridge Drynham. These totalled 2003 electors. This was 372 fewer than the total forecast change for polling district GC1. We apportioned that difference to the sum of baseline electors and those forecast in new developments.

This resulted in a forecast of

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| GC1 | 3801 |
| Southwick | 1458 |
| Trowbridge Drynham | 719 |
| Trowbridge Park | 1624 |

I hope that this explains our mathematics, but please come back to me if you require further information.

Regards

David Owen
Review Officer
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House 50 Victoria Street London SW1H 0TL
David.owen@lgbce.org.uk Tel: 0330 500 1277 www.lgbce.org.

[Redacted]

Sent: 01 April 2019 15:25

[Redacted]

Subject: Wiltshire electoral review (Ref: 15520) - Draft recommendations - Feb 2019

Dear Mr Owen,

Thank you for your e-mail today and the revised spreadsheet attached.

The forecast electorate for your proposed White Horse and Park wards of the parish of North Bradley together appears to be correspondingly reduced by 430 to 2,343 in 2024, but I am still unable to reconcile the figures for your Trowbridge Drynham and Trowbridge Park Divisions in either 2018 or 2024.

Please advise.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

From: Owen, David <david.owen@lgbce.org.uk>

Sent: 01 April 2019 08:41

To [Redacted]

Subject: Wiltshire electoral review

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your message of 26 March. Following the Council's initial preparation of electorate forecasts, there have been a couple of revisions to reflect emerging information about expected development.

I am attaching a spreadsheet to show the forecasts that have been used in the preparation of draft recommendations

I am arranging for the revised table to be shown on our website.

Regards

David Owen

Review Officer

Local Government Boundary Commission for England

1st Floor, Windsor House 50 Victoria Street London SW1H 0TL

David.owen@lgbce.org.uk Tel: 0330 500 1277 www.lgbce.org.uk

Dear Senior Democratic Services Officer,

Attachment below of my e-mails sent Thu 14/02/2019 16:16 and Sat 09/03/2019 16:31 on the 2024 Electorate of Wiltshire figures.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Sent: 09 March 2019 16:31

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Wiltshire Electoral review (Ref. No. 15520) - Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Wiltshire Council - February 2019 -

Dear Senior Democratic Services Officer,

Thank you for your e-mail below sent Tue 05/03/2019 12:56.

I have now tracked down the Office for National Statistics' current population projections for Wiltshire (Subnational population projections for England: 2016-based - released 24 May 2018), which estimate its population in mid 2016 at 492,240 and project its population in mid 2018 at 498,500 and in mid 2024 at 520,044, an increase of 4.32% over the six years to mid 2024.

Applying the same rate to the electoral figures, I compute an updated figure of 383,576 for the mid 2024 Electorate of Wiltshire, an increase of 15,890 over the current figure of 367,686 (see [21]).

That is less than a third of the increase of 49,562 arrived at by the Wiltshire Council methodology.

My comments on the Council's response below are therefore:-

"the methodology was likely to include an element of double counting" materially understates the position - it more than triple counts the increases throughout.

"the projected figures were the best available at the time the forecasts were made" is demonstrably incorrect.

"the Commission would, in the absence of any methodological projection, simply apply a flat %increase" would I think mean that the five year forecast figures would give exactly the same outcome as the current figures, and whilst imperfect, would overall, I believe, give a

more reliable outcome than relying exclusively (as the LGBCE's Report does) on the flawed five year forecast figures thrown up by the Wiltshire Council methodology.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: Elliott, Kieran <Kieran.Elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk>

Sent: 05 March 2019 12:56

[REDACTED]

Subject: Electoral Review

[REDACTED]

Following last week's Electoral Review Committee meeting I can confirm that your representation, along with all others received, has been circulated to all members of the Committee for them to consider ahead of the meeting on 11 March. The Chairman has asked I send you the response below as he stated would be forthcoming at the meeting.

Thank you for your representation in relation to the methodology used to forecast future electorates for use in this electoral review.

Following examination of methodologies used by other authorities for their own electoral reviews which were accepted by the LGBCE, the Electoral Review Committee considered proposed methodologies at its public committee meeting on 11 January 2018. It was acknowledged at that point, and in the submission the Council made for the preliminary stage of the review which was considered at Full Council on 20 February 2018, that the methodology was likely to include an element of double counting. These figures were updated in August 2018 which reduced the predictions for a number of development sites, and adjusted again in September 2018.

Whilst I appreciate that you have serious concerns about the methodology, as you note in your representation the LGBCE were satisfied that the projected figures were the best available at the time the forecasts were made, and the methodology was first made public over a year ago. At this late stage, it is not possible for adjustments to be made to the figures on which the electoral review is to be based. It is also noteworthy that the Commission would, in the absence of any methodological projection, simply apply a flat %increase to all areas of the council without any recognition of different growth in different parts of the Council area.

Your comments that you feel the LGBCE is misapplying the legislation in relation to the current electorate and the five year forecasts would be a matter for the LGBCE to respond to, and I note you have included your representation to them.

Yours

Kieran Elliott

Senior Democratic Services Officer Legal and Democratic Services
County Hall Bythesea Road Trowbridge BA14 9JG
01225 718504

[REDACTED]
Sent: Thu 14/02/2019 16:16

[REDACTED]
Subject: Briefing Note 19-003 - Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council - Draft
Recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Hi Electoral Review Committee,

I am disappointed with the LGBCE's draft recommendations at [19] to [22] (Analysis and draft recommendations) and [24] to [26] (Electoral figures) of its Report published on Tuesday 5 February 2019, which include the two completely contradictory statements that "we consider it desirable to use the best forecasting information available" and "the projected figures were the best available at the time the forecasts were made" (see at [25]).

My concerns about the shortcomings of Wiltshire Council's methodology for forecasting future electorates are of longstanding and well known, and it remains my view that they were the principal cause of the errors made in the previous review which drove the decision to carry out the current review.

In my opinion, using the same methodology again simply ensures that the outcome of the current review will be no better than the last.

The problem is compounded by the very unsatisfactory policy/practice of the LGBCE to apply the legislation referred to in [19] as if it applies only to the five year forecast figures, rather than to both the current figures and the five year forecast figures.

As Appendix A of the Report demonstrates, the result of this misapplication of the legislation is that over a third of the proposed divisions do not meet the requirement for "good electoral equality" in 2018 (see [22] and [172]), which ironically is significantly worse than the existing divisions.

The Report states that the Electorate of Wiltshire will rise from 367,686 in 2018 to 417,248 at 2 July 2024 (see at [21]), an increase of 13.48% over 6 years, and an average of 2.13% pa.

There is no credible explanation given for such a huge rate of increase over that period. The projected population increase over the Plan period (2006-2026) in the Wiltshire Core Strategy is only a fraction of that figure (see [5.4] of Topic Paper 2 - Housing). From the Census figures in 2001 and 2011, I compute Wiltshire's population at the start of the Plan period at 451,405, so the stated increase of 65,208 gives a figure of 516,613 at the end of the Plan period. The increase from the 2011 Census figure of 470,981 is 9.69% over 15 years, and an average of just under 0.62% pa.

Applying the same rate to the electoral figures, I compute a figure of only 381,542 for the 2024 Electorate of Wiltshire, which is 35,706 less than that stated in the LGBCE Report (see [21]).

The impact of this overall misstatement will probably be greatest in the proposed divisions with the smallest electorates in 2018 and/or the greatest increases shown in the period 2018-2024. The three smallest proposed divisions in 2018 are 22. (Chippenham Monkton - 2,260), 64. (Salisbury Bemerton Heath - 2,312) and 21. (Chippenham Lowden & Rowden - 2,527). The three with the greatest increases are 64. (Salisbury Bemerton Heath - 1,853), 85. (Trowbridge Park - 1,794) and 22. (Chippenham Monkton - 1,723). However, there are another 8 proposed divisions with forecast increases of over 1,000.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Democratic and Member Services <Committee@wiltshire.gov.uk>

Sent: 12 February 2019 16:00

Subject: Briefing Note 19-003 - Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council - Draft Recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Dear All

Please find attached a copy of Briefing Note no. 19-003. This briefing note draws attention to the publication of the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a pattern of electoral divisions for Wiltshire Council to apply from 2021, with associated adjustments to some town and parish council warding arrangements. A consultation runs until 15 April.

Note: this Briefing Note has/ has not been circulated to Parish and Town Clerks at the request of the author.

Towns and parishes are encouraged to comment on the proposals directly to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, and the Electoral Review Committee would be happy to receive any comments as well.

Democratic Services Legal & Democratic
committee@wiltshire.gov.uk Web: www.wiltshire.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 July 2020 11:41
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed boundary changes in North Bradley

Good morning. I am writing to express my astonishment at the proposed changes to the boundaries of North Bradley. It has had its present shape since 1894 and the areas suggested to be transferred to Trowbridge Town Council means we would not have the status of a village. It seems ludicrous that the Baptist church would be in a different ward from its graveyard! We have lived in the village for 37 years and been involved in many village organisations and activities. We were supposed to vote for or against the changes during lockdown but have had no indication when this will take place. In the meantime a meeting has been arranged for September to make a decision without a chance for villagers to make their feelings known. I am hoping the village will have a chance to vote in the near future.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 July 2020 12:25
To: CGR <CGR@wiltshire.gov.uk>
Subject: North Bradley Neighbourhood Planning (query)

Greetings

I emailed neighbourhood.planning yesterday and today received a reply from Karin Elder, the Clerk to the North Bradley Parish Council, who had been forwarded the email. She suggested that I email you therefore I have copied my email content from yesterday and her response.

My email:

I am somewhat confused and concerned over the proposed boundary change to the North Bradley Parish Council.

I could be wrong but it looks like North Bradley Baptist Church remains in the NB Parish Council while our graveyard and part of the access road to the graveyard would be in the Trowbridge Council area.

Surely that would not be correct as that would make absolutely no sense whatsoever?

NBPC response:

Hello [REDACTED], Wiltshire Council have forwarded me your email that you sent to Neighbourhood Planning as this is to do with Wiltshire Council's recommendations to alter the boundary. Yes, I believe you are correct in thinking that the graveyard would be in a different parish under these proposals.

Here is the section in the Parish Council response:

Residents wish to preserve the rural integrity of their village now and in the future. In addition, the graveyard for North Bradley's Baptist church has been included within the urban development separating it from its Baptist Church which remains in North Bradley village. This will be impractical to administer.

It would appear from her response that the NB Parish Council also believe that separating the graveyard from the church would not be a good idea!

Also, another of my fellow Deacons raised the question of who would be responsible for emptying the Dog Mess Bin near the entrance to the graveyard?

So, to recap, there are two queries/concerns.

1. The discrepancy with the boundary of the Church and its graveyard.
2. The responsibility of emptying the dog poo bin.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Deacon

North Bradley Baptist Church

Wiltshire Council

Electoral Review Committee

13 August 2020

Parish Name Change Review

Purpose

1. To consider proposals to change the names of three parishes.

Background

2. An email was sent to all parish councils on 12 July 2019 inviting expressions of interest for a Community Governance Review in their area. Further emails were sent as reminders.
3. In response some parishes requested that the name of their parish be changed. Although this is something which can be changed through a Community Governance Review, it is also able to be progressed under s.75 of the Local Government Act 1972.
4. As that would be a simpler process in terms of structure, consultation and decision, the Committee at its meeting on 31 October 2019 resolved that where a request was received solely regarding changing the name of a parish, these would be undertaken through the s.75 process. This amounted to three requests relating to the following parishes:
 - Cheverell Parva
 - Fittleton
 - Fyfield and West Overton (Joint Parish Council)

Main Considerations

5. In order to change the name of a parish a decision would be required by Full Council, who would then notify the Secretary of State, Director General of the Ordnance Survey, and the Registrar General, along with a parish name change order.
6. There are no specific consultation requirements where a change of parish name is being considered under s.75, only proscribed notifications after the event as detailed under Paragraph 5 above.
7. However, the Council must have reasonable grounds for making a change that has been proposed by a parish council. Therefore, a briefing note including details of a survey on the proposals from the parish councils listed under Paragraph 4 above was sent to all Wiltshire Council Members and parishes in the council area on 6 January 2020. An online survey was launched on the same date, which has remained open until 10 July 2020. Several reminder emails and were sent to the parish councils involved as well as mention in other briefing notes including on 6 May 2020.
8. S.75 allows the Council to change the name of a parish at the request of a parish council (or parish meeting if there is no council), which means that the Council may only approve or not approve that suggested name, and cannot substitute some other

proposal, for instance should a new suggestion arise as a result of a survey, unless the parish council had indicated formal consent for that alternative proposal.

Fittleton

9. Fittleton Parish Council requested that the name of the parish be changed to Fittleton cum Haxton. They stated the reason for the request was:

Fittleton Parish Council is made up of two hamlets, Fittleton and Haxton. The population of Haxton is larger than Fittleton and so Haxton residents feel very strongly that they would like to be included in the name of the Parish Council so that their hamlet is recognised.

10. 17 responses were received to the proposal of the parish council. 15 were in favour, with 2 against.

Fyfield and West Overton

11. Fyfield and West Overton, which is a joint parish council, requested that the name of the parish council be changed to Kennet Valley Parish Council. They stated the reason for the request was:

- 1) *Lockeridge's name is not included, the new name is more inclusive and in line with our village school and village hall, which both start with 'Kennet Valley'.*
- 2) *We are currently in exploratory discussions with Preshute Parish Council regarding a boundary change to incorporate Preshute into our Parish Council.*

12. 11 responses were received to the proposal of the parish council. 9 responses were in favour, with 2 against. Details of each response are included in **Appendix A**.

Cheverell Parva

13. Cheverell Parva Parish Council proposed the name of the parish be changed to Little Cheverell. They stated the reason for the request was:

Little Cheverell is used on road signs, maps, postal addresses and most departments of Wiltshire Council.

14. No responses were received to the proposal of the parish council.

Safeguarding Implications

15. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

16. There are no public health implications.

Procurement Implications

17. There are no procurement implications.

Risk Assessment

18. There are no risk issues arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

19. There are no equalities implications.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

20. There are no environmental implications.

Workforce Implications

21. There are no workforce implications.

Financial Implications

22. There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

23. This report is consistent with the requirements of s.75 of the Local Government Act 1972. In order for any name change proposal to be in place for the next elections in May 2021, a decision would need to be made by Full Council before the end of 2020.

Options

24. The Committee may recommend that Full Council approve the proposed name changes for the parishes as listed, decline to make any recommendation to Full Council at this time, or seek consent of the parish councils as listed to recommend an alternative name to Full Council if appropriate.

Proposal

25. For the Committee to determine which parish name changes, if any, to recommend be adopted by Full Council.

Ian Gibbons - Director of Legal and Governance

Report Author: Kieran Elliott, Senior Democratic Services Officer, 01225 718504,
kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix A – Responses to s.75 parish name change survey

Background Papers

None

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Appendix A

Proposal to change the name from Fittleton Parish Council to Fittleton cum Haxton Parish Council

| Comment | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree | Reasons |
|---------|----------------------|----------------|---|
| 1 | Representative | Agree | I agree that, given the relative sizes of the populations of Fittleton and Haxton, Haxton should be reflected in the name of the Parish Council. |
| 2 | Resident | Agree | Despite being a mouthful, it is logical |
| 3 | Resident | Agree | Haxton needs to be included in the name as it is in the parochial parish name. |
| 4 | Resident | Disagree | It should be Haxton cum fittleton due Haxton being the larger parish |
| 5 | Resident | Agree | The statement from the parish council just makes sense |
| 6 | Resident | Disagree | Too many things are changing in this area. Leave it alone. It has been known as Fittleton for years. |
| 7 | Resident | Agree | Makes everyone happy hopefully |
| 8 | Interested Party | Agree | |
| 9 | Resident | Agree | Haxton should be recognised as part of the parish council as at the minute they are not part of any |
| 10 | Resident | Agree | |
| 11 | Resident | Agree | Common sense to reflect reality. |
| 12 | Resident | Agree | I am a Haxton resident and therefore council tax payer. I would like mu hamlet to be recognised in the parish council name.. |
| 13 | Resident | Agree | Makes sense |
| 14 | Resident | Agree | There are more houses and residents in Haxton, so the name change should be viewed as a positive |
| 15 | Resident | Agree | I agree with the proposal. Haxton should be recognised in its own right. |
| 16 | Resident | Agree | I am for the proposal as Haxton has a bigger population |
| 17 | Representative | Agree | From a diverse & inclusive perspective for Haxton residents I agree with the proposal for Haxton to therefore be recognised when the population of Haxton is greater. |

Proposal to change the name from Fyfield and West Overton Parish Council to Kennet Valley Parish Council

| Comment | Status of Respondent | Agree/Disagree | Reasons | |
|----------|----------------------|----------------|---|--|
| 1 | Representative | Agree | It is important for the Parish Council name to reflect the geographic area covered and at present it does not. | |
| 2 | Representative | Agree | The suggested name change is far more inclusive to the surrounding areas | |
| 3 | Representative | Agree | | |
| 4 | Representative | Agree | it is strange that Lockeridge is not part of our name | |
| 5 | Resident | Agree | All the reasons already stated above | |
| 6 | Representative | Agree | Better reflection of the Parish | |
| Page 176 | 7 | Representative | Agree | It would be a more appropriate name so that it includes the hamlet of Lockeridge with the two village names of the PC and any other areas that may join in the future. |
| | 8 | Resident | Agree | |
| 9 | Resident | Disagree | The local church magazine for the Upper Kennet Benefice is called Upper Kennet News. This includes Fyfield, West Overton, East Kennett, Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton, Winterbourne Bassett and Broad Hinton. By using the words Kennet Valley it would seemingly appear that other villages are included. Why not change it to Fyfeid, West Overton and Lockeridge Parish Council instead? | |
| 10 | Resident | Disagree | Manton /Preshute has no historic links with Fyfield, Lockeridge & West Overton | |
| 11 | Resident | Agree | The proposed name is certainly more inclusive of the villages involved. We often get listed under "Fyfield" because it comes first, and no one realises Lockeridge is included at all! This would be a simple solution to the problem | |

Wiltshire Council

Electoral Review Committee

13 August 2020

Area Board Boundary Review

Purpose

1. To consider options for revised Area Board Boundaries to be consulted upon.

Background

2. Following an Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England proposed revised Electoral Divisions for the Council on 1 October 2019. On 17 March 2020 Parliament approved the revisions in *The Wiltshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2020*, to take effect at the local elections in May 2021.
3. Area Boards are appointed by the Council under S.102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and are constituted as area committees with the meaning of s.9E of Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
4. Schedule 1 of Part 3B of the Constitution sets out the Electoral Divisions, and therefore any parishes, which comprise each of the 18 existing Area Boards. Pewsey and Tidworth comprise a single area committee, which appoints the individual Area Boards. South West Wiltshire Area Board comprises three community areas.

Main Considerations

5. As a result of the Electoral Review the incoming Electoral Divisions do not align to the Area Boards as currently constituted. Therefore, it is necessary that the Council adopt revised arrangements for the appointment of Area Boards ahead of the elections in May 2021.
6. At its meeting on 21 July 2020 Full Council amended the terms of reference of the Committee to enable it to make recommendations in respect of the boundaries of Area Boards through such processes as it considered appropriate.
7. As an administrative arrangement of the Council, Full Council has responsibility for determining the boundaries of Area Boards. There is no requirement for consultation with other parties, however it is proposed that the Committee consult through the existing Area Boards and parishes in September-October 2020 on any proposal or options it resolves to recommend or suggest.
8. The Committee may propose any arrangement of Electoral Divisions within an Area Board as it feels appropriate.
9. In accordance with the Constitution Area Boards consist of entire Electoral Divisions and each Division may only be in one Area Board.
10. Sessions were arranged between members of the Committee and each existing Area Board to discuss the changes in Electoral Divisions and potential options and implications for any future Area Board arrangement.

11. Maps showing the existing Electoral Divisions and the incoming Divisions for each current Area Board area are attached at **Appendix A**. Notes from the sessions with members of the Area Boards are set out at **Appendix B**.

Safeguarding Implications

12. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

13. There are no public health implications.

Procurement Implications

14. There are no procurement implications.

Risk Assessment

15. There are no risk issues arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

16. There are no equalities implications.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

17. There are no environmental implications.

Workforce Implications

18. There are no workforce implications.

Financial Implications

19. There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

20. There are no legal implications.

Proposal

21. For the Committee to approve a proposal or options for a consultation on Area Board Boundaries.

Ian Gibbons - Director of Legal and Governance

Report Author: Kieran Elliott, Senior Democratic Services Officer, 01225 718504,
kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix A – Current Area Board Boundaries and incoming Electoral Divisions
Appendix B – Notes from sessions with current Area Board Members

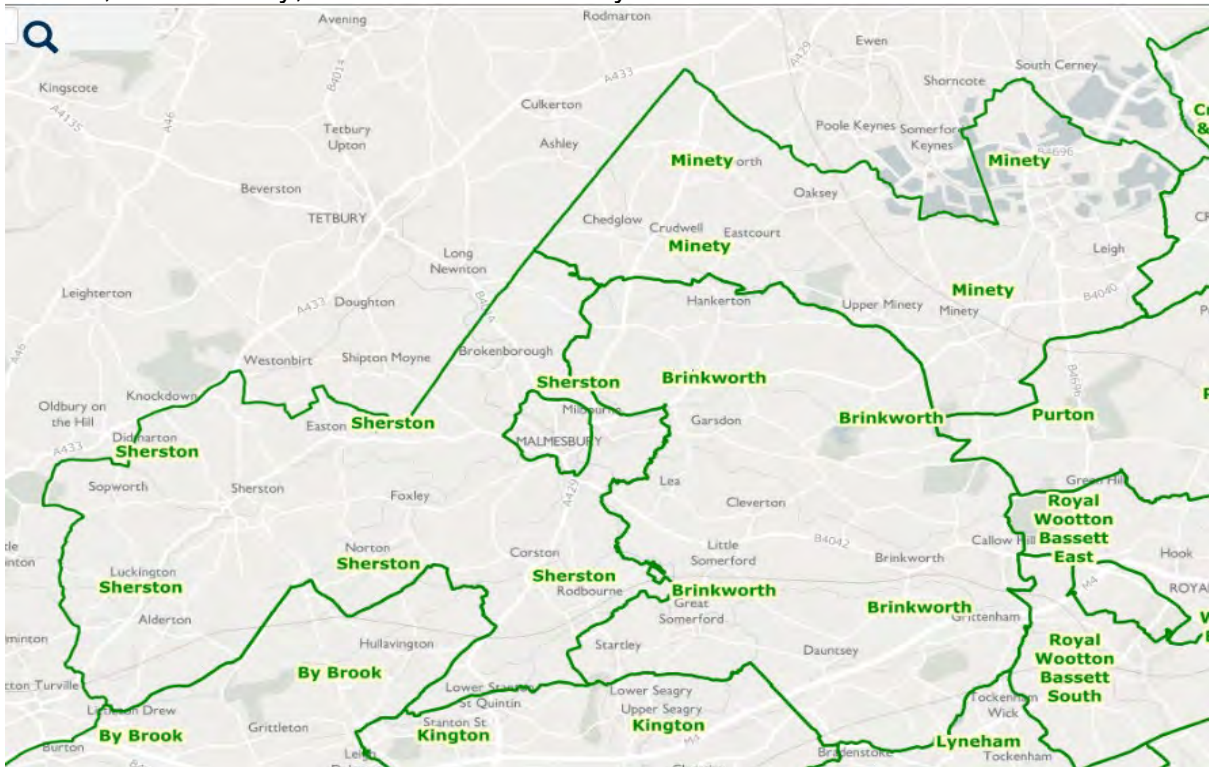
Background Papers

[Summary report of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England](#)
[Local Government Boundary Commission for England Electoral Division Map](#)

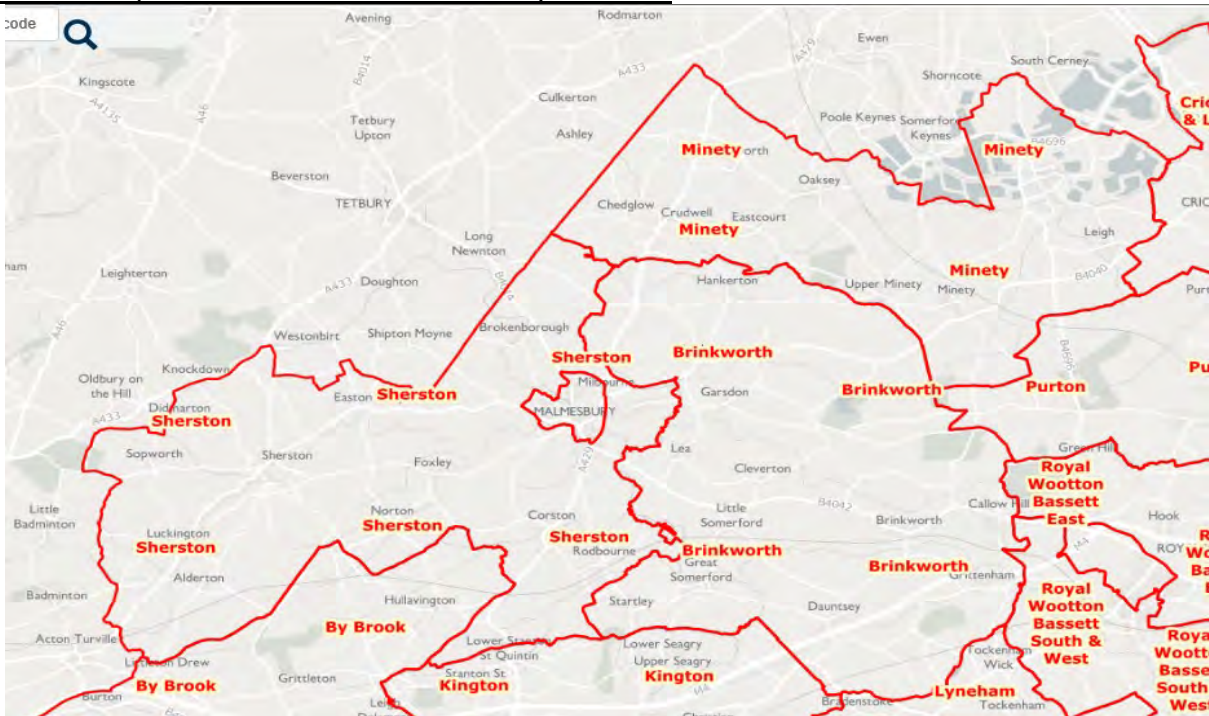
Area Board Boundary Review Information

Malmesbury – Existing Board

Shertson, Malmesbury, Brinkworth and Minety Divisions



Malmesbury – Post Electoral Review implications

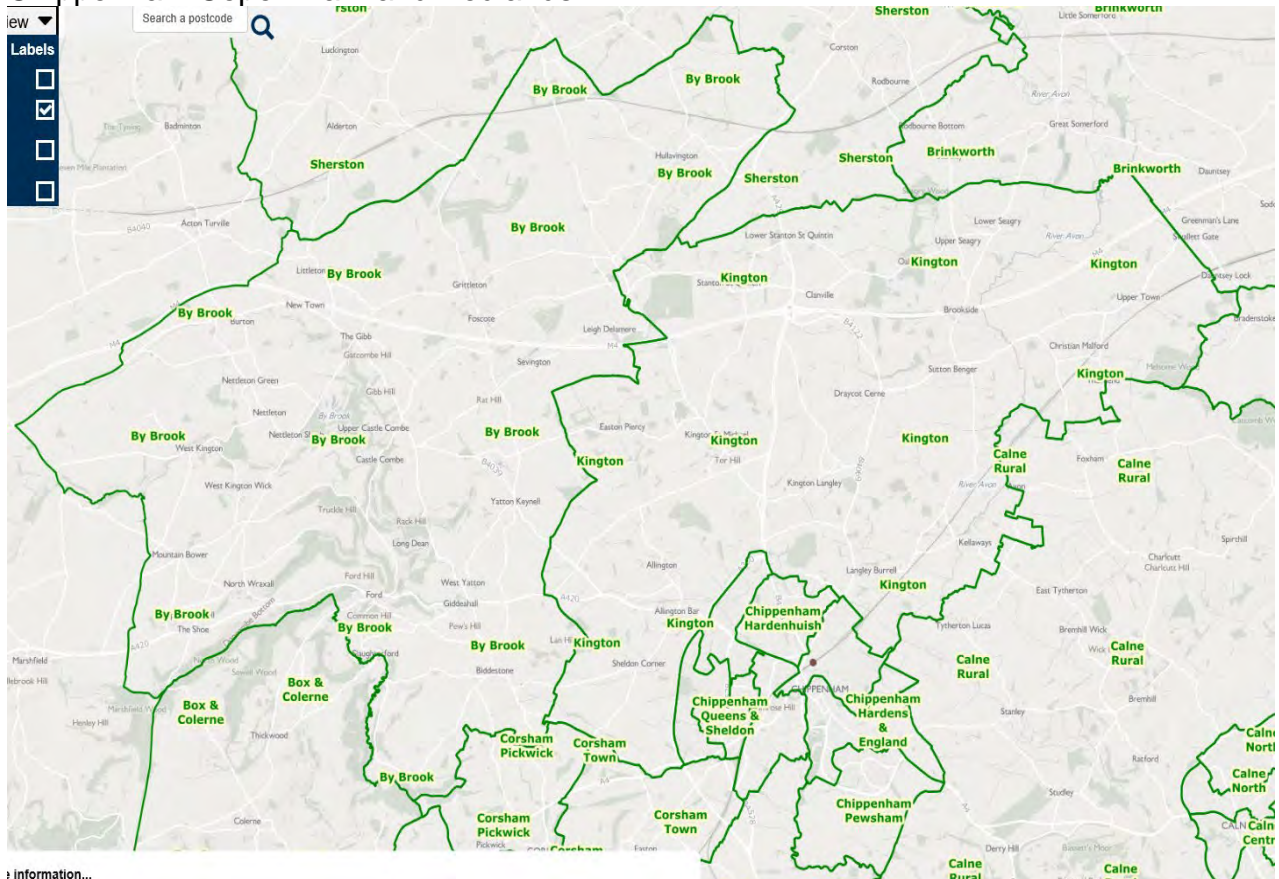


There were no changes to the Minety and Brinkworth divisions, and adjustments only between Malmesbury and Sherston due to the size of the town.

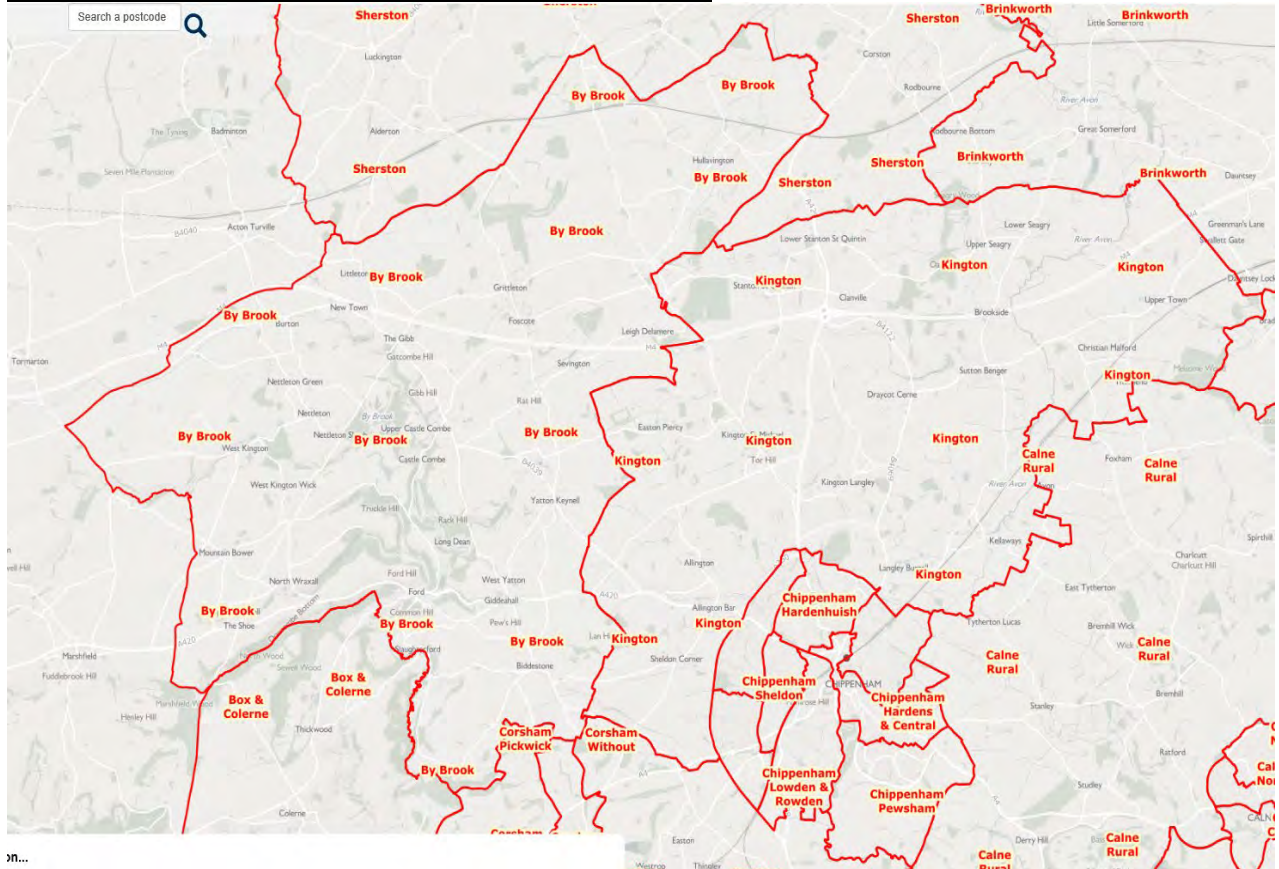
No area beyond the existing area board area has been included in the four divisions.

Chippenham – Existing Board

Bybrook, Kington, Chippenham Hardenhuish, Chippenham Pewsham, Chippenham Monkton, Chippenham Hardens and England, Chippenham Lowden and Rowden, Chippenham Queens and Sheldon, Chippenham Cepen Park and Derriards, Chippenham Cepen Park and Redlands



Chippenham – Post Electoral Review implications

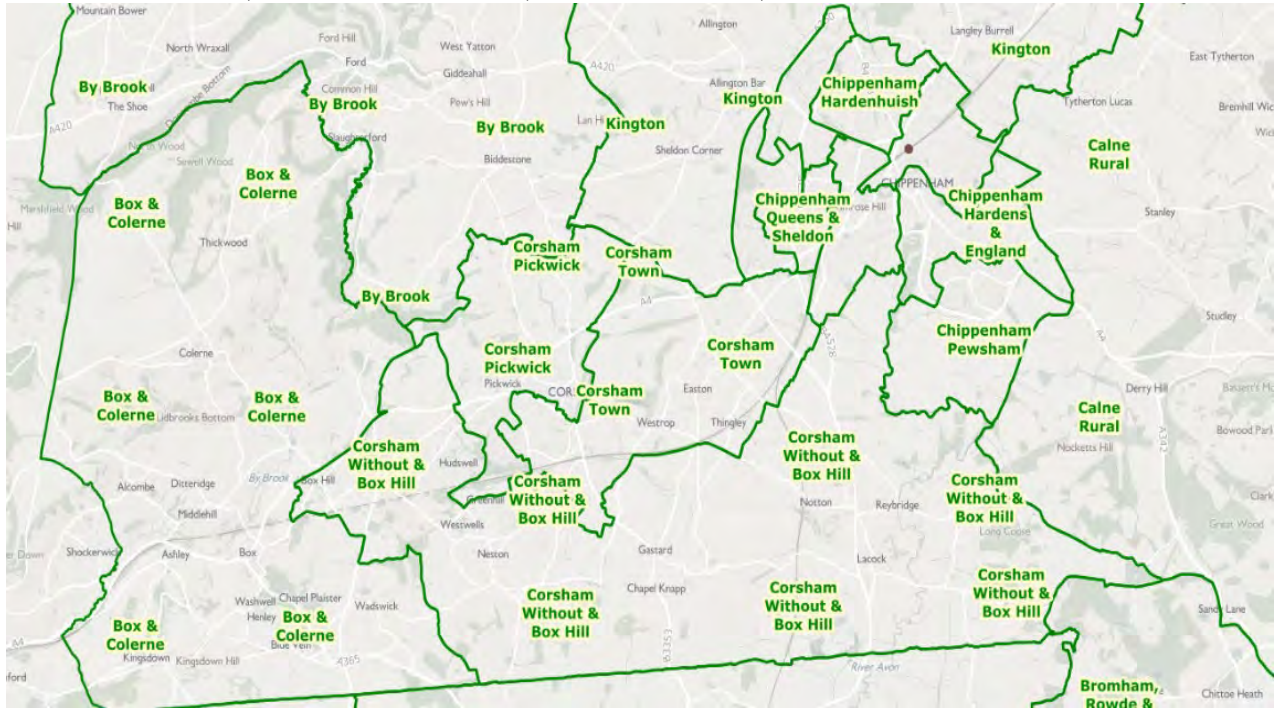


There were no changes to the Bybrook and Kington divisions. The only change in divisions that impacts the existing community area is the inclusion of the part of Chippenham currently in the Corsham Town division, and part of Lacock in the proposed Lowden and Rowen Division. The latter is proposed to be transferred into Chippenham by the Electoral Review Committee, supported by both parish councils.

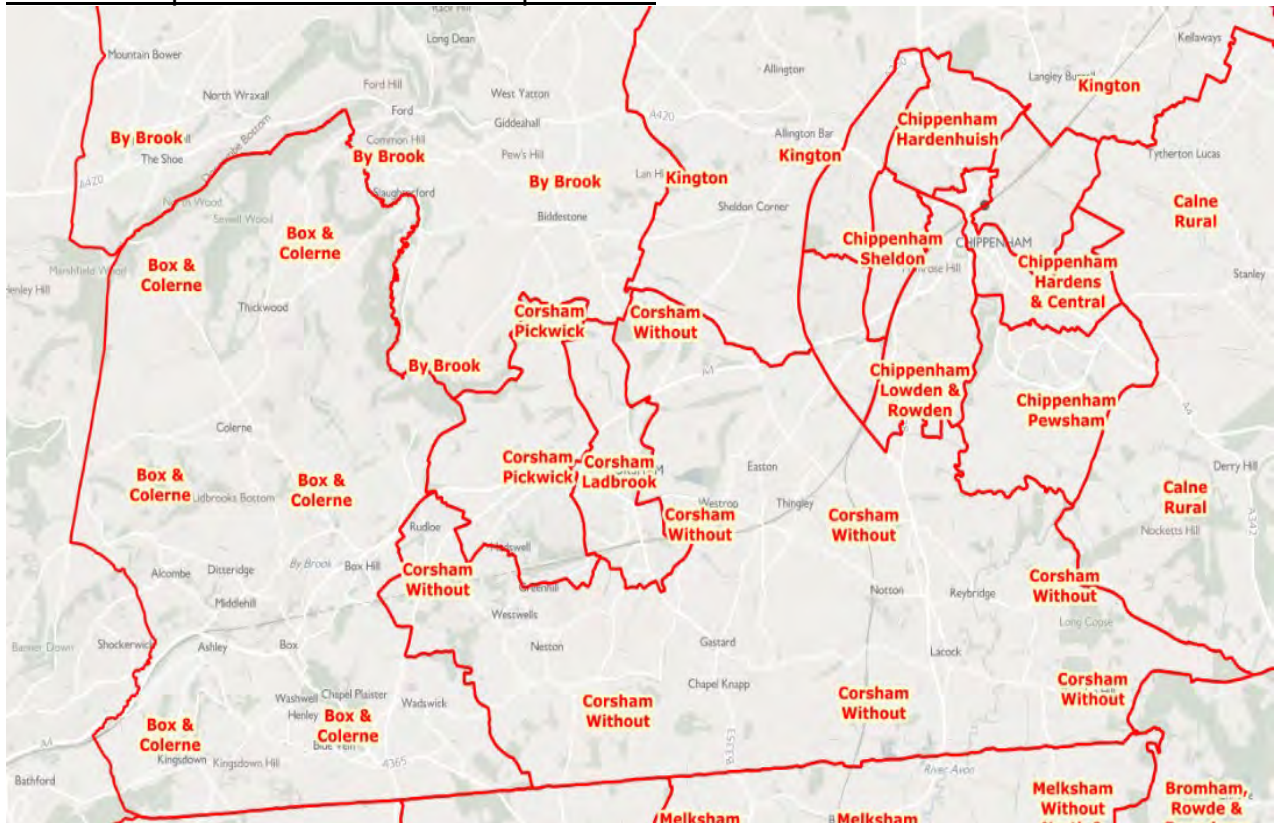
New division names: Bybrook, Kington, Chippenham Hardenhuish, Chippenham Pewsham, Chippenham Monkton, Chippenham Hardens and Central, Chippenham Lowden and Rowden, Chippenham Sheldon, Chippenham Cepen Park and Hunters Moon, Chippenham Cepen Park and Redlands.

Corsham – existing Board

Box and Colerne, Corsham Pickwick, Corsham Town, Corsham Without



Corsham – post Electoral Review implications

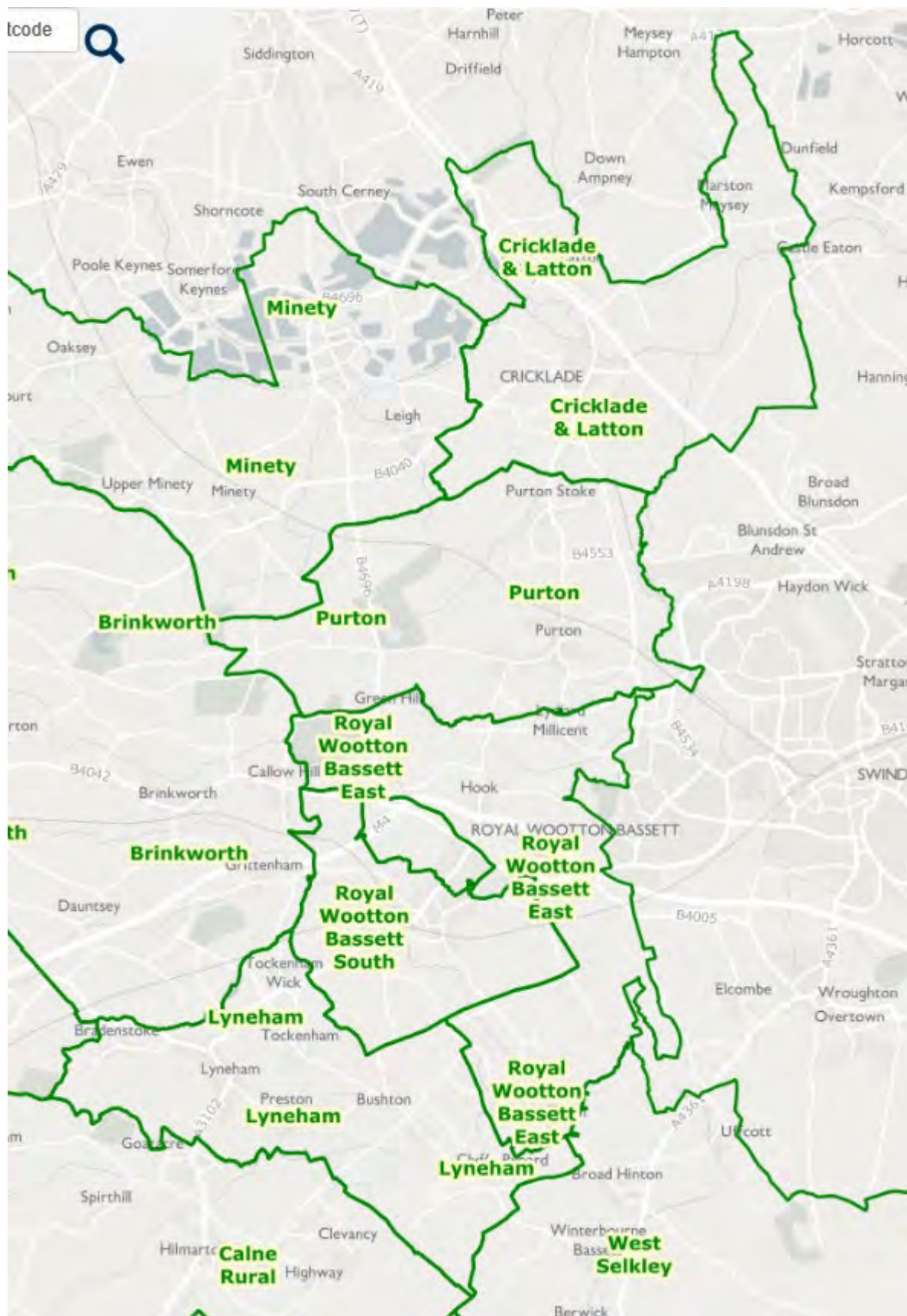


Apart from the area of Chippenham and Lacock (proposed to be moved into Chippenham) listed under Chippenham above, the new divisions do not impact other area boards, and simply amend the boundaries of the divisions within the Corsham area.

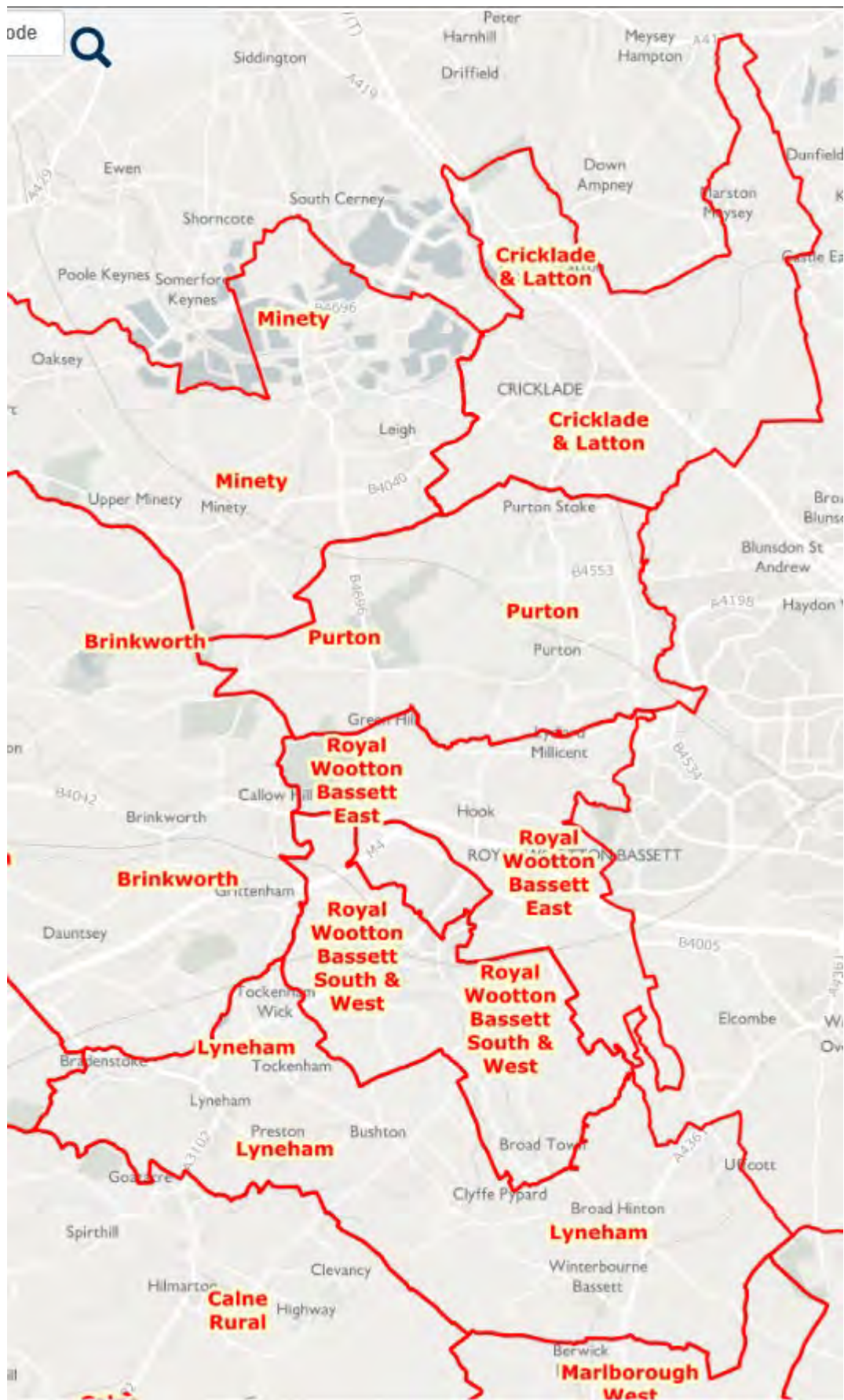
The new divisions are: Box and Colerne, Corsham Ladbrook, Corsham Pickwick, and Corsham Without.

Royal Wootton Bassett – existing Board

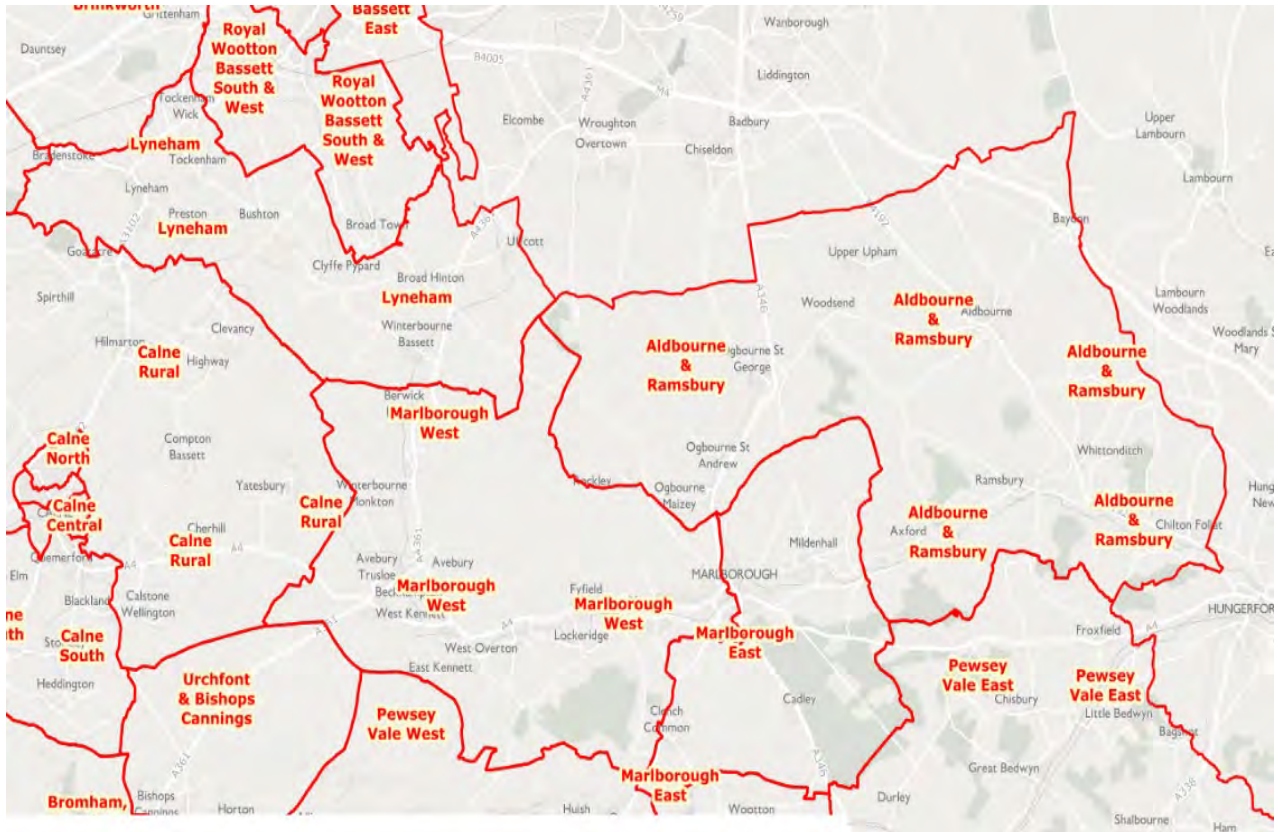
Cricklade and Latton, Purton, RWB East, RWB South, RWB North, Lyneham



Royal Wootton Bassett – post Electoral Review implications



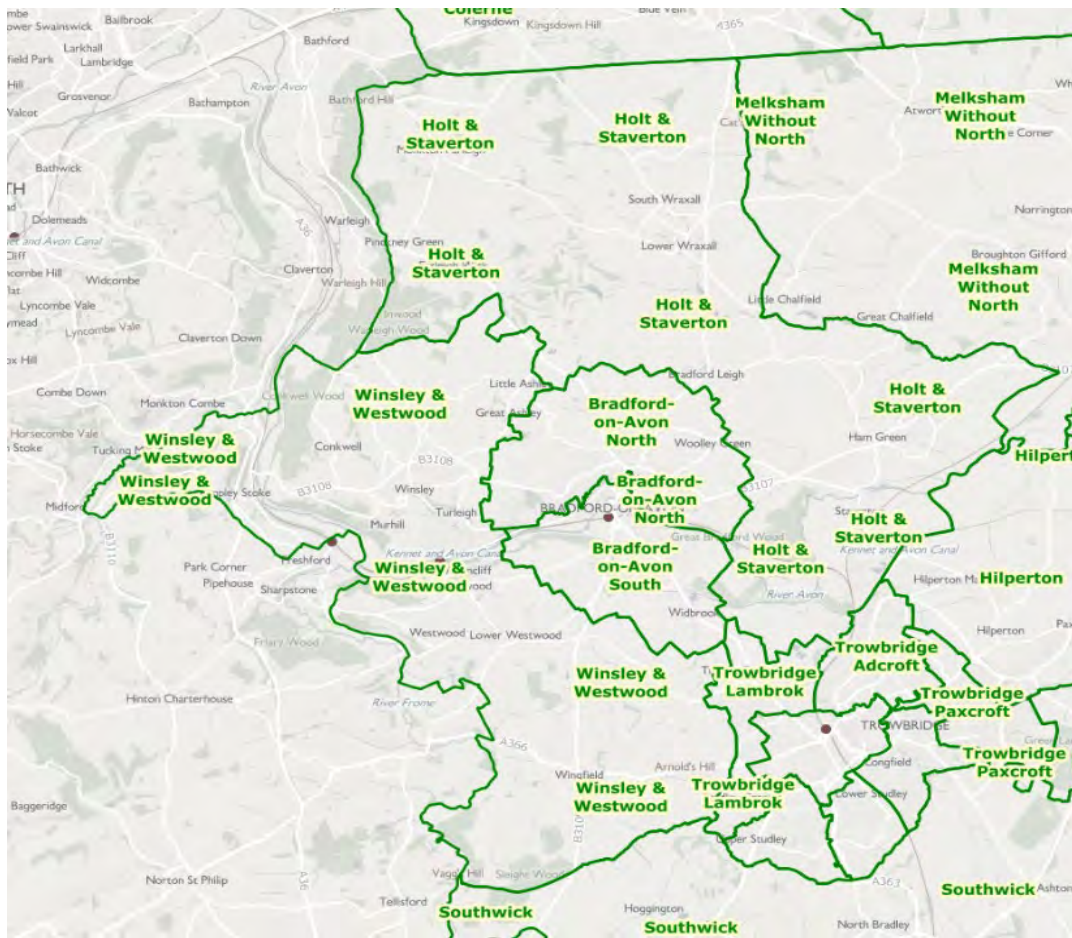
Cricklade and Latton and Purton divisions remained unchanged by the Electoral Review. The Lyneham Division now contains the parishes of Winterbourne Bassett and Broad Hinton, which are a joint Parish Council. Previously these were part of the West Selkey division of Marlborough Area Board.



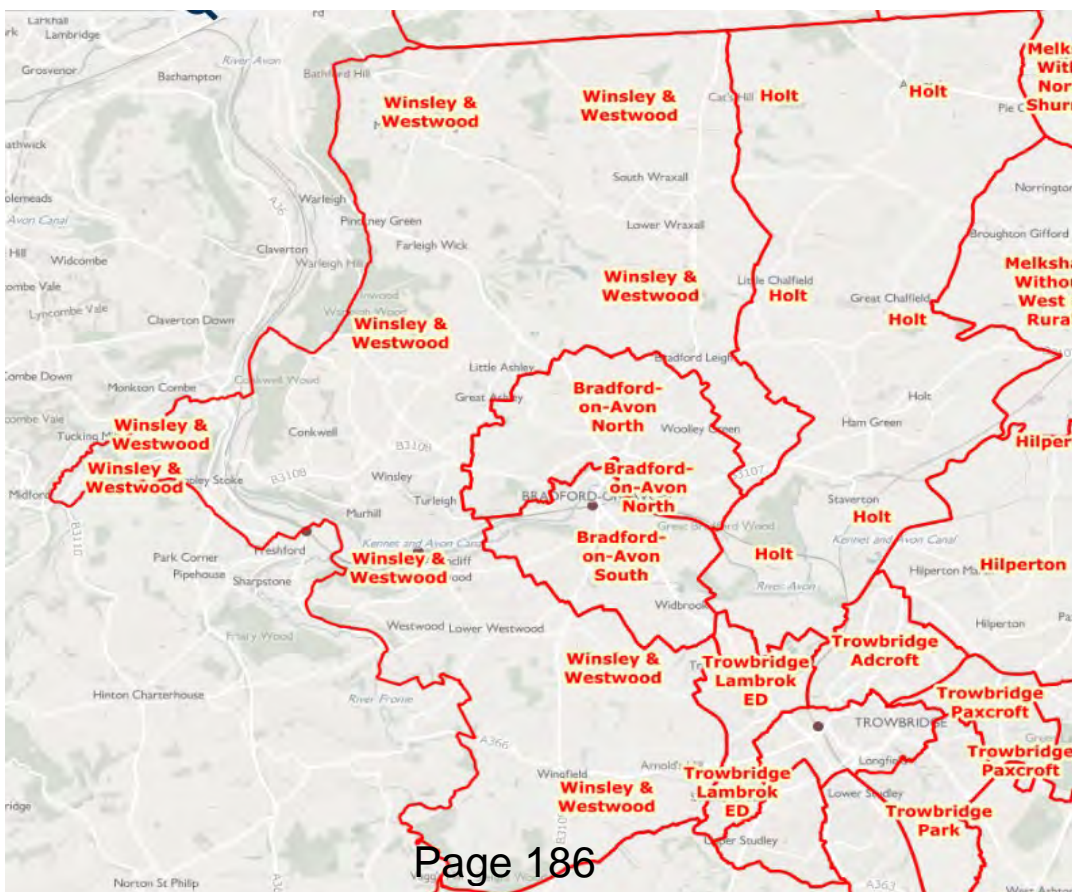
16% of the projected electorate of the new division were previously within the Marlborough area, the remaining 84% within the Royal Wootton Bassett area.

Bradford on Avon – existing Board

Bradford on Avon South, Bradford on Avon North, Holt and Staverton, Winsley and Westwood



Bradford on Avon – post Electoral Review implications



The town divisions have been minutely amended by the Electoral Review. The Winsley and Westwood division now includes areas previously in the Holt and Staverton division. The parish of Atworth has been included within the Holt division. If this were included in the Melksham Area Board, where Atworth is presently located, Bradford on Avon would have only three members and require some sort of substitution arrangement, likely with Trowbridge.

Atworth comprises approximately one quarter of the Holt division, the remaining 75% of the division was previously within the Bradford on Avon area board.

Trowbridge – existing Board

Southwick, Hilperton, Trowbridge Adcroft, Trowbridge Paxcroft, Trowbridge Park, Trowbridge Drynham, Trowbridge Grove, Trowbridge Lambrok, Trowbridge Central



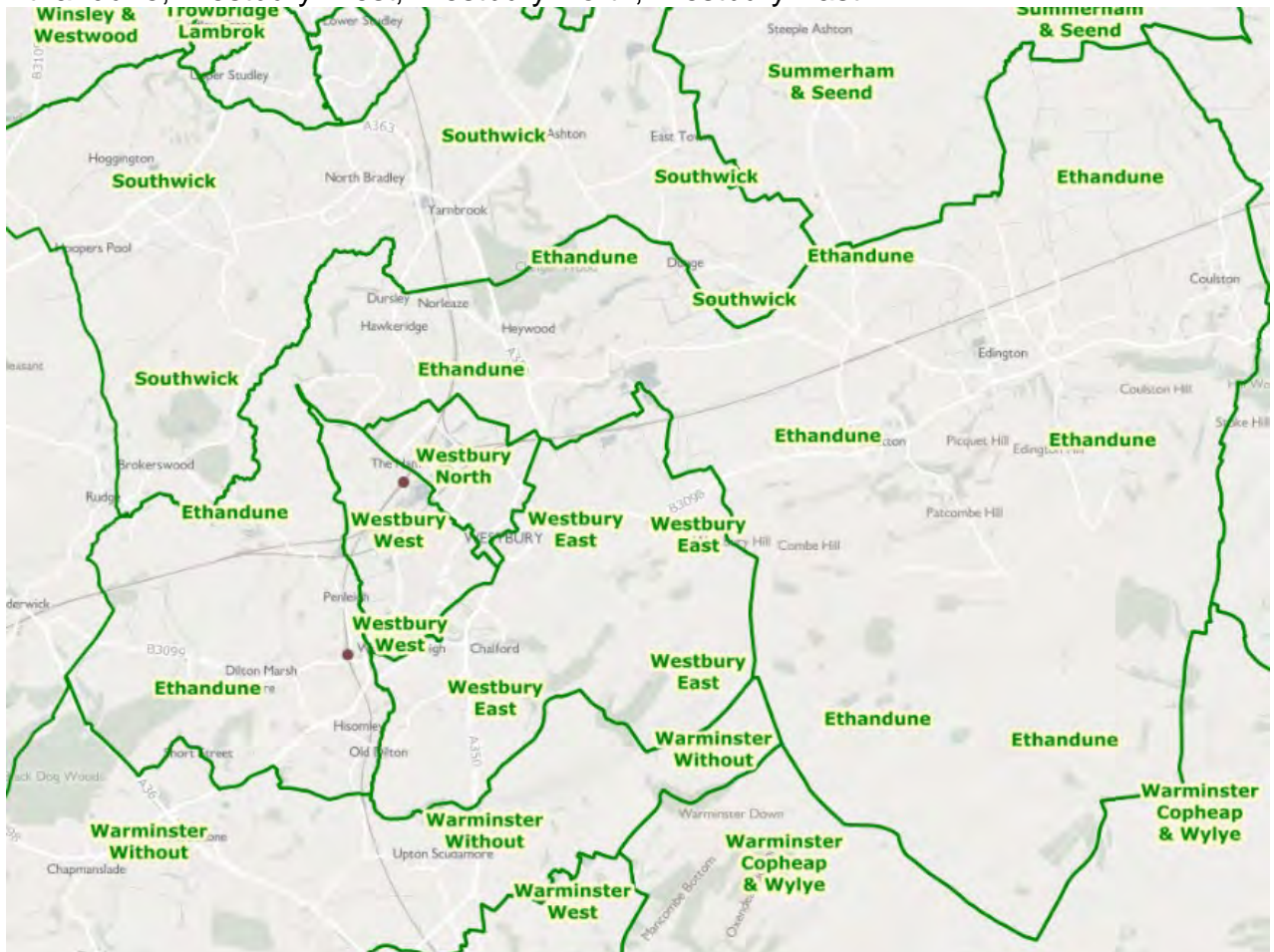
Trowbridge – post Electoral Review implications



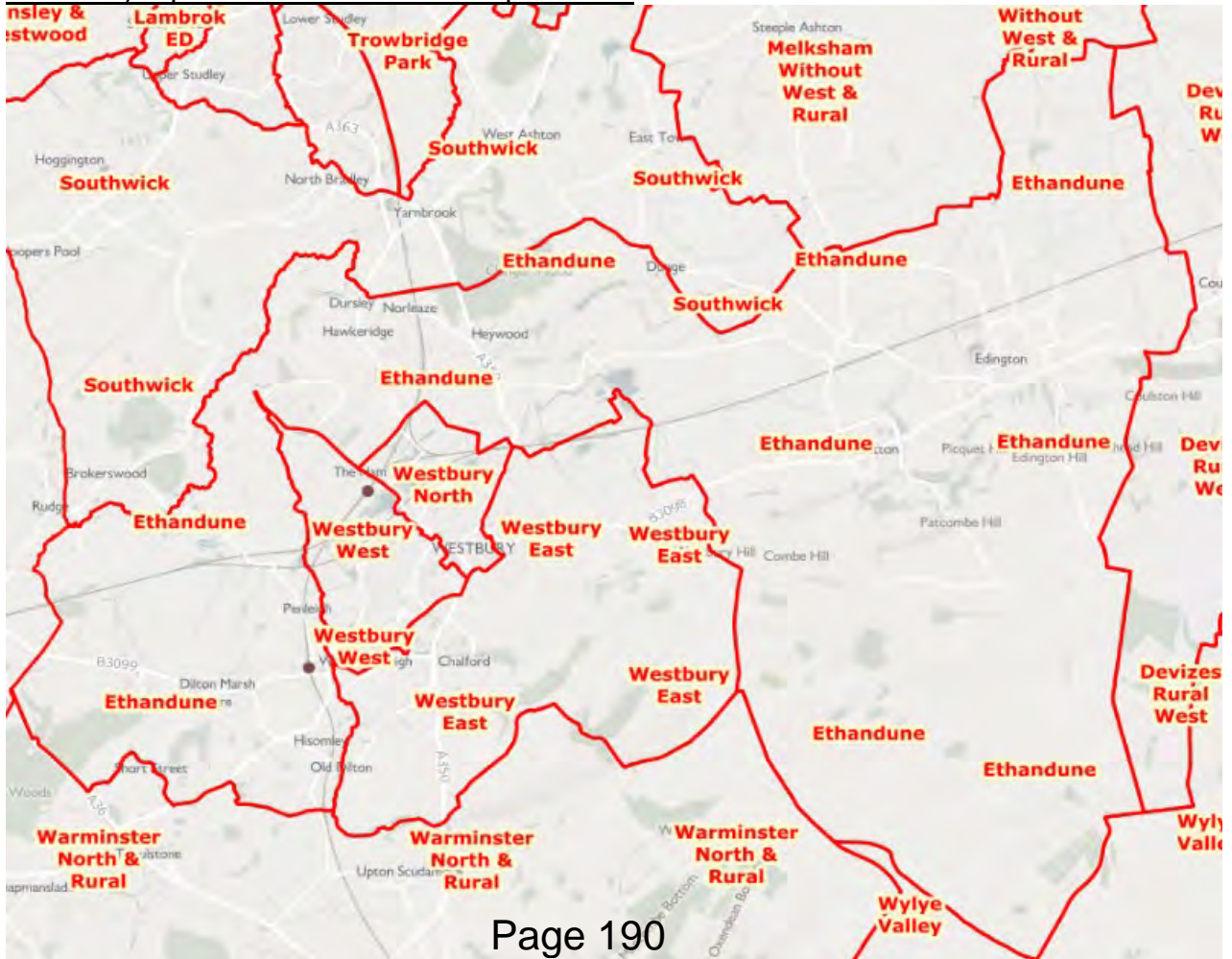
Trowbridge Park and Trowbridge Drynham each contain a part of the town and part of North Bradley Parish, with the remainder in the Southwick division, but no areas from beyond the existing board are impacted by the new divisions. The other town divisions have been amended slightly.

Westbury – existing Board

Ethandune, Westbury West, Westbury North, Westbury East



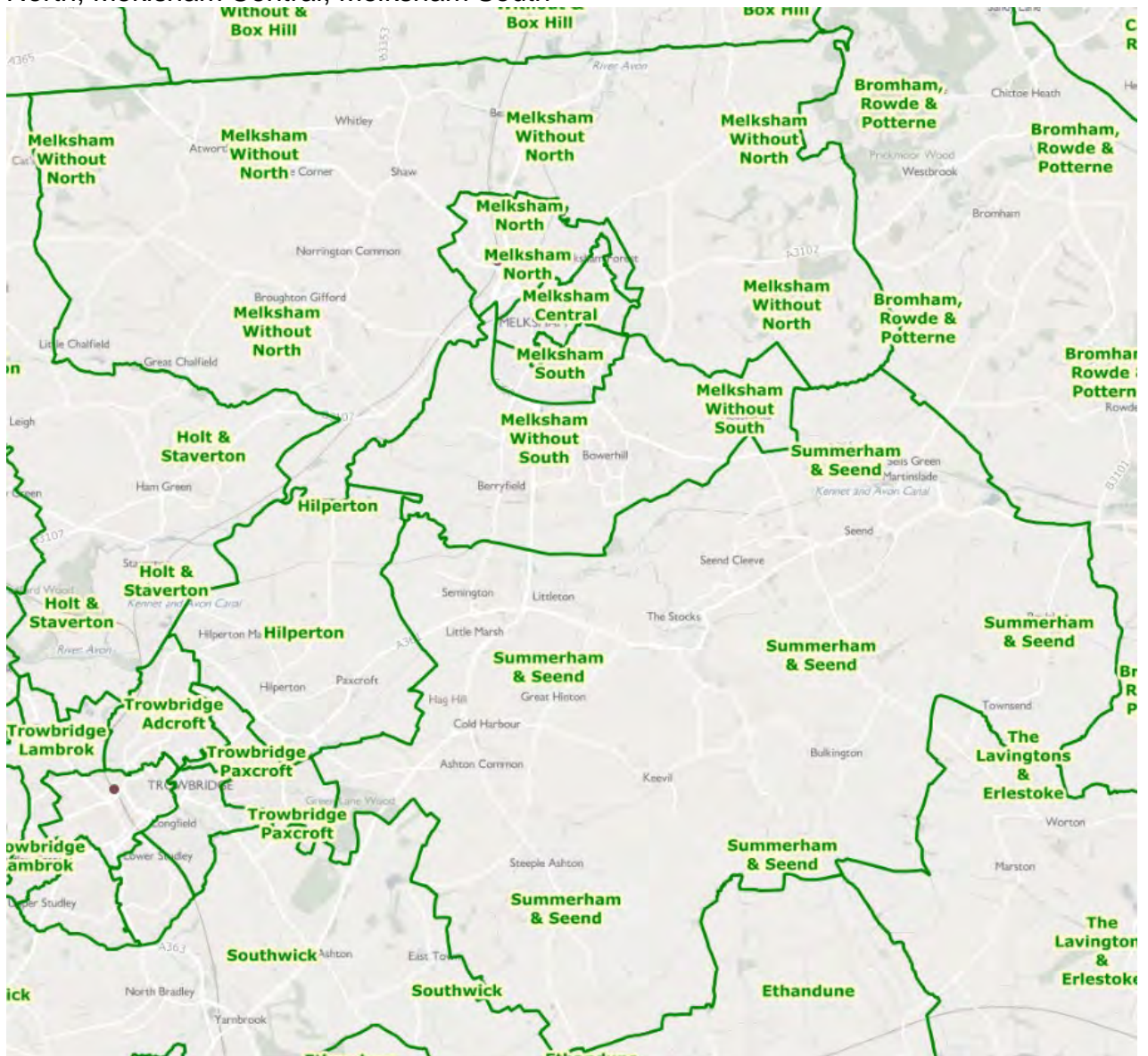
Westbury – post Electoral Review implications



The parish of Coulston has been removed from the Ethandune division and included in the Devizes Rural West division, but there are no other impacts across existing area board arrangements. Were Ethandune included in any other area board Westbury would be reduced to three members. There were minor amendments across the town divisions.

Melksham – existing Board

Melksham Without North, Melksham Without South, Summerham and Seend, Melksham North, Melksham Central, Melksham South



Melksham – post Electoral Review implications



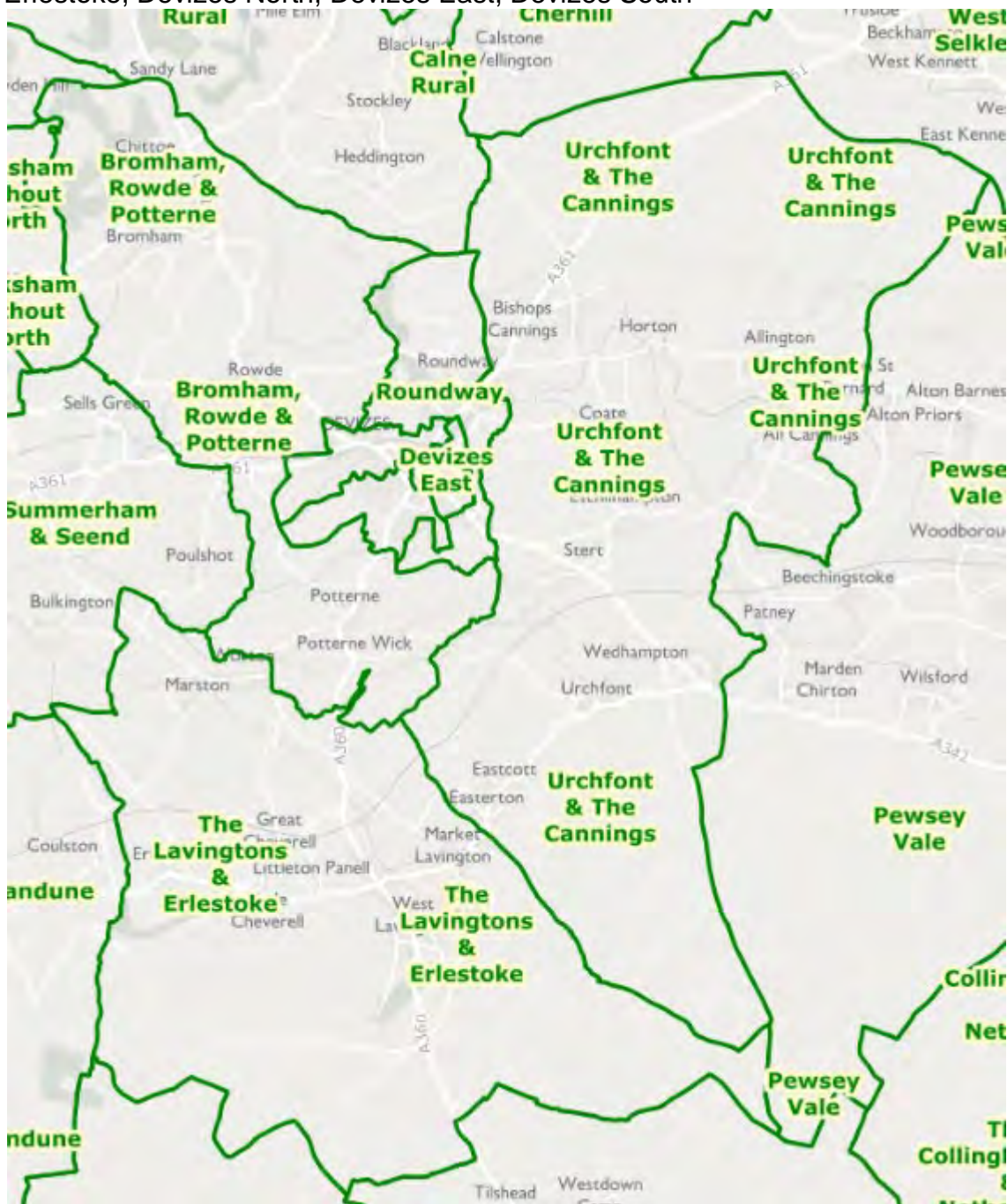
As noted under Bradford on Avon, the parish of Atworth has been included in the Holt division, which means 25% of that division was previously within Melksham.

The town divisions have been amended, and some included with Melksham Without parish. The existing Summerham and Seend division has been split between Melksham Without West and Rural division, and Devizes Rural West division.

Devizes Rural West comprises approximately 4% of electorate previously within Westbury Area Board, 39% electorate previously within Melksham Area Board, and 57% electorate previously within Devizes Area Board.

Devizes – existing Board

Bromham, Rowde and Potterne, Roundway, Urchfont and the Cannings, The Lavingtons and Erlestoke, Devizes North, Devizes East, Devizes South



Dezives – post Electoral Review implications



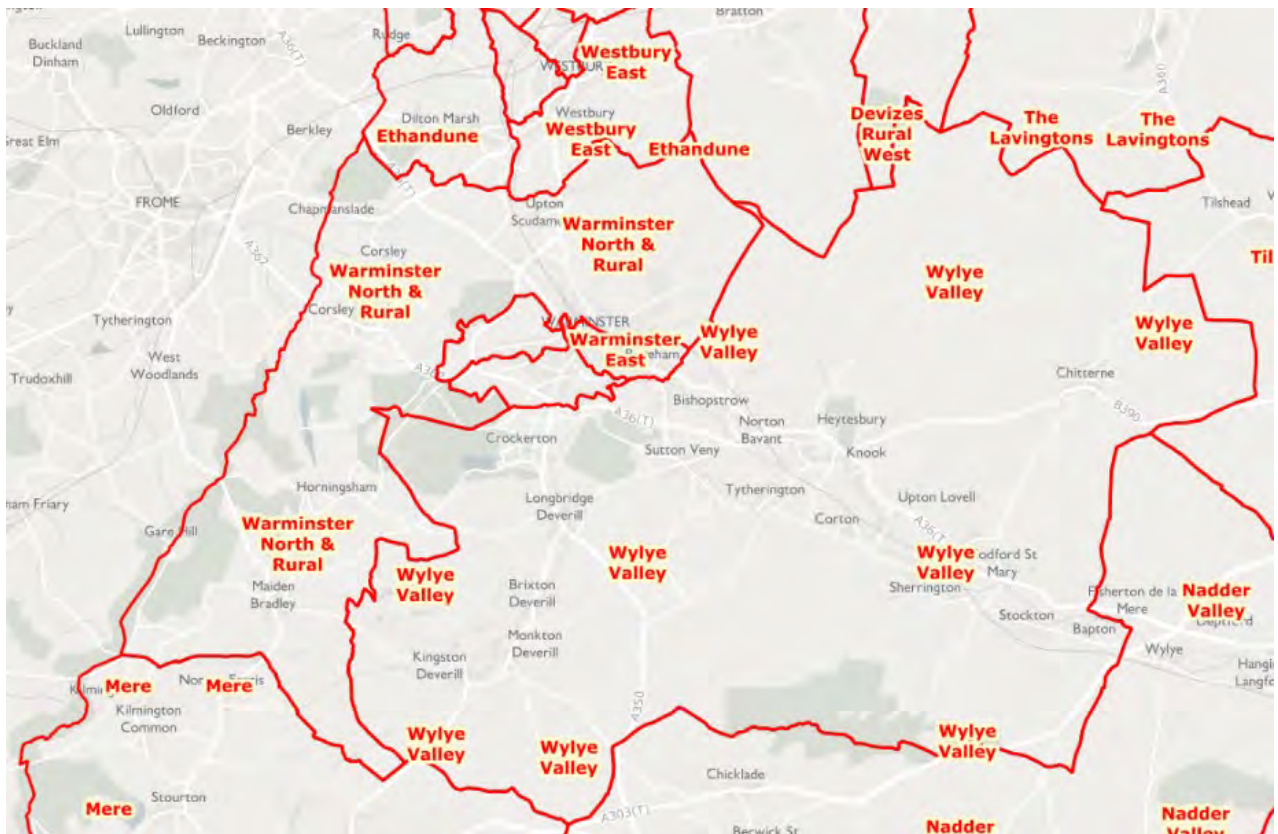
The new division of Devizes Rural West as noted under Melksham includes significant areas currently within both Devizes and Melksham areas. The town divisions have been amended, including a section of the town (formerly of the separate Roundway parish) being included with Bromham and Rowde. All Cannings parish has been moved into the Pewsey Vale West division, and the boundaries of The Lavingtons division has been amended and no longer includes Erlestoke.

Warminster – Existing Board

Warminster Without, Warminster Copheap and Wylve, Warminster West, Warminster East, Warminster Broadway



Warminster – post Electoral Review implications

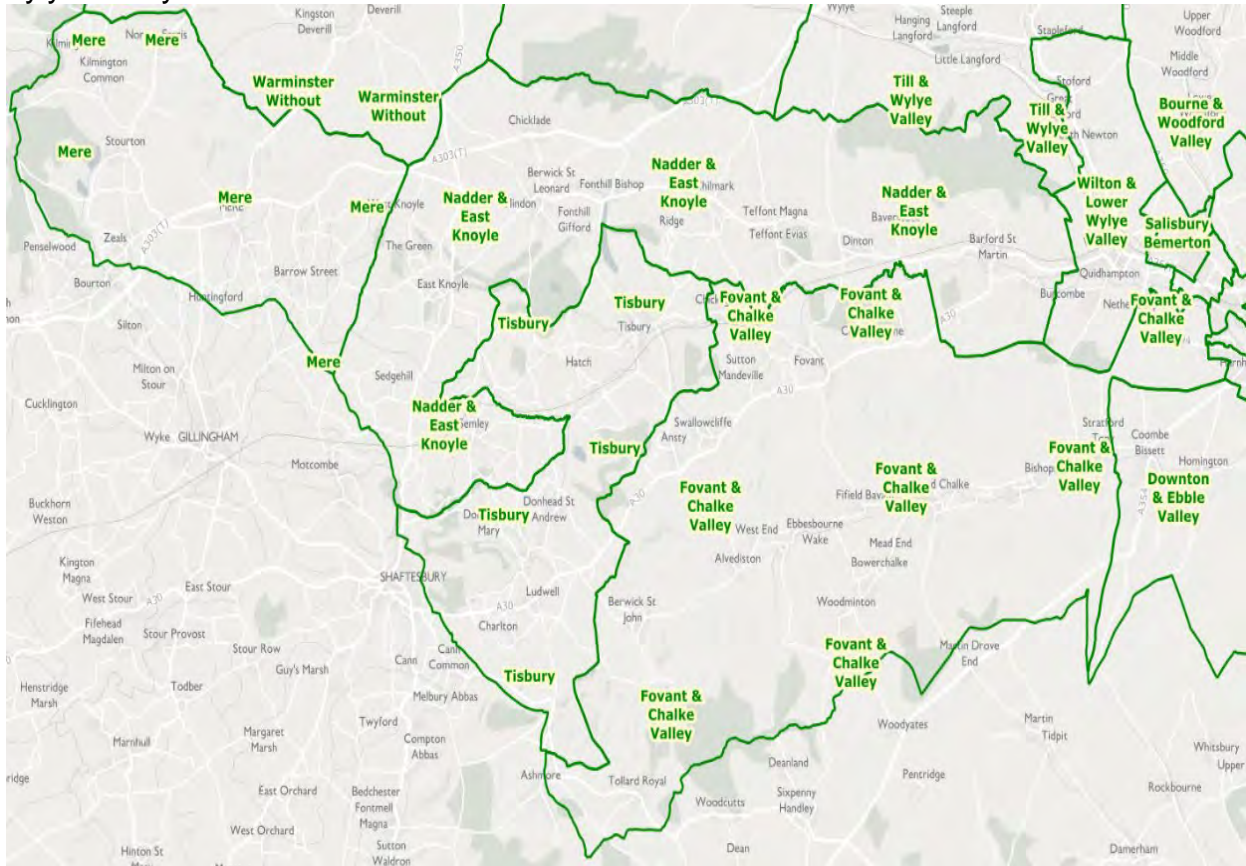


No areas external to the existing board have been included in the revised Warminster electoral divisions. There has been substantial amendment of the town divisions, and the divisions which are part town, part parish. The former copheap and wylve division no longer contains any part of the town and extends through the deverills. The former

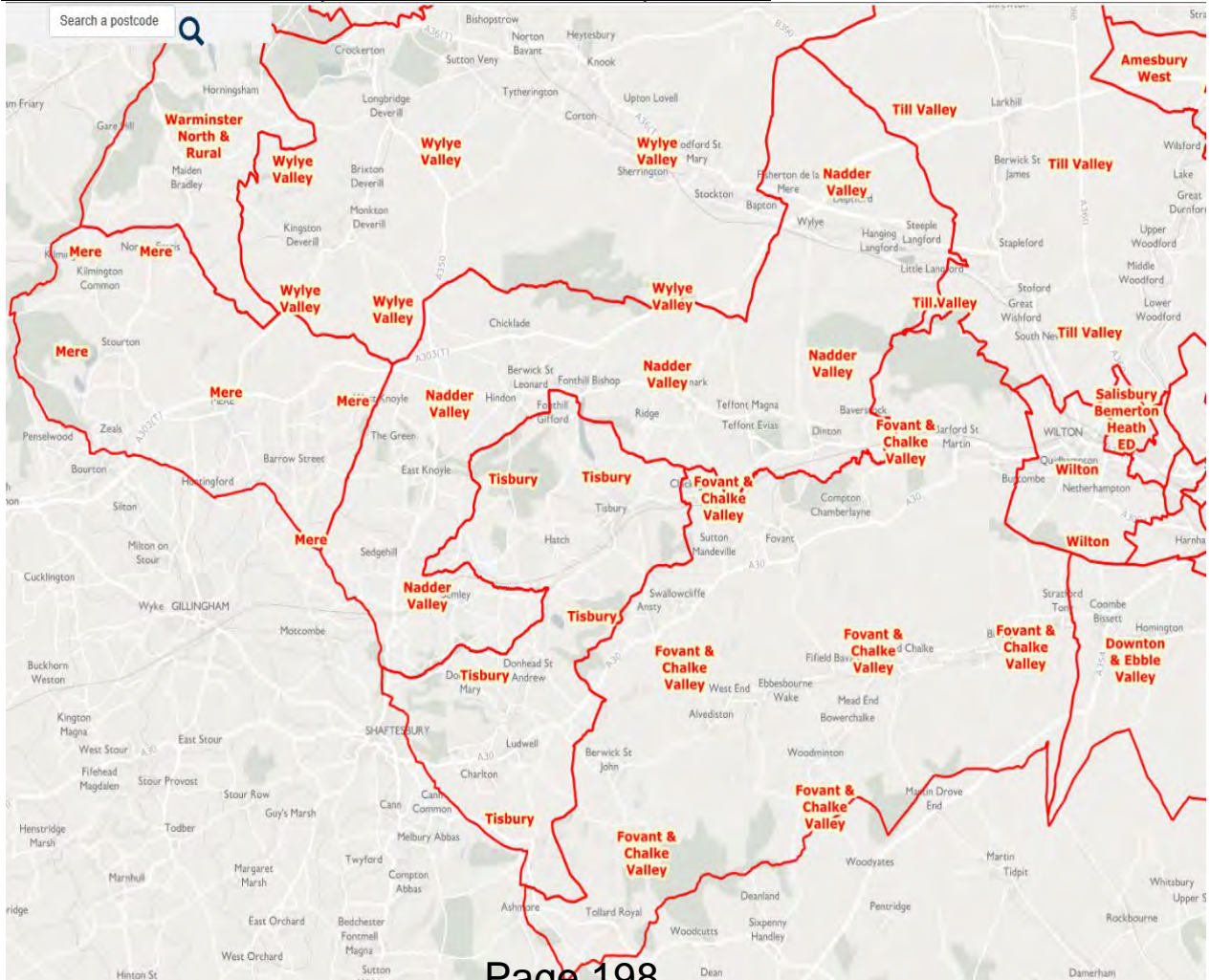
warminster without division includes the northern part of the town and rural parishes to the west and south.

South West Wiltshire – existing Board

Mere, Nadder and East Knoyle, Tisbury, Fovant and Chalke Valley, Wilton and Lower Wylve Valley



South West Wiltshire – post Electoral review implications



Mere and Tisbury divisions remain unchanged, with adjustments between Nadder Valley, Fovant and Chalke Valley and Wilton. The Nadder Valley division includes the parishes of Wylde and Steeple Langford, previously within the area of Amesbury Area Board. Those parishes comprise approximately 22% of the electorate of the division, with the remaining 78% previously within SWW area board. Were Nadder valley moved to another area board, Mere division would also need to be moved to another area board as it would not be contiguous with the remainder of the divisions.

Wilton now comprises the town, Quidhampton and the rural part of Netherhampton, with the parishes of Great Wishford and South Newton included in the Till Valley Division.

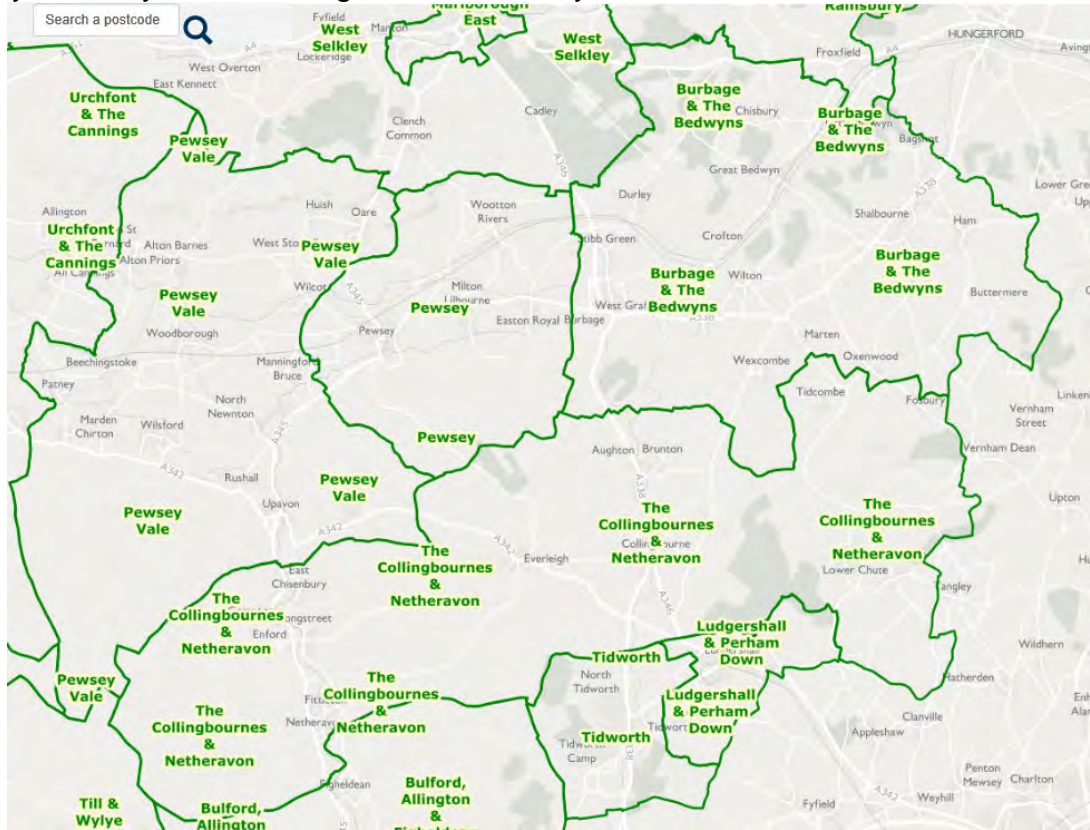


Pewsey Area Board is currently in an administrative arrangement with Tidworth Area Board, where each are appointed sub-committees of a Pewsey and Tidworth Area Committee, and the three members on each may substitute for one another.

The community area of Mere, Tisbury and Wilton, by contrast, form a single area board of five members across the three community areas.

Were Marlborough to have only three members, it would need to enter into either some form of administrative arrangement or new area board arrangement. This would also depend on what arrangements are made for Pewsey and Tidworth.

Pewsey – Existing Board
Pewsey, Pewsey Vale, Burbage and the Bedwys



Pewsey – post Electoral Review implications



A number of small rural parishes have been included within Pewsey community-based divisions in order to ensure they have sufficient electorates. As is already the case, there are only 3 divisions across the Pewsey community area. Presently, these are included in an administrative arrangement with The Collingbournes and Netheravon, Tidworth, and Ludgershall and Perham Down divisions of Tidworth community areas.

Given the Marlborough situation as detailed above, it is possible that area would be in some form of arrangement with Pewsey. Therefore, a decision would need to be made what kind of arrangement that was, and its impact on the arrangement with Tidworth. For reasons listed under Tidworth, it would not be reasonable to increase that board to 4 members.

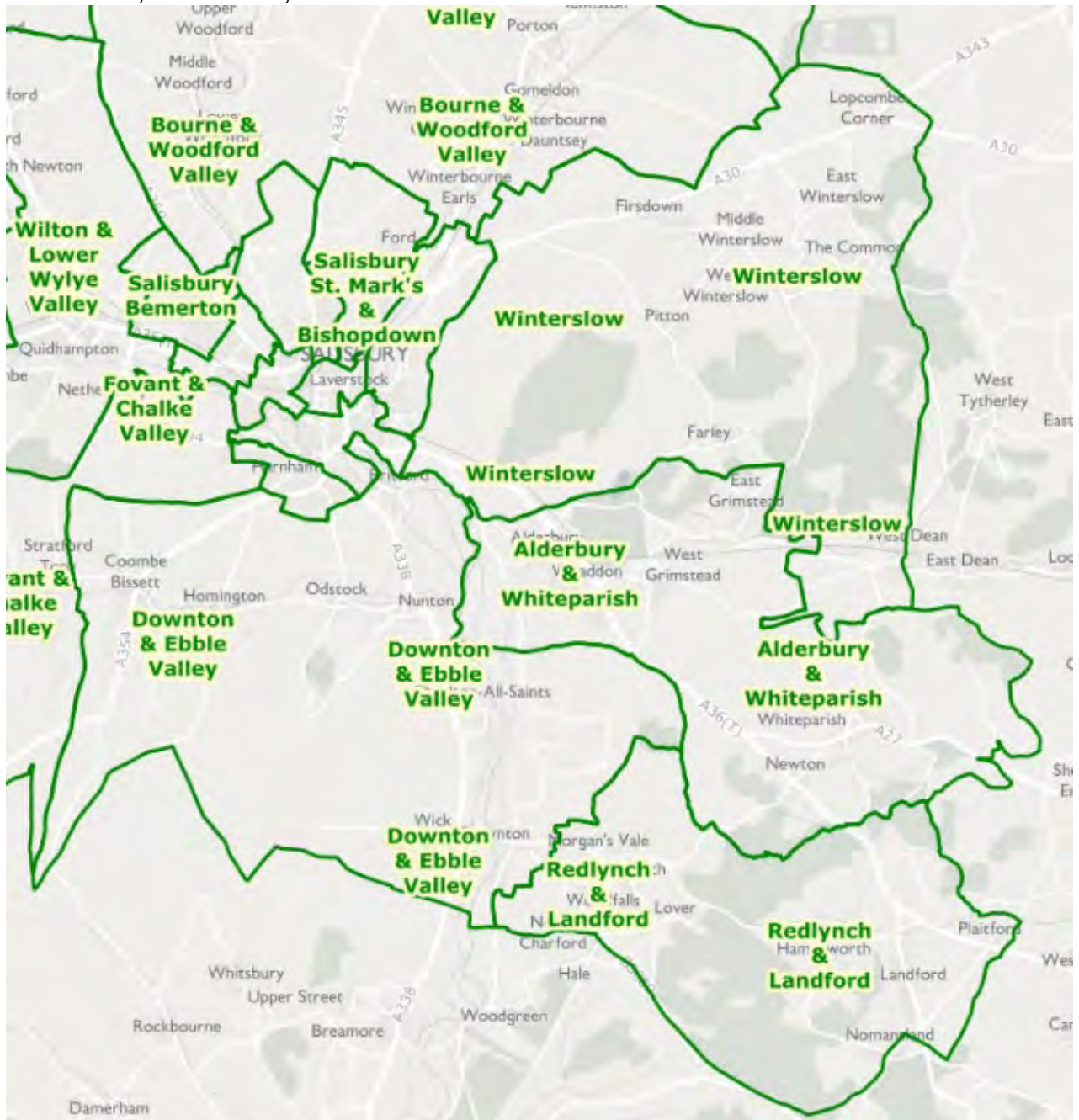
Pewsey could for instance have a three-community area committee of Pewsey, Tidworth and Marlborough, each with its own Board and requiring substitute arrangements, or all three areas could be combined in a single area board, without the need for additional administrative arrangements, or Pewsey and Marlborough could be combined in a single area board, with Tidworth to enter into other arrangements.

The existing Salisbury Area Board includes a small section of Laverstock and Ford parish, with the remainder of the parish within the Southern Area Board through the Laverstock, Ford and Old Sarum division. The revised divisions now do not include any part of Laverstock and Ford parish within a Salisbury city based division. They do include a section of the parish of Netherhampton in the new Salisbury Harnham West division, which is recommended by the Electoral Review Committee to be transferred to the city, supported by both parishes. The remainder of the parish is in the Wilton Division, presently part of SWW Area Board.

As Laverstock and Ford parish is now divided between the Laverstock and Old Sarum and Lower Bourne Valley Division, both divisions would need to be included together to avoid splitting a parish between area boards. However, Idmiston parish is also divided between the Old Sarum and Lower Bourne Valley division, and the Winterslow and Upper Bourne Valley divisions, so would also need to be included together.

Southern Area – existing Board

Downton and Ebble Valley, Redlynch and Landford, Alderbury and Whiteparish, Winterslow, Laverstock, Ford and Old Sarum



Southern Area – post Electoral Review implications



The Redlynch and Landford and Downton and Ebble Valley divisions are unchanged. The Alderbury and Whiteparish division now includes sections of the former Winterslow and Laverstock, Ford and Old Sarum Divisions. Laverstock and Ford parish has been

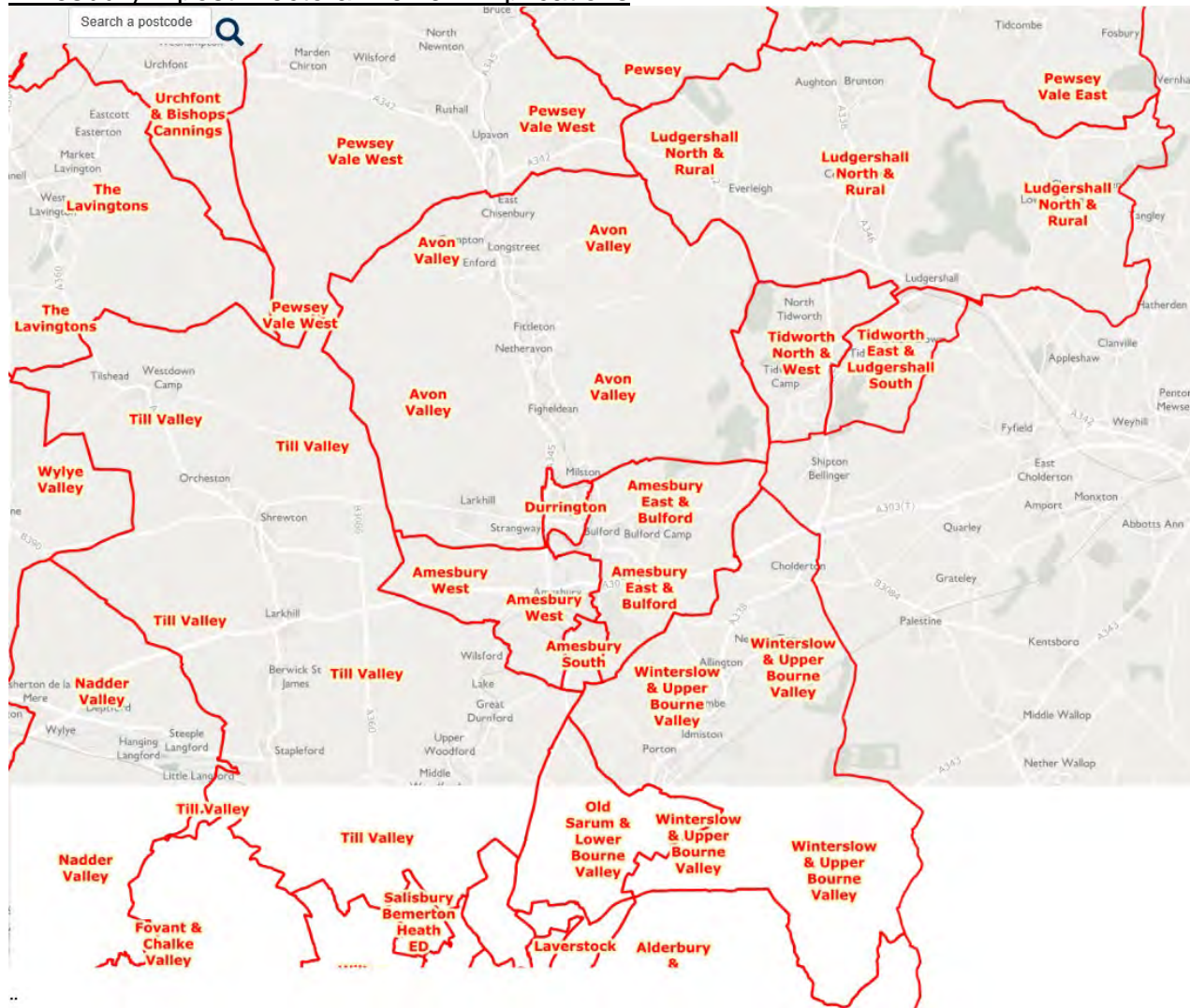
divided into 2 divisions. Winterslow has been included with sections of the Bourne Valley, previously part of the Amesbury Area Board.

If a parish being split between area boards is to be avoided then the Laverstock, Old Sarum and Lower Bourne Valley, and Winterslow and Upper Bourne Valley divisions must all be in the same area board. This is because Laverstock and Ford parish is split between the first two divisions, and Idmiston parish is split between the latter two.

Laverstock and Ford parish, currently divided between Southern Area Board and Salisbury Area Board, is projected to include approximately 65% of the electorate of the Old Sarum and Lower Bourne Valley division. Winterslow parish, currently of the Southern Area Board, is projected to include approximately 40% of the electorate of the Winterslow and Upper Bourne Valley division. Overall, therefore, the majority of the projected electorate currently resides in the Southern Area Board area, however significant numbers do not and the geography extends well into what is presently Amesbury Area Board.

If included in the Amesbury Area Board, this would result in the Southern Area Board including only 3 divisions, and requiring a substitution arrangement or other administrative solution. Depending on issue of Tidworth and Amesbury in the north, it might also result in an Amesbury Area Board of between 9 and 12 members.

Amesbury – post Electoral Review implications



Several parishes within the former Till and Wylve Valley division are now included in the Nadder Valley division, as detailed under SWW Area Board. The majority of the electorate of that division was previously within the SWW Area Board.

As a result of development growth there is an additional Amesbury division, and the parish of Durrington is split across two divisions. As a result of other growth as a result of army rebasing the 3 divisions around Tidworth cover a smaller geographic area. The Bourne Valley area is now included with both Laverstock and Winterslow, large parishes previously within the Southern Area Board. Till Valley now includes the Woodford valley parishes and Great Wishford and South Newton, previously part of South West Wiltshire Area Board.

The Tidworth Area Board presently has 3 councillors, and is in an administrative arrangement with Pewsey. As discussed under Marlborough and Pewsey, there is the option that Tidworth be included in a wider administrative arrangement, or a single area board, with those community areas.

The Tidworth area also cannot be increased to four divisions only without dividing a parish between area boards. The Avon Valley division includes the Larkhill area of the parish of Durrington, and therefore if it were included then Durrington division would also need to be included to avoid a split, for an area board with five divisions. This would leave an Amesbury Area Board of at least four divisions, with the Amesbury divisions and the Till Valley.

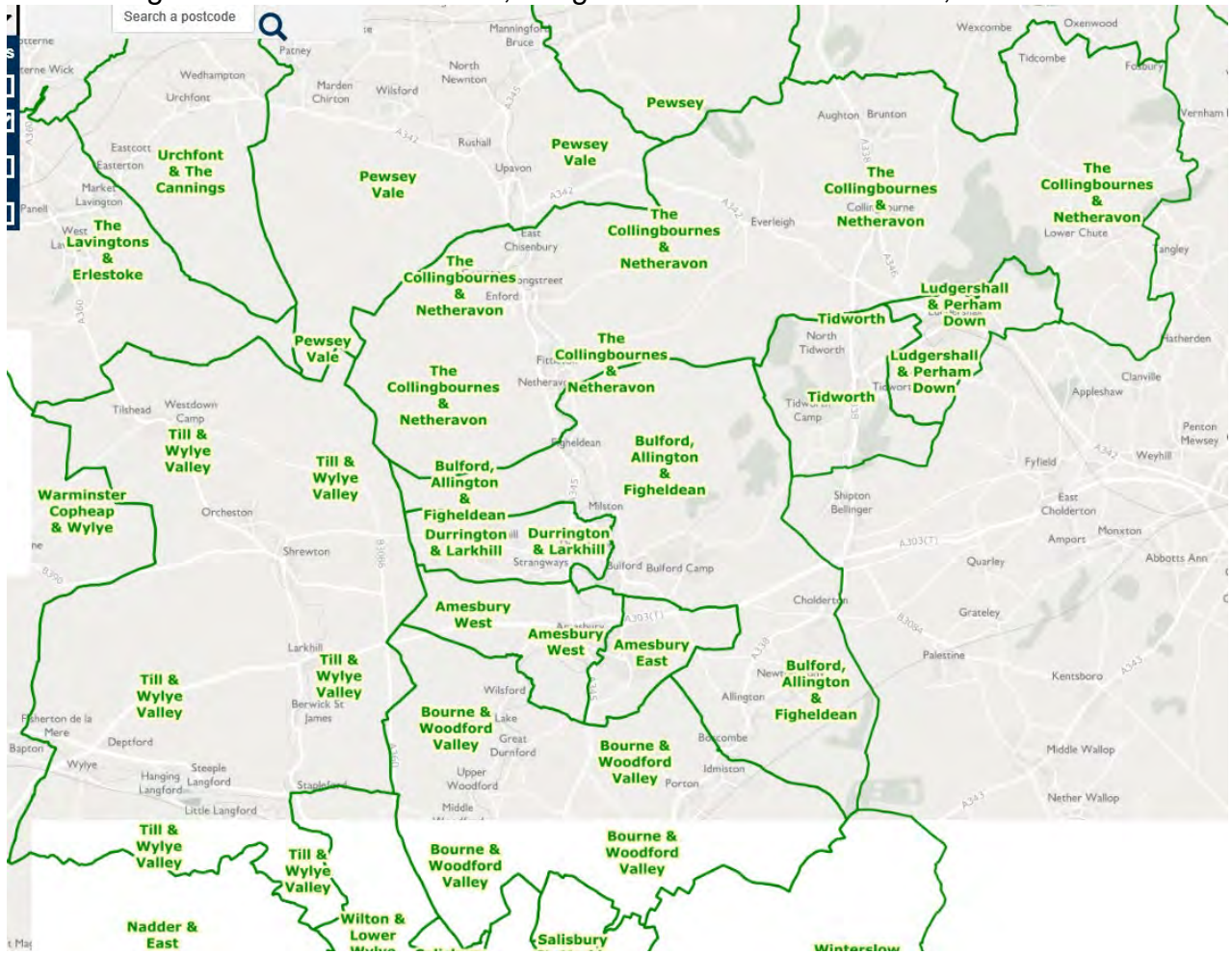
If the Bourne Valley divisions are included with Amesbury then Laverstock would also need to be included to avoid splitting the parish between area boards, resulting in at least

a 7 member area board around Amesbury, or 9 if including the Durrington divisions, or 12 if Tidworth were included.

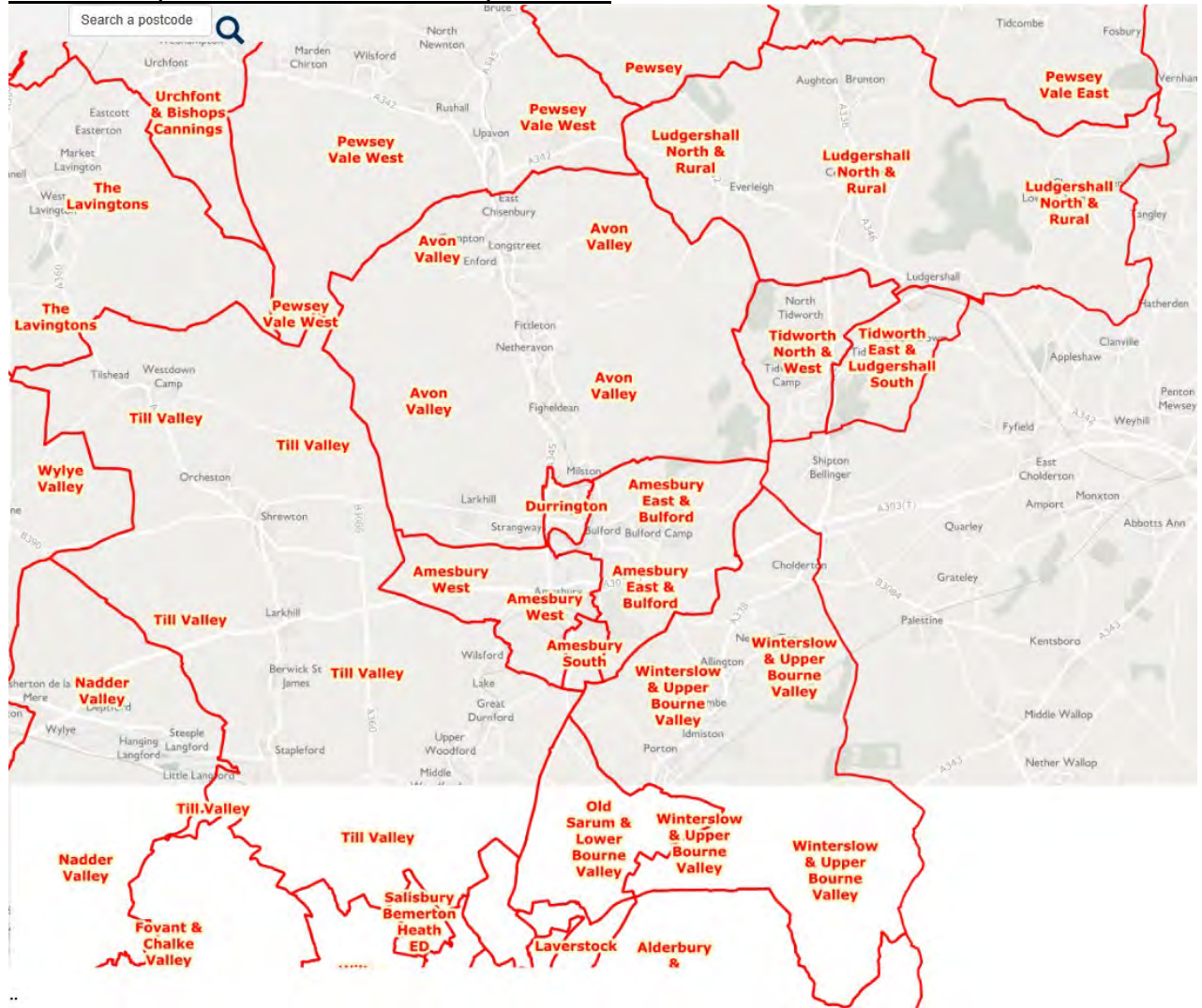
Other options, if Pewsey and Marlborough were to form an area board or arrangement without Tidworth, would therefore be either a 9 division area board stretching from the Till Valley to Ludgershall North and Rural, or a 5 member Tidworth area board including the Avon Valley and Durrington and 4 member Amesbury Area Board, or a 6 member Amesbury Area Board including the Avon Valley, and a 3 member Tidworth Area Board with a substitution arrangement in place.

Tidworth – Existing Board

The Collingbournes and Netheravon, Ludgershall and Perham Down, Tidworth



Tidworth – post Electoral Review implications



Several parishes within the former Till and Wylve Valley division are now included in the Nadder Valley division, as detailed under SWW Area Board. The majority of the electorate of that division was previously within the SWW Area Board.

As a result of development growth there is an additional Amesbury division, and the parish of Durrington is split across two divisions. As a result of other growth as a result of army rebasing the 3 divisions around Tidworth cover a smaller geographic area. The Bourne Valley area is now included with both Laverstock and Winterslow, large parishes previously within the Southern Area Board. Till Valley now includes the Woodford valley parishes.

The Tidworth Area Board presently has 3 councillors, and is in an administrative arrangement with Pewsey. As discussed under Marlborough and Pewsey, there is the option that Tidworth be included in a wider administrative arrangement, or a single area board, with those community areas.

The Tidworth area also cannot be increased to four divisions only without dividing a parish between area boards. The Avon Valley division includes the Larkhill area of the parish of Durrington, and therefore if it were included then Durrington division would also need to be included to avoid a split, for an area board with five divisions. This would leave an Amesbury Area Board of at least four divisions, with the Amesbury divisions and the Till Valley.

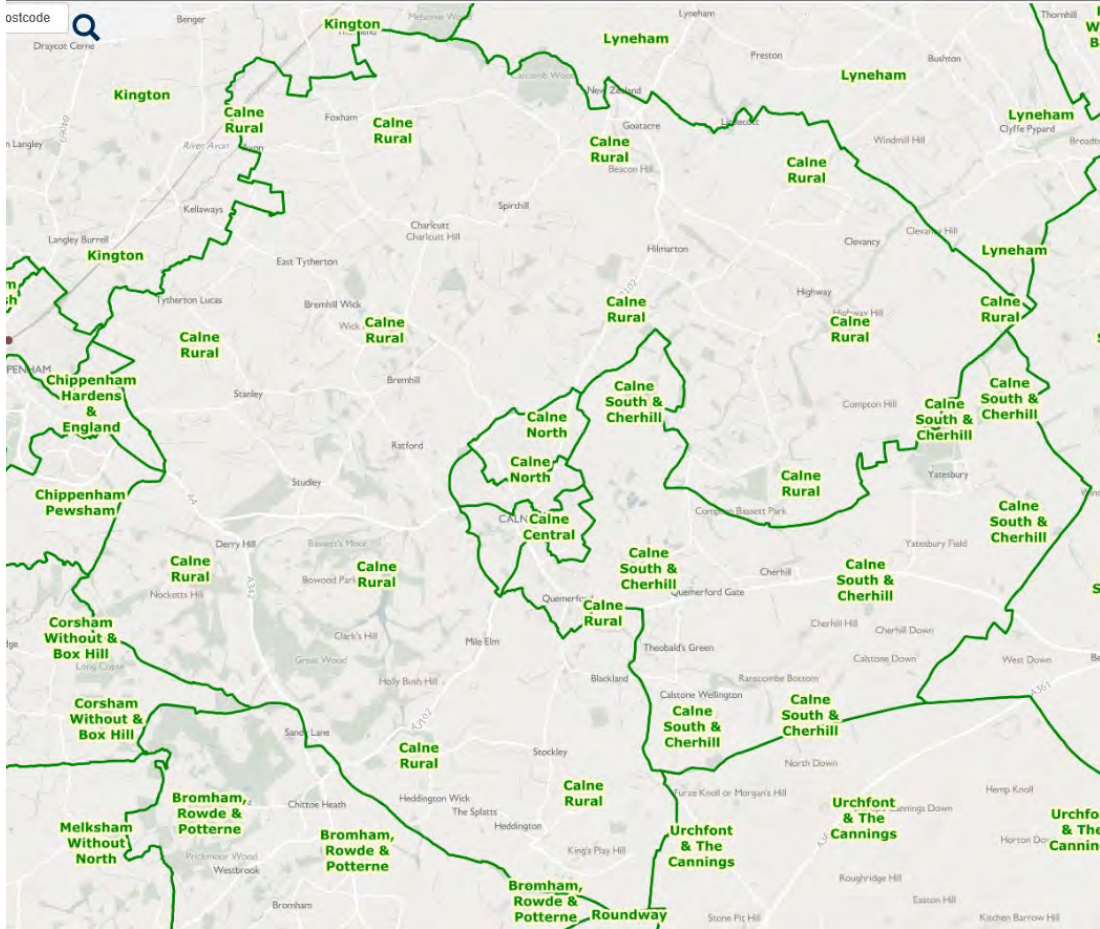
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a 7 member area board around Amesbury, or 9 if including the Durrington divisions, or 12 if Tidworth were included.

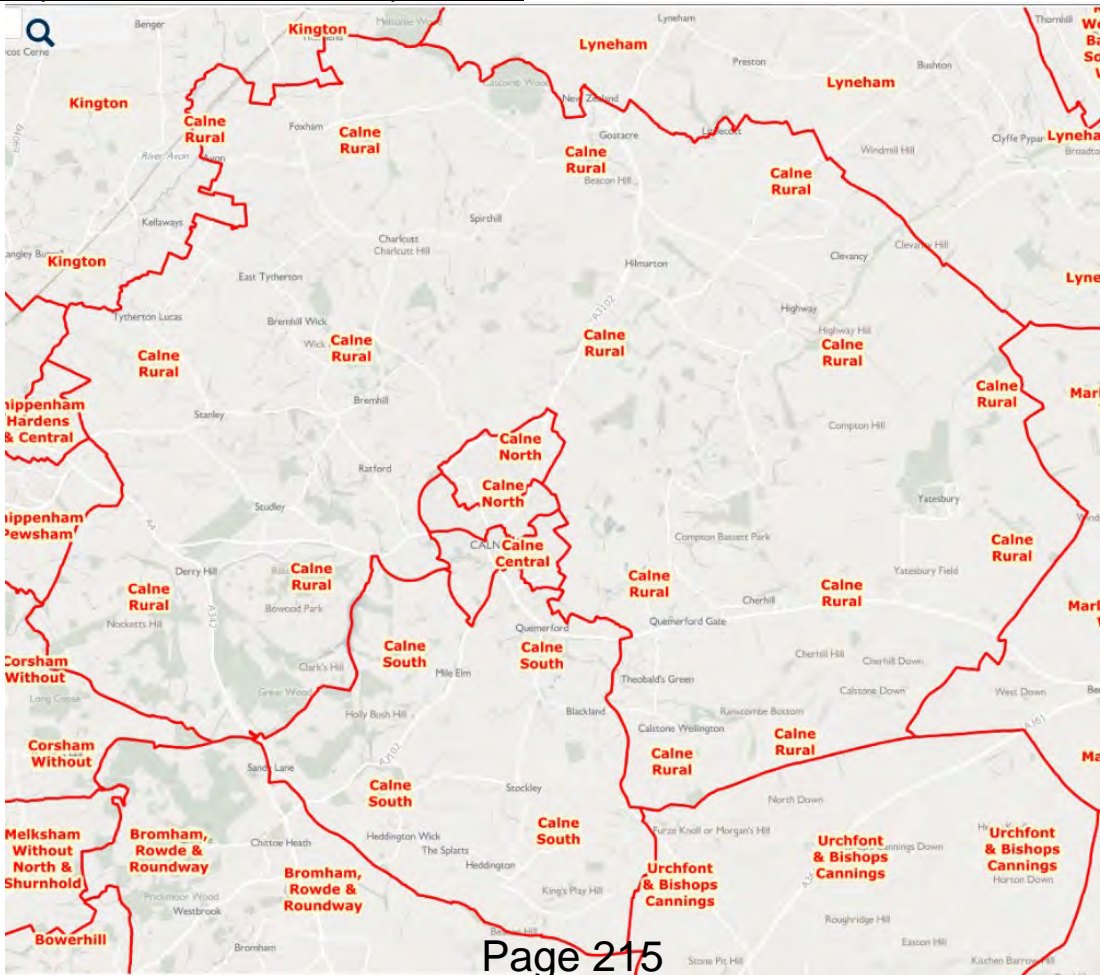
Other options, if Pewsey and Marlborough were to form an area board or arrangement without Tidworth, would therefore be either a 9 division area board stretching from the Till Valley to Ludgershall North and Rural, or a 5 member Tidworth area board including the Avon Valley and Durrington and 4 member Amesbury Area Board, or a 6 member Amesbury Area Board including the Avon Valley, and a 3 member Tidworth Area Board with a substitution arrangement in place.

Calne – Existing Board

Calne Rural, Calne South and Cherhill, Calne North, Calne Central, Calne Chilvester and Abberd



Calne – post Electoral Review implications



No parish or area external to the existing community area has been included. There have been minor tweaks among the town divisions, and significant changes between Calne South and Calne Rural

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Amesbury |
| Date: 2 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chairman), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chairman), Ian Blair-Pilling, Stuart Wheeler, Jonathon Seed |
| Area Board Members: Graham Wright, Kevin Daley, Mike Hewitt, Robert Yuill |
| Not Present: Fred Westmoreland, John Smale |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Angela Gale, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer, with support from Cllr Grant, introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>For Divisions presently within or mostly within the Amesbury community area, it was noted that the parishes of Wylve and Steeple Langford had been included within the Nadder Valley Division, predominantly comprised of the former Nadder and East Knoyle Division of South West Wiltshire Area Board. Other parishes previously within Wilton and Lower Wylve Valley were now included within Till Valley. Several parishes currently within the Division of The Collingbournes and Netheravon, presently within the Tidworth community area, were now included in the Avon Valley Division.</p> <p>It was noted that under the present Area Board system only one parish in Wiltshire was divided between Area Boards – Laverstock and Ford, between Southern and Salisbury Area Boards – which had led to a number of community difficulties. It was also confirmed that each Member, and Division, could only be assigned to one Area Board.</p> <p>It was noted that if Council were to seek to avoid splitting any parish between Area Boards, then the Divisions of Laverstock, Old Sarum and Lower Bourne Valley, and Winterslow and Upper Bourne Valley would need to be included within the same Area Board. This was because the first two divisions both included sections of the parish of Laverstock and Ford, and the latter two both included sections of the Parish of Idmiston.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish of Durrington was now divided between the Avon Valley and Durrington Divisions. There was agreement that the both areas looked to and had stronger connections with Amesbury than with the Tidworth area. • There was agreement that the Nadder Valley Division, although including some parishes previously within the Amesbury community area, would not in its current composition be appropriate within the Amesbury area. • It was noted that any community area with fewer than Four Members would require either a wider Board composition (eg South West Wiltshire) or an administrative arrangement (eg Pewsey and Tidworth) to resolve issues around quoracy in the event of absence or conflicts. Members were in agreement it was not necessary or appropriate for there to be an arrangement between Amesbury and Tidworth, the community area for which has only three Members and borders Amesbury. |

- Opinion was divided on the most appropriate placement of the Laverstock, Old Sarum and Lower Bourne Valley, and Winterslow and Upper Bourne Valley Divisions.
- If all Three were included within Amesbury this would mean a Nine Member Area Board, with only Three Members in the current Southern Area Board. If all Three were included within the Southern Area Board this would mean a Six Member Amesbury Area Board, taking into account the views above.
- It was noted that the larger geographic area of the incoming Divisions, and the larger number of parishes, were presently within the Amesbury area. However, by population the majority were presently within the Southern area.
- The connections of the area with Amesbury, and lack of connection with Southern, of the upper Bourne Valley area in particular was raised by some Members. It was raised whether the dividing of a parish between Area Boards would be appropriate in this situation. If not appropriate, the level of community connections for either area was debated.

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Bradford-on-Avon |
| Date: 3 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Gavin Grant (Vice-Chairman), Ian McLennan, Ian Blair-Pilling |
| Area Board Members: Trevor Carbin, Sarah Gibson, Johnny Kidney |
| Not Present: Jim Lynch |
| Officers: Ellen Ghey, Kieran Elliott |
| <p>Cllr Grant introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>The most significant change had been the inclusion of the parish of Atworth, currently in the Melksham community area, within the Holt Division, and the expansion of the Winsley and Westwood Division to include further parishes to the north currently within the Holt and Staverton Division. There were no significant changes to the Bradford-on-Avon town Divisions.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was strong feeling that the Area Board should not reduce to only three members.• Winsley and Westwood continued to surround and look to Bradford-on-Avon more than any other area.• The Holt Division comprised the parishes of Atworth, Holt and Staverton. It was accepted that Staverton had always looked more the Trowbridge than any other area, but that electoral equality had required its inclusion within the Bradford-on-Avon area. Holt looked to Bradford-on-Avon, while Atworth straddled the area between Bradford-on-Avon and Melksham, perhaps looking more to the latter.• Atworth comprised approximately one quarter of the incoming Holt Division, and on balance and bearing in mind the need to keep the area at four members, this meant the Division should remain with Bradford-on-Avon.• It was discussed whether other areas such as Hilperton, Southwick, or Box might be suitable in an expanded community area with the current Divisions. Subject to any views from those areas, those present did not consider other areas would fit appropriately within the Bradford-on-Avon community area, despite some amount of connection. |

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Calne |
| Date: 7 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chair), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chair), Ian Blair-Pilling, Ian McLennan, Ashley O'Neill |
| Area Board Members: Ian Thorn, Tom Rounds, Alan Hill, Tony Trotman, Christine Crisp |
| Not Present: NA |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Angela Gale, Jane Vaughan, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>No parish or area external to the existing community area had been included. There have been minor tweaks among the town divisions, and significant changes between Calne South and Calne Rural.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The question was raised as to whether Lyneham should be moved from the Royal Wootton Bassett Area Board to the Calne Area Board; members unanimously disagreed.• Another question was raised as to whether Kington should be moved from the Chippenham Area Board to the Calne Area Board; again, members unanimously disagreed.• It was agreed some areas of Calne Rural closer to Chippenham might look to the town, but the Division as a whole did not and would not appropriately be moved to another area.• Bromham was discussed in regard to whether it should move to the Corsham Area Board but members stated that the community would be against the move and unanimously agreed that it should stay within the Devizes Area Board, and that the division also included parts of Devizes Town.• Urchfont & Bishops Canning was also discussed in regard to whether it should become part of the Calne Area Board, again, members unanimously agreed that it should not move into their Area Board as there was no synergy between those villages and the rest of the Area Board. |

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Chippenham |
| Date: 8 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chair), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chair), Ian Blair-Pilling |
| Area Board Members: Peter Hutton, Ross Henning, Howard Greenman, Nick Murray |
| Not Present: Bill Douglas, Andy Phillips, Melody Thompson |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Angela Gale, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>There were no changes to the Bybrook and Kington divisions but the part of Chippenham currently in the Corsham Town division is now included in the Chippenham Area Board. Part of Lacock is also proposed to be transferred into the Chippenham Area Board in the Lowden & Rowen division, though it is recommended the area be moved into the town parish through a Community Governance Review. There are also changes to the division names and between town based divisions.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The divisions of By Brook and Kington were discussed, with the questions raised of whether, as two large rural divisions, they would sit more comfortably in more rural area boards. Members agreed that they believed the divisions sit well within their area board and felt that they should remain, but also noted that due to (in particular) By Brook’s size, it could also perhaps fit within the Malmesbury Area Board, as the Division looked to several different areas.• Members discussed the “Rural Forum” and its merits but acknowledged that its existence is as a result of the area board’s size and urban centric focus.• The division of Calne Rural was questioned as to whether it should remain in Calne Area Board or whether it should be included in the Chippenham Area Board. Members noted that as Chippenham expands as part of its development plan then there are arguments to bring in neighbouring areas, but this raises the concern of when to stop including divisions; when does it become too big.• One member suggested changing the name of the area board itself to “Chippenham & Villages/Parishes” to make the board more inclusive and to reflect the twin rural and urban nature.• Lacock was also discussed and questioned as to whether it should move from the Corsham Area Board into the Chippenham Area Board, as parts have already been included as a result of the division changes. Members were wary as to whether the parish would want to move fully into the Chippenham Area Board as they commented that it looked to both boards equally. The division it was largely within, Corhsam Without, also included elements of the town of Corsham. |

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Corsham |
| Date: 9 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chair), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chair), Ian McLennan, Graham Wright |
| Area Board Members: Ben Anderson, Philip Whalley, Ruth Hopkinson, Brian Mathew |
| Not Present: N/A |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Angela Gale, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>The changes to Corsham Area Board were minimal; most notably the proposal that a portion of Lacock had been included within a Chippenham town division, and was proposed to be moved within the town in the community governance review. Bar this, the only differences are amendments to the boundary divisions within the Corsham Area Board and do not impact other Area Boards.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The division of By Brook was discussed with regard to the suggestion of whether, as it is a more rural division, it would fit better moving from the more urban Chippenham Area Board to a more rural Area Board such as Malmesbury or Corsham. Members discussed how due to the size of the division, different parts look toward different areas, with Biddestone having some connections with the Corsham area while others looked more to Chippenham or even Malmesbury.• Members agreed that although the south of the By Brook division looks more towards Corsham, the rest of the division does not have a natural affinity with them; more distant areas, and a historical hesitance to do so.• One member suggested that if the Parish Councillors and community of By Brook made a suggestion to join the Corsham Area Board then it could work, as they share similar cultures and interests in regard to being part of more rural community areas. Again, members of the Committee and Area Board echoed this and made reference to the “rural forum” mentioned at the Chippenham Area Board meeting. There was some comment that such an arrangement might mean that it allowed rural parishes the opportunity to make their points without feeling marginalized in the face of the more urban centric Area Board, but also perhaps that the rural hinterland was not a great fit for the area. Others raised that they did not feel that Corsham faced the same issues in regard to the perceived rural/urban divide.• The same question was then raised regarding Kington and whether that would fit better within the Corsham Area Board. Members discussed how it would not fit into their Area Board due to the lack of natural links and having much closer connections to the town than By Brook, but that it would be best to remain in Chippenham or to move to Calne Area Board.• Members discussed the move of the Lacock and new housing development areas into the Chippenham Area Board. Members unanimously agreed that the decisions made sense and one member mentioned the support of the Corsham |

Town Council in reference to these proposals, as they are and should be a part of the urban extension of Chippenham's development plan.

- A suggestion was made as to whether the Area Boards of Corsham and Calne should merge into one large Area Board. Members unanimously disagreed with the suggestion and cited the lack of commonality that the two areas shared and the negative reactions it could provoke from each of the communities.
- The same suggestion was made but instead suggested the merging of the Bradford on Avon and Corsham Area Boards. Again, members unanimously disagreed as they felt they have even less in common with Bradford on Avon. They agreed that the areas shared similar characteristics, but these were mitigated by the sense that Bradford on Avon's connections and links to Corsham were minimal to none.
- Members spoke of the detriment to both boards on either scenario if there was a proposal to create a large Area Board by amalgamating two smaller boards. It was noted that to do so would mean that members would be moved too far away from their current understanding of Area Boards and as such how to manage them.
- As a four person board, the question was asked whether members felt the need to follow the system that three person boards have in regard to substitute arrangements. Members unanimously agreed that it was such a rare occasion that organizing substitute arrangements was not necessary.

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Devizes |
| Date: 10 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chair), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chair), Ian Blair-Pilling, Ian McLennan, Graham Wright |
| Area Board Members: Peter Evans, Sue Evans, Richard Gamble, Simon Jacobs, Philip Whitehead, Laura Mayes |
| Not Present: Anna Cuthbert |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Andrew Jack, Angela Gale, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>A new division has been made – Devizes Rural West – which included significant areas currently within both Devizes and Melksham Area Boards. The town divisions have also been amended, including a section of the town being included with the Bromham, Rowde & Roundway division.. All Cannings parish has been moved to the Pewsey Vale West division, and the boundaries of The Lavingtons division has been amended and no longer included Erlestoke.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was asked whether Devizes Rural West fits more comfortably within Devizes or Melksham Area Board. Members agreed that the division’s settlements looked towards potentially different areas with Potterne and Poulshot looking more towards Devizes, but with Bulkington looking towards both equally. One member noted that the Seend Parish Council were instrumental in the naming of the division itself which echoes their affinity to the Devizes Area Board. As such, members agreed that Devizes Rural West should be a part of the area board.• Till Valley was raised in reference to whether it should be moved to the Devizes Area Board from the Amesbury Area Board. Members agreed that due to the geographical makeup between Devizes and Tillshead that they naturally leaned towards Amesbury. One member of the Committee noted that Tillshead is very active within the Amesbury Area Board so felt that it makes sense for them to remain a part of that board.• Members agreed that although there is a relatively good urban/rural divide in regard to the town of Devizes itself being ringed by a lot of rural hinterland, the villages are closely associated with the town and naturally felt a part of the rural entity of the town.• Members agreed that the new proposals and the changes to the divisions made more sense than the current arrangement and felt that they worked better. |

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Malmesbury |
| Date: 10 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chair), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chair), Ian Blair-Pilling, Ian McLennan |
| Area Board Members: John Thomson, Chuck Berry |
| Not Present: Toby Sturgis |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Angela Gale, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>Changes to the Malmesbury Area Board were noted as minimal, with small adjustments made to the Malmesbury and Sherston divisions due to the size of the town.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The question of whether Minety still fits best in Malmesbury Area Board or whether it should move to the Royal Wootton Bassett Area Board was raised. Members unanimously agreed that it should remain a part of Malmesbury.• The question of whether Cricklade should be moved to the Malmesbury Area Board was raised. Again, members agreed that it should remain part of the Royal Wootton Bassett Area Board due to its existing connections to Royal Wootton Bassett, and the possibility of complications that would arise if the area board had two main towns.• Again, the same suggestion was made but instead in reference to Lyneham and whether this should move to Malmesbury Area Board. Members agreed that as the main travelling routes to Lyneham from Malmesbury took you through either Chippenham or Royal Wootton Bassett; it would make sense for it to remain a part of the Royal Wootton Bassett Area Board.• The divisions of By Brook and Kington were brought to focus and the question was asked as to whether these again, would fit more comfortably in the Malmesbury Area Board. Members agreed that although the areas are feeling disconnected from their current Area Board in Chippenham, there are similar issues with Malmesbury due to its distance from the majority of the division's villages. However, it was agreed that as Malmesbury is a more rural centric area board then the two divisions match this culture better, but there were concerns regarding their size and distance to the area board's centre. It was agreed that if either were to be included then By Brook would be the better match over Kington. |

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Marlborough |
| Date: 13 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chair), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chair), Ian Blair-Pilling, Stuart Wheeler, Graham Wright |
| Area Board Members: Nick Fogg, Jane Davies, James Sheppard, Stewart Dobson |
| Not Present: N/A |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Angela Gale, Andrew Jack, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>Changes to Marlborough Area Board include part of the former West Selkey division now being contained within the Lyneham division. If that Division remained with Royal Wootton Bassett this would mean that the area covered by the Marlborough Area Board includes only three divisions and as such only three area board members, which has governance implications for a quorum in the event of an absence or conflict of interest. Marlborough Town is divided in two, each with a number of rural parishes attached, and Aldbourne & Ramsbury was expanded.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members discussed the move of parts of the former West Selkey division into Lyneham and therefore potentially into the Royal Wootton Bassett Area Board. One member discussed how certain areas of this division, in particular Broad Hinton, looked predominantly towards Marlborough. Others raised that Lyneham, which formed the bulk of the population of the new Division, had far stronger links with Royal Wootton Bassett and should remain together within that area board.• The question as to whether Calne Rural should be included within the Marlborough Area Board was raised. Member noted that although there were long past historical links between Calne and Marlborough these were no longer present in the current communities and therefore it would not be appropriate.• The same question was raised but in regard to Urchfont & Bishops Cannings. Members unanimously agreed that it should stay a part of the Devizes Area Board.• Members noted the movement of the parish of Froxfield into a Pewsey based Division. It was asked whether Marlborough should merge with Pewsey Area Board given both areas had only three members. Members commented on the concern of the Marlborough Town Council relating to this matter and the differences in the communities, with reference to their urban and rural identities.• If Marlborough were a three Member area board, substitute arrangements, which would be needed, were discussed. Members discussed the merits of three member area boards, as it was noted that the east of the County now had three, three member area boards. There were a number of options discussed, predominantly: joining with Pewsey and Tidworth in an Eastern Wiltshire Area Committee to make a pool of 9 potential substitutes or twinning with either Pewsey or Tidworth separately. |

- Members of the Committee expressed positives to the operation of three member boards in Pewsey and Tidworth and the subsequent successful existing substitute arrangements. Area Board members expressed hesitance to the idea of a large 9 person pool, as they felt that Tidworth was too distant. One member discussed how a substitute arrangement with Royal Wootton Bassett could prove better as there was the possibility that the substitute could be closely acquainted with the community that was formerly part of the Marlborough Area Board. However, other members agreed that if they were to have a substitute arrangement then twinning with Pewsey would be the favourable option.
- Concerns were raised regarding the possibility that if there were to be a regular need for a substitution then this would put a burden on the Pewsey Area Board if this was the only substitute arrangement.

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Melksham |
| Date: 13 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chair), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chair), Ian Blair-Pilling, Ian McLennan, Jonathon Seed, Graham Wright |
| Area Board Members: Phil Alford, Nick Holder, Pat Aves |
| Not Present: Hayley Illman, Jon Hubbard |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Peter Dunford, Angela Gale, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>The parish of Atworth was now included in the Holt division. The town divisions had been amended, with one division now part town and part parish, and the existing Summerham & Seend division was splitting between Melksham Without West & Rural division, and Devizes Rural West division.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The parish of Atworth was raised and it was asked whether its inclusion in the Holt division meant it fitted within the Bradford on Avon Area Board, or if the entire Holt division should move into the Melksham Area Board. Although Atworth itself had links to Melksham, considering the totality of the division, and impact upon both area boards, it was generally agreed that it made sense that the entire division should remain a part of the Bradford on Avon Area Board.• The question was raised as to whether Hilperton should remain a part of the Trowbridge Area Board or if it would sit more comfortably within the Melksham Area Board. Members unanimously agreed that it should remain a part of the Trowbridge Area Board as there were no meaningful connections stronger than that with Trowbridge.• The same question was raised but instead with regard to the Southwick division. Again, members unanimously agreed that it should not be included in the Melksham Area Board despite commonalities in their rural natures.• The same question was raised but instead with regard to Devizes Rural West and where it sat more comfortably; Devizes or Melksham Area Board. Members spoke of the confusion this may cause due to the division's title if it were to be included in the Melksham Area Board. The parishes within the division were discussed as to where they naturally look towards, but it was agreed that as the majority of the division has strong Devizes links then it should be included as part of the Devizes Area Board, even though a number did look to Melksham as well.• The same question was raised but instead with regard to Bromham, Rowde & Roundway and whether this should be included in the Melksham Area Board. Members unanimously agreed that it should remain a part of the Devizes Area Board, particularly as the division included parts of Devizes town.• It was asked whether the division of Ethandune looked toward Melksham at all. One member commented on their much stronger connections to Westbury and it was agreed that it should remain a part of the Westbury Area Board. |

- The relationship between the Melksham Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council was discussed and it was asked whether the whole area board sits well together or if it should be split on an urban and rural basis. Members agreed that despite issues within the Melksham Town Council, the two areas work well together and are one cohesive unit that includes an equal number of rural to urban divisions, and as such should remain as one.

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Pewsey |
| Date: 14 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chair), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chair), Ian McLennan, Ian Blair-Pilling, Jonathon Seed, Stuart Wheeler, Graham Wright |
| Area Board Members: Jerry Kunkler, Paul Oatway, Stuart Wheeler |
| Not Present: N/A |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Richard Rogers, Angela Gale, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>Changes to the Pewsey Area Board were noted as minimal, with a small number of rural parishes included within the Pewsey community-based divisions in order to ensure they have sufficient electorates.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urchfont & Bishops Cannings was raised and it was questioned whether it should move from the Devizes Area Board into the Pewsey Area Board, as it is at the end of the Pewsey Vale. Members agreed that the decision to move All Cannings into the Pewsey Area Board through inclusion into Pewsey Vale West was logical, but there was no argument to include Urchfont and Bishops Cannings, especially with the latter having strong links to Devizes.• As Marlborough Area Board is likely to become a three person area board alongside the Pewsey and Tidworth Area Boards, the question was raised as to whether the Pewsey and Marlborough Area Boards should merge. Members of the area agreed that while the current substitute arrangement between themselves and Tidworth worked well, they did not feel a merger of the two area boards would be appropriate due to the rurality of their board compared to Marlborough and the subsequent geographical size.• The same question was raised but as to whether the Pewsey and Tidworth Area Boards should merge. Again, members unanimously agreed that they should not merge due to the urban and rural differences between the two and the military focus of Tidworth which Pewsey does not share.• The new division of Avon Valley was discussed and it was asked whether this, as it includes Durrington, should be moved into the Pewsey Area Board. Members agreed that the majority of the division's natural links were towards Amesbury and should therefore remain a part of the Amesbury Area Board.• Again, the existing substitute arrangements with Tidworth were discussed and it was asked whether it would be appropriate to include Marlborough within this arrangement to make a nine person pool of substitutes across the three Area Boards. Members acknowledged that this group of people already work in tandem together as part of the Eastern Area Planning Committee and agreed that this larger arrangement could feasibly work, particularly as the need for substitutes in the past has been minimal.• It was then questioned as to whether, if the nine person pool were not to come to fruition, Marlborough and Pewsey Area Boards and then Tidworth and Amesbury |

Area Boards should continue this shared substitute arrangement but in those separate pairs. Members commented on the commonalities the two pairs shared and acknowledged that this could again, feasibly work. One member however stated that although that option could work, they preferred the idea of the nine person pool as it could provide valuable and more diverse insights.

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade |
| Date: 6 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chairman), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chairman), Ian McLennan, Ian Blair-Pilling, Graham Wright |
| Area Board Members: Allison Bucknell, Chris Hurst, Mary Champion |
| Not Present: Bob Jones MBE, Mollie Groom, Jacqui Lay |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Jane Vaughan, Angela Gale, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>Changes to the divisions were noted as minor; specific mentions were made towards the Lyneham division now containing the parishes of Winterbourne Bassett and Broad Hinton, which are a joint Parish Council, and were previously a part of the West Selkey division of the Marlborough Area Board.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Lyneham division was discussed in reference to whether it should remain a part of the RWB Area Board. One member stated that it should remain due to the majority of residents travelling to Wootton Bassett for their main services.• Members then discussed any potential changes to the other boundaries if it is agreed that Lyneham should stay. Members noted the “tensions” that surrounded Cricklade and Wootton Bassett in regard to two market towns within one community area and the subsequent stretched resources as there isn’t a main hub as such. However, it was decided that again, Cricklade should remain.• The main issue noted was the parishes that are moving into the RWB Area Board from Marlborough may be hesitant and adverse towards the change.• Councillor Mary Champion joined once the session has concluded, but she discussed the matters and meeting with the Vice-Chair and agreed with the above conclusions. |

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Salisbury |
| Date: 6 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chairman), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chairman), Ian Blair-Pilling, Ian McLennan, Graham Wright |
| Area Board Members: Atiqul Hoque, John Walsh, Brian Dalton |
| Not Present: Mary Douglas, Derek Brown OBE, Sven Hocking, Ricky Rogers |
| Officers: Ellen Ghey, Kieran Elliott, Marc Read |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>The revised divisions now do not include any part of Laverstock and Ford parish within a Salisbury City based division. However, they do include a section of the Netherhampton parish in the new Salisbury Harnham West division, which has been recommended by the Electoral Review Committee to be transferred to the city and has been supported by both parishes. The remainder of the Netherhampton parish is in the Wilton division which is presently part of the South West Wilts Area Board.</p> <p>As Laverstock and Ford parish is now divided between the Laverstock and Old Sarum and Lower Bourne Valley division, both divisions would need to be included together to avoid splitting a parish between area boards. However, Idmiston parish is also divided between the Old Sarum and Lower Bourne Valley division, and the Winterslow and Upper Bourne Valley divisions, so would also need to be included together if a split were to be avoided.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members discussed the possibility of the Laverstock Division joining the Salisbury Area Board. The history of the parish (also included in Old Sarum Division) with community governance reviews was noted, with some members strongly feeling that the area would most appropriately belong with the city area, although the community feeling in that area, which had been against the parish being included with the city, was also noted.• The merits of splitting Laverstock and Ford parish were discussed, however if splitting the parishes were to be best avoided then the three parishes of Laverstock, Old Sarum & Lower Bourne Valley, and Winterslow & Upper Bourne Valley would need to be moved together. It was not felt the Bourne Valley parishes part of the latter two divisions had as close a connection as Laverstock division.• Reference was made to difficulties in the past arising from splitting of Laverstock and Ford parish.• The question was raised in regard to Wilton and bringing it into Salisbury Area Board. Again, members discussed its merit but concluded it was not appropriate to move the area into the Salisbury Area Board |

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Southern |
| Date: 13 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chairman), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chairman), Ian Blair-Pilling, Graham Wright, Ian McLennan |
| Area Board Members: Richard Britton, Ian McLennan, Richard Clewer |
| Not Present: Leo Randall, Christopher Devine |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Karen Linaker, Angela Gale, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>Against the wishes of Wiltshire Council the LGBCE had included Winterslow with parishes of the upper Bourne Valley. This had also resulted in the parish of Idmiston being split between two divisions, the other being combined with the Old Sarum area of Laverstock and Ford and Winterbourne.</p> <p>It was noted that under the present Area Board system only one parish in Wiltshire was divided between Area Boards – Laverstock and Ford, between Southern and Salisbury Area Boards – which had led to a number of community difficulties. It was also confirmed that each Member, and Division, could only be assigned to one Area Board.</p> <p>It was noted that if Council were to seek to avoid splitting any parish between Area Boards, then the Divisions of Laverstock, Old Sarum and Lower Bourne Valley, and Winterslow and Upper Bourne Valley would need to be included within the same Area Board. This was because the first two divisions both included sections of the parish of Laverstock and Ford, and the latter two both included sections of the Parish of Idmiston.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was discussed whether it would be appropriate for any divisions currently within the SWW Wiltshire area to be included along with current Southern divisions, such as Wilton or Fovant and Chalke Valley. Those present considered that Wilton had closer links with Salisbury than Southern, and under the incoming divisions there were not strong links for the larger part of Downton and Ebble Valley with Fovant, particularly given closeness to the New Forest.• It was stated that some Salisbury members had felt that the Laverstock Division (as opposed to Laverstock and Ford parish) did not fit comfortably with the other Southern divisions and would be more appropriately included within Salisbury Area Board. The local member was strongly opposed to such a move, noting issues of history, community and identity, and that to do so would split the parish between Boards.• There was some discussion of the principle of three member Area boards, and whether the more rural divisions south east of the city could work in such an arrangement. Aside from the general principle of such boards, it was discussed whether it would be appropriate in this area, or would artificially divide the area.• The three divisions containing parts of parishes were discussed, and whether a split of parishes between area boards should be avoided, in which case all three |

divisions should be included in the same board, or whether in the circumstances it would be acceptable to split parishes between area boards.

- It was stated some members of Amesbury had argued particularly in relation to the Winterslow and Upper Bourne Valley Division should be included in that area board. It was noted that across the three divisions the majority of the population was contained in divisions presently in the southern area, though significant numbers and many parishes within them were not. The largest settlement of the division was Winterslow. It was agreed the connections between the two areas of the Upper Bourne Valley were not extensive, and that whatever board the division was placed in it was likely some would be unhappy.
- If all three divisions were included in the southern area this would mean a six member area board. If all were included within Amesbury then this would mean a nine member area board.
- It was noted that parishes would be contacted for their views in a public consultation.

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: South West Wiltshire |
| Date: 8 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chair), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chair), Ian Blair-Pilling, Ian McLennan, Graham Wright |
| Area Board Members: Pauline Church, Jose Green, Bridget Wayman |
| Not Present: Tony Deane, George Jeans |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Karen Linaker, Angela Gale, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>There are some adjustments to the Nadder Valley, Fovant & Chalke Valley and Wilton divisions. The Nadder Valley division now includes the parishes of Wylve and Steeple Langford which were previously a part of the Amesbury Area Board.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions were asked as to whether Mere and Nadder Valley should remain in South West Wilts Area Board or whether it should move out, and whether Wylve Valley should move from Warminster and join with South West Wilts Area Board. Members unanimously disagreed with both points; they agreed that they were happy to continue with the status quo and raised concerns of the Area Board becoming too big and thus unmanageable if they took on Wylve Valley.• The same question was asked as to Till Valley and if it should move to South West Wilts Area Board; members unanimously agreed that it should not as the majority of the division looks more to Amesbury and thus should remain a part of the Amesbury Area Board.• Members discussed whether Wilton, which was now more compact and urban, would be appropriate within Salisbury Area Board. Members noted the independence of the community and distinction from the city, as well as historical concerns over local boundaries.• A point was made as to the possibility of the Southern Area Board having only a three person board, and if this were to happen whether it would make sense to have a substitution arrangement with the SWW area. Members noted the very large areas covered by both Boards and did not consider substitution arrangements as appropriate.• It was also discussed whether, in the event of Southern being reduced to three members, Wilton would suitably be included within it to ensure it had four members. It was stated there was some connection, being a parish on the edge of Salisbury, though it would also be somewhat separate from the other divisions by transport links and create a half-doughnut shaped area board; something that they were looking to avoid and undo across the County.• However, as noted above the preference of all area members present was to retain the existing five member structure. |

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Tidworth |
| Date: 8 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chair), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chair), Ian McClennan, Stuart Wheeler, Graham Wright |
| Area Board Members: Christopher Williams, Mark Connolly, Ian Blair-Pilling |
| Not Present: N/A |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Richard Rogers, Angela Gale, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>There are several notable changes to the Tidworth Area Board. Firstly, several parishes within the former Collingbournes and Netheravon division are now included in the Avon Valley Division, which members considered looked more to Amesbury. Secondly, as a result of development growth in other areas and army rebasing; the three divisions around Tidworth cover a smaller geographical area.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As Tidworth has an existing substitute arrangement with Pewsey, then the question was raised as to whether these two area boards should merge. Members unanimously agreed that they should not merge due to the urban and rural differences between the two and the military focus of Tidworth which Pewsey does not share. However, members commented on how well the substitute arrangement works.• The military focus was explored by members and the concept of a more “military focused” area board was discussed. It was questioned whether Amesbury and Tidworth should merge into a larger area board. Members agreed that if this happened, as Amesbury is naturally bigger than Tidworth, then they would be the dominant area which could lead to tensions in both the community and area board.• Again, the existing substitute arrangements with Pewsey were discussed and it was asked that if Marlborough were to become a three person area board, would it be appropriate to include them as part of the arrangement, and as such become a nine person pool of substitutes across the three Area Boards. Members acknowledged that this group of people already work in tandem together as part of the Eastern Area Planning Committee and agreed that this larger arrangement could feasibly work. |

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Trowbridge |
| Date: 13 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chair), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chair), Ian Blair-Pilling, Ian McLennan, Jonathon Seed, Graham Wright |
| Area Board Members: Ernie Clark, Horace Prickett, Andrew Bryant, Peter Fuller, Steve Oldrieve, Stewart Palmen, Jo Trigg |
| Not Present: David Halik, Edward Kirk |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Angela Gale, Liam Cripps, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>The incoming Trowbridge Park and Trowbridge Drynham Divisions each contain a part of the town and part of North Bradley Parish, with the remainder in the Southwick division, and the other town divisions have been amended slightly.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The division of Winsley & Westwood was brought into question with regard to its expansion and if it should be included within the Trowbridge Area Board instead of the Bradford on Avon Area Board. Members unanimously agreed that due to the layout of the division in relation to Bradford on Avon and its strong links to the town, it should remain a part of Bradford on Avon Area Board.• The same question was raised in regard to the division of Holt and if it should be included in the Trowbridge Area Board. Members discussed the idea but agreed that although Staverton naturally looked towards Trowbridge, bringing in the entire division did not make sense and should therefore remain a part of the Bradford on Avon Area Board.• The division of Hilperton was discussed as to whether it should remain a part of Trowbridge or if it would sit more comfortably in the Bradford on Avon Area Board. Members unanimously agreed that Hilperton should remain a part of Trowbridge Area Board.• Members discussed the Southwick division's parishes in regard to their desire to retain their rural identities despite expansion of the town. It was then asked whether the Southwick division would sit more comfortably within a more rural area board such as Westbury or Bradford on Avon. Members agreed that despite these concerns and the impact of new development plans on the area, the parishes within the division has such strong ties to Trowbridge then to move it would be inappropriate and could hinder any future relationships. |

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Warminster |
| Date: 14 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chair), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chair), Ian Blair-Pilling, Ian McLennan, Jonathon Seed, Graham Wright |
| Area Board Members: Pip Ridout, Tony Jackson, Fleur De Rhe-Phillipe |
| Not Present: Andrew Davis |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Graeme Morrison, Angela Gale, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>There have been substantial amendments of the town divisions and the divisions which are part town, part parish. The former Copheap & Wylve division no longer contains any part of the town and extends through the Deverills. The former Warminster Without division includes the northern part of the town and rural parishes to the west and south.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The question was raised as to whether the area boards of Westbury and Warminster should be merged into one. Members unanimously agreed that they should not merge due to historical differences and large geographical spread.• The divisions of Devizes Rural West and The Lavingtons were discussed and it was asked whether these should move from the Devizes Area Board into the Warminster Area Board. Members unanimously agreed that due to the large patch of rural hinterland separating the two areas, it would be inappropriate for them to be included in the Warminster Area Board.• The Till Valley division was also discussed and questioned as to whether this should move from the Amesbury Area Board into the Warminster Area Board. Again, members unanimously agreed that Till Valley was too far away and had minimal to no natural links to Warminster and should therefore stay within the Amesbury Area Board.• As part of Wylve Valley sits within Nadder Valley Division, it was questioned as to whether both the divisions of Mere and Nadder Valley should be moved into the Warminster Area Board from the South West Wilts Area Board. Members commented on the distance between the two divisions and Warminster but acknowledged that some Mere residents have connections with the town. It was agreed that if one of the two were to be moved, then Mere would be the more suitable option, but were happy to continue with the status quo. |

Electoral Review Committee – Area Board Boundary Review – Member Session Notes

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| Area Board: Westbury |
| Date: 7 July 2020 |
| Committee Members: Richard Clewer (Chair), Gavin Grant (Vice-Chair), Ian Blair-Pilling, Ian McLennan |
| Area Board Members: Gordon King, Carole King, Russell Hawker, Suzanne Wickham |
| Not Present: N/A |
| Officers: Kieran Elliott, Angela Gale, Ellen Ghey |
| <p>Cllr Clewer introduced and chaired the session, providing details of differences between the existing Electoral Divisions, and the Electoral Divisions incoming for the elections in May 2021.</p> <p>There were minimal changes to the existing area board arrangements, the only significant change is that the Coulston Parish has been moved from the Ethandune division and is now included in the Devizes Rural West division.</p> <p>Those Area Board Members present discussed the incoming Divisions and potential implications for establishment of a community area. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions were raised concerning the move of Coulston to Devizes Rural West. Members spoke about the serious links it has to Westbury but also of its links to Erlestoke and how its new Division fit better in Devizes Area Board.• There was also mention by one member of the consequences of the expansion of the Ethandune division to include all of Heywood parish, including the area around The Ham.• A point was made regarding Southwick and whether it should be included in the Westbury Area Board. Members unanimously agreed that it should not be included due to its strong links to Trowbridge and its lack of connections to Westbury.• The same point was made in regard to North Bradley and West Ashton parishes and the same answer was given in that members unanimously agreed that it looked more towards Trowbridge and not Westbury.• Again, questions were asked whether Warminster North & Rural should move to Westbury Area Board, but again members unanimously agreed that it should not and should remain in the Warminster Area Board due to geography and its inclusion of part of the town of Warminster.• As a four person board, the question was asked whether members felt the need to follow the system that three person boards have in regard to substitute arrangements. Members unanimously agreed that it was such a rare occasion that organizing substitute arrangements were not necessary and, in the event, that an urgent decision had to be made without the full set of members present then they would call another meeting. |

Councillor Comments on ERC Area Board Meetings

Salisbury:

Councillor Sven Hocking

Thank you for your notes, my observations are as follows:-

- 1) Having been caught up in the Governance Review in 2016 around the proposal to bring Laverstock and Ford Parish Council (LFPC) under the umbrella of Salisbury City Council (SCC) and the resulting very inflammatory and bitter dispute that followed it was quite clear that Laverstock and Ford residents were vehemently against joining with Salisbury in any way shape or form. I believe that LFPC residents may feel that this is the start of another attempt by Salisbury to move them into the City's scope of influence and may ultimately reopen a very divisive debate which nobody wants to go through again.
- 2) The Division boundaries within the Salisbury Area Board and the Salisbury City Council Parish boundaries are also co-terminus which allow for very close joint working and funding on any number of Council, Community and residential related issues, so, grant awards, community support projects, environmental planning and events, highways and streetscene improvements, CATG initiatives and so forth. To bring Laverstock and Ford into the Salisbury AB without doing the same with the Parish boundaries (see point 1 above for why I would support this) would change the dynamics of a collaboration which works well now and both Salisbury Area Board and City Council are continuing to build on.
- 3) Most of the projects the Salisbury Area Board fund, and those with joint funding from the City Council, are City-centric thus the majority of the funding stays inside the current boundaries whereas in the Southern Area Board and LFPC the issues are far more rural and therefore generally different. The pressure to keep any funding within the City would remain, even more so now with the level of community support that will be required in some of the more disadvantaged part of the City post the effects of COVID-19 and the nett result could well mean LF losing out in bids for funding and therefore be worse off than at present.

I feel it would be far better to keep the status quo and that L & F PC remain within the Southern Area Board and that the Salisbury Area Board boundaries remain aligned with that of the Salisbury City Council.

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Wiltshire Council

Electoral Review Committee

13 August 2020

Polling District and Polling Place Review

Purpose

1. To consider the postponement of a further Polling District and Polling Place Review in 2020.
2. To note that there will be a schedule of necessary polling district changes for Committee approval due to the new unitary boundaries that take effect from May 2021 and any approved Community Governance Reviews completed and approved in 2020.

Background

3. The Council was required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 to undertake a compulsory review of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places which had be started and completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020 (inclusive). This was approved by Full Council on 26 November 2019.
4. The initial report to the Committee in December 2018 noted that the review would have to be based on existing boundaries as it would be completed prior to the revised unitary boundaries that would come into effect in May 2021. See extract below from December 2018 report:

As the polling district and polling place review is to be carried out before the new electoral boundaries are fully in force, it will need to be based on the current electoral boundaries. A further review will be undertaken prior to the unitary and parish elections in 2021 to reflect the new boundaries.

Main Considerations

5. There is no legal requirement to conduct a further review as the Council has met its legal obligation, but it is good practice to do so after a boundary review and once the boundaries are fully in force.
6. As the boundaries will not be in force until May 2021 and considering the current Covid-19 situation, it is proposed to hold a further review after the May 2021 elections. The May 2021 elections could be used to gather information to assist with the review and gain valuable feedback on any changes required. If there is a lack of feedback, then conversely a decision could be made to not hold a further review.
7. It is also relevant that the Council can alter and approve any polling district changes without the need for a full review. Following amendment by Full Council of the terms of

reference of the Committee, any such changes can be made by the Electoral Review Committee.

8. There will be a necessary requirement to alter several polling districts to reflect the changes to the unitary boundaries in order to run the May 2021 elections and this will incorporate any required changes as a result of the Community Governance Reviews completed and approved in 2020. The schedule of polling district changes will be provided to the Committee in October 2020 for approval.

Safeguarding Implications

9. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

10. There are no public health implications.

Procurement Implications

11. There are no procurement implications.

Equalities Implications

12. There are no equalities implications.

Environmental Implications

13. There are no environmental implications.

Financial Implications

14. There are no financial implications from deferring a further review beyond 2021.

Legal Implications

15. The Council has met its legal obligations in respect of conducting a review of polling districts and polling places, and may therefore choose to defer further review if necessary or appropriate.

Proposal

16. The Committee is asked to:
 - 1) Consider the postponement of the Polling District and Polling Place review until after the May 2021 elections
 - 2) Consider the need for a Polling District and Polling Place review if there is lack of feedback from the May 2021 elections that changes are required
 - 3) Note that a revised schedule of necessary changes to polling districts will be submitted for approval in Autumn 2020.

Ian Gibbons, Director of Legal and Governance

Report Author: Caroline Rudland, Head of Electoral Services,
caroline.rudland@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council

Electoral Review Committee

13 August 2020

Forward Work Plan – Community Governance Reviews

Purpose

1. To prioritise the list of requested Community Governance Reviews to establish a forward work programme for the Committee.

Background

2. In July 2019 the Committee sought expressions of interest from parishes in the Wiltshire Council area for any changes to governance arrangements in their area. Given the number of requests received, including a petition from members of the public which was required to be considered, not all areas could be reviewed in advance of the May 2021 elections given the level of resourcing required.
3. On 31 October 2019 the Committee agreed terms of reference for a Review commencing 1 November 2019, detailing which areas were to be reviewed. Any other areas would be reviewed at a later date, with any changes resolved to take effect from the 2025 elections.

Main Considerations

4. If the Committee, and Full Council, agree to conclude a review of Calne Without with a view to undertaking an additional review of the parish also taking in Calne Town, and other surrounding parishes, then it is unlikely given all the remaining requests that all could be dealt with in a single review within the 12 months required.
5. Therefore, it is suggested to prioritise the list of remaining scheme requests to be reviewed into two or more groups, so that for example a review could take place in 2021-22, and 2022-2023. This would additionally allow the Committee to check after the May 2021 elections whether a request for a review from a parish council is still supported by that parish council.
6. 41 scheme requests have not been reviewed or withdrawn by their proposer, as shown in **Appendix 1**. Of those 41:
 - 12 involve changing councillor numbers or internal warding arrangements only;
 - 23 involve transferring land from one parish to another, and associated warding changes;
 - 6 involve the creation/merger/grouping or abolition of a parish.
7. Of the 23 requests which involve transfer of land, these range from small parcels of land

with no electors, and others involve significant areas of land with large numbers of electors.

8. Of the 6 requests including merger/grouping/creation or abolition of a parish, 4 are related requests around Marlborough, and 1 is the previously reviewed Calne Without. The other is the case of a parish where there had been no candidates for the last elections and no detail of whom to contact about the situation, or auditing matters. Should that situation continue, there may be a case for the parish to be merged with a neighbour or abolished as an unviable entity.
9. Any provisional grouping of schemes to be reviewed could be amended when the Committee came to approve the terms of reference for any review.

Proposal

10. The Committee is asked to consider prioritising scheme requests into groups for consideration in future Community Governance Reviews.

Ian Gibbons, Director of Legal and Governance

Report Author: Kieran Elliott, Senior Democratic Services Officer,
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Appendix A - List of Unreviewed Schemes

| Scheme | Date | Parish affected | Suggested for Review by | Type of change |
|---------------|-------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 19 | 09/09/19 | Heywood | Westbury Town Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 20 | 09/09/19 | Bratton | Westbury Town Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 21 | 09/09/19 | Heywood | Westbury Town Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 22 | 09/09/19 | Dilton Marsh | Westbury Town Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 23 | 10/09/19 | Box | Box Parish Council | Ward name |
| 25 | 11/09/19 | Warminster | Warminster Town Council | Change councillor numbers/wards |
| 28 | 16/09/19 | Figheldean | Netheravon Parish Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 33 | 23/09/19 | Nettleton/Castle Coombe | Grittleton Parish Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 38 | 26/09/19 | St Paul Malmesbury Without | St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council | warding |
| 39 | 26/09/19 | Malmesbury | St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 40 | 26/09/19 | Calne Without | Petitioner | Creation of Parish |
| 45 | 30/09/19 | Laverstock & Ford | Winterbourne Parish Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 46 | 30/09/19 | Firsdon | Winterbourne Parish Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 47 | 30/09/19 | Idmiston | Winterbourne Parish Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 48 | 30/09/19 | Durnford | Winterbourne Parish Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 49 | 30/09/19 | St Paul Malmesbury Without | Malmesbury Town Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 50 | 30/09/19 | Malmesbury | Malmesbury Town Council | Warding/cllr numbers |
| 53 | 30/09/19 | Fovant | Fovant Parish Council | Councillor Numbers |
| 54 | 30/09/19 | Donhead St Mary | Donhead St Mary Parish Council | Councillor Numbers |
| 55 | 30/09/19 | Preshute | Marlborough Town Council | Merger of Parish |
| 56 | 30/09/19 | Savernake | Marlborough Town Council | Merger of Parish |
| 57 | 30/09/19 | Marlborough | Marlborough Town Council | Warding |
| 58 | 30/09/19 | Unknown | Marlborough Town Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 59 | 30/09/19 | Yatton Keynell | Biddestone Parish Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 61 | 03/10/19 | Calne Without/Hilmarton | Calne Town Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 62 | 03/10/19 | Calne Without | Calne Town Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 63 | 03/10/19 | Calne Without | Calne Town Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 64 | 03/10/19 | Calne Without | Calne Town Council | Transfer between parishes |

| | | | | |
|----|----------|---------------|---|---------------------------|
| 65 | 08/10/19 | Tidworth | Ludgershall Parish Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 66 | 08/10/19 | Ludgershall | Ludgershall Parish Council | Warding |
| 67 | 08/10/19 | Ludgershall | Ludgershall Parish Council | Cllr Numbers |
| 68 | 08/10/19 | Grimstead | Grimstead Parish Council | Cllr Numbers |
| 69 | 08/10/19 | Grimstead | Grimstead Parish Council | Warding |
| 70 | 10/10/19 | Zeal | Mere Town Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 71 | 18/10/19 | Fyfield | Preshute Parish Council | Merger/Grouping |
| 73 | 18/10/19 | Preshute | Fyfield and West Overton Joint Parish Council | Merger/Grouping |
| 78 | 28/10/19 | Idmiston | Idmiston Parish Council | Cllr Numbers |
| 79 | 28/10/19 | Idmiston | Idmiston Parish Council | Warding |
| 80 | 05/11/19 | Westbury | Heywood Parish Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 81 | 07/11/19 | Castle Combe | Yatton Keynell Parish Council | Transfer between parishes |
| 84 | 25/02/20 | Beechingstoke | Wiltshire Council | Merge/Abolish parish |