

AGENDA

Meeting: Electoral Review Committee

Place: Kennet Room - County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

Date: Wednesday 3 April 2024

Time: 10.00 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Lisa Alexander of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01722 434560 or email lisa.alexander@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Voting Membership:

Cllr Ashley O'Neill (Chairman)

Cllr Gavin Grant (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling

Cllr Allison Bucknell

Cllr Ernie Clark

Cllr Jacqui Lay

Cllr Ian McLennan

Cllr Paul Oatway QPM

Cllr Ian Thorn

Cllr Stuart Wheeler

Substitutes:

Cllr Adrian Foster

Cllr Peter Hutton

Cllr Nic Puntis

Cllr Ricky Rogers

Cllr Derek Walters

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Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of deadlines for submission of questions and statements for this meeting.

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AGENDA

Part I

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

1 **Apologies**

To receive any apologies or substitutions for the meeting.

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 14)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2024.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

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

4 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements through the Chair.

5 **Public Participation**

Statements

If you would like to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Up to 3 speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any agenda item.

Please contact the officer named on the front of the agenda for any further clarification.

Questions

To receive any questions from members of the public or members of the Council received in accordance with the constitution.

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 Monday 25 March 2024 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 Wednesday 27 March 2024. 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.

6 **Community Governance Review 2023/24** *(Pages 15 - 40)*

To consider responses to the consultation on the Draft Recommendations for the Community Governance Review 2023/24.

7 **Parish Name Change** *(Pages 41 - 46)*

To consider a request from Clyffe Pypard Parish Council.

8 **Date of the Next Meeting**

To confirm the date of the next meeting as 16 May 2024.

9 **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.

Electoral Review Committee

MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2024 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Ashley O'Neill (Chairman), Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Ian McLennan and Cllr Paul Oatway QPM

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Ian Thorn
Cllr Stuart Wheeler
Cllr Gavin Grant

The Committee noted that Cllr Gavin Grant and Cllr Stuart Wheeler were in attendance virtually (non-voting).

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2023 were presented for consideration, and it was;

Resolved:

To approve and sign the minutes as a correct record.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman explained that following Council's approval of the Committee's recommendations on 17 October 2023, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) had given their consent to the requested parish changes in Westbury and other areas.

The LGBCE would be considering whether to amend the Electoral Divisions at their January meeting but given the aforementioned consent to parishes that could be a positive indication.

5 **Public Participation**

No statements or questions were submitted.

6 **Community Governance Review 2023/24**

Public Participation

Area 02 Mere/Zeals - Cllr John Jordan, Chairman of Mere Parish Council

Area 03 North Bradley/Trowbridge - Mr Francis Morland

Area 03 North Bradley/Trowbridge – Cllr Roger Evans, Chairman of North Bradley PC

Additional Request 01- Mr Francis Morland

The Committee considered the information within the information pack, published in the agenda before making draft recommendations and agreeing consultation arrangements for the Community Governance Review (CGR) 2023/24.

It was explained that a public survey detailing received CGR scheme proposals ran from 31 October to 26 November 2023, and was then extended until 31 December 2023, and that letters had been provided to residents of Rowden Lane, Chippenham, as part of the review of that area.

The information pack in the agenda included initial proposals, responses which had been received from parish councils and others, electorate projections, and notes from information sessions with local members and parishes. Attention was drawn to information within the Agenda Supplement.

Area 1 – Winterbourne

The request submitted by Winterbourne Parish Council related to four separate areas around the current boundary which impacted on the parishes of Laverstock & Ford, Durnford, Firsdawn, and Idmiston.

The Committee noted the low number of responses received in relation to the Winterbourne proposals and that the response from Laverstock & Ford Parish Council was opposed to the boundary changes concerning the dwellings within its area.

In each of the areas proposed by Winterbourne Parish Council, the Committee noted limited or non-existent responses, and the lack of perceived governance improvement from the very minor changes. They determined there were no significant community benefits to the proposals and declined to make a recommendation to amend the governance arrangements in the area.

Area 2 – Mere/Zeals

Mere Town Council had submitted a request for an area of the parish of Zeals to be transferred to the town. It related to a small area within the B3092 & A303 slip road area. The site currently had planning permission for business use, the Hill Brush Factory and Visit Hillbrush visitor centre, one dwelling and planning permission for a 70 bed Care Home to the east of the Hill Brush Site.

The Chairman of the Town Council made a statement setting out the reasons for the scheme request and noted that there had not yet been any local consultation with the Mere residents as the town council was awaiting the initial draft recommendations of the Committee before running a local campaign. He stated this was the reason why there had been a low number of responses to the survey from Mere residents and a high number from Zeals resident as Zeals Parish Council had circulated a flyer seeking responses to the survey to its residents.

The Committee noted the high number of responses to the survey, with over 100 responses received stating they disagreed with the proposal.

The Committee received details of the reasons provided in the comments against and the few comments in support. They noted that financial factors such as changes to precept or development S106 funds which had been raised in many of the responses were not relevant considerations under the statutory criteria, which related to community identity and effective governance.

The Committee discussed the nature of the site and its change over the years, in particular the approved 70 bed care home which would alter the character of the site to a more residential one, as well as its proximity to the route into Mere and distance from any communities of Zeals.

The Committee concluded that the location of the care home in relation to the surrounding communities of Mere and Zeals, amenities and local connection argued in favour of the view that in community terms, there would likely be more affiliation with Mere, notwithstanding the objections raised by residents of Zeals.

The Committee also considered whether any other changes would be appropriate along the current boundary in response to comments received during the information gathering stage but considered the evidence did not support this.

Area 3 – North Bradley/Trowbridge

As part of the 2019/2020 CGR involving Trowbridge and North Bradley parishes, the Committee had identified a small number of properties along Woodmarsh which had been included for transfer into a Trowbridge based Division following the drawing of the Divisional boundary by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) during their Electoral Review Wiltshire Council. This was because the properties were included within the draft Housing Sites Allocation Plan, and as a result Wiltshire Council requested, and the LGBCE consented, to transferring that area into Trowbridge Town due to the incoming more urban development that was projected to be incoming. However, the Committee had recognised several historic properties accessed from Woodmarsh should be further reviewed to see if a more suitable boundary line could be agreed.

North Bradley Parish Council (NBPC) had requested the boundary revert completely to what it had been prior to the 2021 CGR changes, or subsequently

at the least that the line be drawn along the A363 through the White Horse Business Park.

Trowbridge Town Council (TTC) had submitted an alternative proposal to move the current boundary so that the existing houses accessed from North Bradley village along Woodmarsh/Westbury Road were all within North Bradley parish and that the development site accessed from the main road A363 and associated green space remained within Trowbridge.

Mr Francis Morland made a statement criticising the process of the 2019/20 CGR which came into effect in May 2021, specifically that public consultation had been conducted solely online due to covid restrictions, which he believed was a huge failure. It was stated that North Bradley Parish Council wished to reverse the entire 2019/20 decision, which it felt had been based on incorrect data. It was further suggested that the Housing Site Allocation Policy, the North Bradley Neighbourhood Plan and the Community Governance Review should be aligned.

Cllr Roger Evans, Chairman of North Bradley Parish Council made a statement advising the Committee that the Parish Council was reviewing its Neighbourhood Plan. He confirmed that whilst the Town Council's proposal had its merits temporarily, the Parish Council ultimately wanted to see the boundary line to revert to what it was prior to May 2021.

The Committee considered the survey responses which included a comment from a resident in support of the Town Council proposal, and the information gathering session feedback from local members and the parish and town councils.

During the information gathering sessions, the Parish Council representative had been broadly supportive of the proposed boundary line put forward Town Council as an improvement on the current boundary but had suggested that the line be moved closer to the new housing, along the middle of the fields, leaving more of the open space area within North Bradley.

The Committee discussed the location of the bat corridor and the open space element of the development site, including ownership and future land management responsibility. It was noted that any draft recommendation did not necessarily have to match the line of the development site, however any proposed change to the boundary would need to meet the criteria for improved community governance and community cohesion.

The Committee agreed that the Town Council, which would result in the existing dwellings which had previously been within North Bradley, being returned, leaving future development on the site, in Trowbridge, which although delayed from the projections within the previous review, was anticipated to take place and would result in a change of character from that of the rural parish, so the reason for the original transfer remained.

Area 4 – Chippenham/Lacock

As part of the 2019/2020 Review involving Chippenham and Lacock parishes, the Committee recommended, and it was agreed, to transfer an area of land containing new housing within the new Chippenham Lowden and Rowden Division from Lacock to Chippenham. The area also included the small area of Rowden Lane, a rural hamlet accessed through the town. The Council had agreed to take a further look at the area to see if the boundary line should be amended but had no specific proposals to pre-consult upon.

The Committee noted that residents in Rowden Lane were written to twice as part of information gathering, in addition to the online survey, and that only one response had been received.

Future development phases in the area were discussed, and the Committee agreed that Rowden Lane was correctly included as part of Chippenham, noting the lack of connection with Lacock and that neither Lacock Parish Council or Chippenham Town Council had requested any change to the current boundary.

Area 5 – Salisbury

The divisional member for Salisbury St Francis & Stratford Ward had requested a boundary review to correct an anomaly with regards to two properties, as detailed in the agenda. No responses had been received to the public survey,

The Committee agreed that the properties in question had been placed in error in the wrong Divisions and this should be corrected to unify all of the dwellings in Dorset Road under St Francis ward and all of the dwellings in Cambridge Road under Milford Road, thus improving community governance and cohesion.

Area 6 – Royal Wootton Bassett/Brinkworth & Broad Town/Clyffe Pypard

The Elections Team had drawn attention to a number of areas which could be reviewed, to see if a more appropriate electoral arrangement was appropriate.

The first area (RWB01) related to a property which currently sat in Royal Wootton Bassett whereas the rest of the associated farm area was in Brinkworth. The cottage had a postal address of Brinkworth but due to the boundary line, the residents were currently required to travel into Royal Wootton Bassett to vote. No response had been received to the proposal, however the Committee agreed that the property should be unified with associated farm buildings and that as a whole the buildings should be in Brinkworth.

The second area (RWB02) related to properties along Broadtown Hill, where the majority of the land and property for one, were in Broad Town parish, but part of the land and property of the neighbouring property along Broadtown Hill was in Clyffe Pypard parish.

The Committee noted the 3 survey responses which had been received in relation to the Clyffe Pypard/Broad Town scheme which had objected to the

proposal. In addition, a detailed response had been submitted (Supplement 1 to the agenda) by one of the co-owners opposing a change, stating what they considered to be their deep connection to the Clyffe Pypard community.

The Committee noted the responses, but felt that considered against the statutory criteria that in community governance terms both properties should be unified within one parish and that this should be Broad Town due to the proximity to the Broad Town community and lack of direct connection with Clyffe Pypard

Area 7 – Chippenham Pewsham

A review had been requested by the divisional member for Chippenham Pewsham division, to look at several properties in Ray Close, Chippenham, which currently sat in the Chippenham Hardens and Central division, with the rest in the Pewsham Division.

The Committee noted that both local members were in support of the proposed change and that to rectify the anomaly would unify all of the dwellings in Ray Close under one electoral division, improving community governance and cohesion.

Area 8 – Trowbridge Lambrok

A review related to a request by the divisional member for Trowbridge Lambrok division, to look at several properties in Frampton Court, part of the Studley Green Estate in Trowbridge, which currently sat in the Trowbridge Grove division.

The proposal would unify approximately 6 dwellings on Frampton Court with the rest of the properties along the same road, improving community governance and cohesion.

The Committee noted the support of Trowbridge Town Council and both of the local members to the proposal.

Area 9 – Seend/Melksham Without

A request had been made by the divisional member for Bowerhill, to look at a Farm property with associated Farm buildings along the A365 between Bowerhill and Redstocks.

It was suggested that the boundary be changed to move New House Farm, which was currently in the parish of Seend, Devizes Rural West Division, to Bowerhill Ward, in the parish of Melksham Without, Bowerhill Division.

The Committee noted that both parish councils involved were not in support of the proposal and felt that there was no benefit in terms of community cohesion or governance for New House Farm to move from Seend to Melksham Without.

Area 10 – Calne

The request related to the boundary line around Low Lane, which was changed as part of the 2021/2022 Review. It had come to light that the changed boundary line did not include the entirety of a new housing development site

separating several dwellings which would remain in Calne Without parish, with the rest in Calne.

The Committee noted the support of Calne Without PC to the proposal.

The Committee agreed that all of the dwellings in the new development should be unified within one division and that the boundary line should be redrawn to include them all within Calne Central.

Additional anomalies

The Committee considered five additional potential anomaly requests which had been highlighted by the Elections Team, as detailed in agenda supplement 1.

01 – Millstream Cottages in Westbury East

The request was to amend the boundary to follow the stream round the back of the millstream cottages in Westbury East, which currently bisected one dwelling in half.

Mr Francis Morland made a statement to the Committee noting that the proposed boundary change would not impact on any exiting or potential electors, in addition a previous CGR had been conducted on the area, so there was no good reason to open it up for debate again.

The Committee considered the boundary line, noting it appeared to be causing a dwelling to be separated from the rest, in terms of its parish and Electoral Division. It was agreed that further inspection of the actual boundary line be carried out and should it be found that the boundary line did not match that of the river and did separate one or more properties, then the boundary should be redrawn to run along the river, thus unifying the properties all under one division.

02 – Heath Cottage, Clench Cottage, Marlborough

This request related to Wilcot, Huish and Oare, and West Overton, part of Kennet Valley Joint Parish Council (Pewsey Vale West, and Marlborough West) and involved the property, Heath Cottage/Clench Cottage which was in Wilcott Huish and Oare but very close to parish boundary line and two unitary division boundaries.

The Committee looked at surrounding properties in relation to proximity to logical community connections and agreed that a wider picture of local amenities and connections would be beneficial and could be obtained by conducting a consultation on the proposal to transfer the area to West Overton.

03 – Kingston Road in Bradford on Avon North

This request related to a property at 6 Kingston Road in Bradford on Avon North, as the remainder of the properties at 1 to 5 Kingston Road were in

Bradford on Avon South. The request was to redraw the boundary to encompass all six dwellings into Bradford on Avon South.

The Committee agreed that as all six dwellings were accessed from the same road, moving the boundary would unite them together, improving community cohesion and governance.

04 – Bolwell Place in Melksham Forest

This request related to Bolwell Place, which was a block of flats which was split across two Parish Wards and therefore Divisions. It was proposed that they be brought into one ward together.

The Committee agreed that the flats be unified together and that should be Melksham Forest. They also requested further investigation of the polling district and other boundary lines to ensure these aligned.

05 – High Street, Calne

This request related to 5 houses on the west side of the High Street in Calne, currently in Chilvester & Abberd, which were in a different ward to the houses on the east side of the High Street. It was proposed to redraw the boundary to bring all of the High Street facing dwellings into one ward, that of Calne Central.

The Committee agreed it was in the best interest in terms of community cohesion and governance to reunite dwellings in the same street which face each other.

Consultation Details

The Committee agreed to amend the consultation dates to 6 February to 12 March 2024 (5 weeks) due to the rescheduled later committee date.

It was agreed that letters would be sent to each household where it was proposed to move from one parish to another. In addition, a public meeting would be held where any significant change was proposed.

At the close of debate, it was,

Resolved:

To delegate preparation of a draft recommendations document to the Director Legal and Governance, including reasons for any proposed changes, along with arrangements for a public consultation.

7 **Parish Name Change Request**

The Committee considered two Parish Name Change requests, as set out in the agenda and Supplement 01.

Luckington

Luckington Parish Council submitted a request to change their name to Luckington and Alderton, to reflect the two communities making up the parish. They already informally used the name and had not been aware it was not the legal name of the parish.

Although no responses were received to a public survey set up in December, the request was considered to be reasonable and appropriate, and the Committee agreed to recommend the change to Full Council for approval request at its next meeting.

Clyffe Pypard

After publication of the agenda Clyffe Pypard Parish Council provided a request to change the name of their parish to Clyffe Pypard and Bushton, also to reflect the communities which make up their parish.

As there had not been time to conduct any kind of public survey the Committee agreed to defer a decision on the request until the next meeting to provide that opportunity..

It was then,

Resolved:

- 1. To recommend to Council that Luckington Parish Council change its name to Luckington and Alderton Parish Council.**
- 2. To conduct a survey on the Clyffe Pypard PC Name change request.**

8 **Date of the Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 27 March 2024 at 10:00am.

9 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lisa Alexander of Democratic Services, direct line 01722 434560, e-mail lisa.alexander@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Wiltshire Council

Electoral Review Committee

4 April 2024

Community Governance Review 2023/24 – Consultation on Draft Recommendations

Purpose

1. To consider responses to the consultation on the Draft Recommendations of the Committee as agreed at the meeting on 9 January 2023.

Background

2. A Community Governance Review is a process whereby 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 would include setting the scope for any review, its methodology and timescales, as well as preparing recommendations for consideration by Full Council.
4. At its meeting on 26 June 2023, the Committee approved areas for a review to take and delegated approval of terms of reference. This was published in September 2023.
5. Following withdrawal of some requests for review, the parishes specifically included within the Review were: Winterbourne, Laverstock & Ford, Firsdown, Idmiston, Durnford, Mere, Zeals, North Bradley, Trowbridge, Chippenham, Salisbury, Lacock, or any parishes surrounding those listed, and any issues involving those parishes.
6. There was also provision to consider minor alterations to other parishes not listed if considered appropriate. These were not subject to detailed pre-consultation surveying, owing to their minor nature. Where the committee determined there may be grounds for correction of a potential boundary anomaly, it contacted those parishes when a draft recommendation was made.
7. During the first phase of the review additional proposals for the areas set out in Paragraph 5 were received from parishes or other parties. Where these were received before the pre-consultation phase began, they were included within the pre-consultation information gathering. The information gathering also included:
 - Sessions between representatives of the Committee and affected unitary members and parishes;
 - An online survey of received proposals, with over 125 responses received;
 - Details of emailed representations.

8. In preparing any recommendations and making any decision the Committee and Full Council 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.

9. Council tax precept levels would not be a valid criterion to approve or disapprove of a proposal.

Main Considerations

10. 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 as detailed in paragraph 6.

11. The Committee considered all information at its meeting which concluded on 9 January 2023, and prepared draft recommendations for consultation. Recommendations were made for the following areas:

Mere, Zeals, North Bradley, Trowbridge, Salisbury, Brinkworth, Royal Wootton Bassett, Clyffe Pypard, Broad Town, Chippenham, Calne, Calne Without, West Overton, Wilcot, Huish and Oare, Bradford-on-Avon, Melksham, Westbury.

12. A consultation was therefore held initially from 12 February 2024 – 18 March 2024. Where the Committee proposed to transfer electors from one parish to another, a letter was sent to those potentially affected. A briefing note was also circulated.

13. A public meeting was held on 18 March in Mere for the changes in that area. Due to the date of the meeting the consultation survey was therefore extended until 28 March 2024 once the public meeting was scheduled. Any additional responses received ahead of the committee date will be reported to the meeting.

14. **20** responses were received on the online consultation portal during the consultation period. These responses are included at **Appendix A**.

15. **6** written or emailed comments were also received to the consultation. These have been attached as **Appendix B**.

16. The Committee should consider all the responses within the context of the statutory criteria and the guidance.

17. The Committee should also consider if there are any other minor boundary issues that may have come to light and whether these should be subject to draft recommendation and consultation.

Safeguarding Implications

18. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

19. There are no public health implications.

Procurement Implications

20. There are no procurement implications.

Equalities Implications

21. There are no equalities implications.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

22. There are no environmental implications.

Workforce Implications

23. There are no workforce implications.

Financial Implications

24. Additional consultation could incur additional resources, in particular in relation to the cost of using an external provider to physically mail out to those affected in certain areas if appropriate.

Legal Implications

25. 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

26. A failure to consult appropriately on proposals from the Committee or provide appropriate reasoning for any decision to change governance arrangements would be potentially vulnerable to challenge.

Options

27. 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

28. That the Committee consider the responses to the Draft Recommendations consultation.

29. To delegate to the Director, Legal and Governance, in consultation with the Chairman, the preparation of a detailed Final Recommendations document for consideration by Full Council, and/or preparation of any Additional Draft Recommendations for consultation and the details of that consultation.

Perry Holmes - Director, Legal and Governance

Report Author: Kieran Elliott, Democracy Manager (Democratic Services), 01225 718504, kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

22 March 2024

Appendices

Appendix A – Responses to online survey

Appendix B – Other responses to the consultation

Background Papers

[Draft Recommendations](#)

[Guidance on Community Governance Reviews](#)

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

[2023/24 Review terms of reference](#)

Appendix A

Comment	Recommendation	Status of Respondent	Agree/Disagree/Amend	Reasons
1	Recommendation 1 - Mere/Zeals	A resident of Mere	Agree	The area marked A lies along a Castle Street, a main thoroughfare of the town of Mere and is adjacent to the built up area of Mere.. People living and working there would, naturally, be using the facilities in Mere - a surgery, dentists, pharmacy as well as a range of shops. Hillbrush, have kept their long established relationship with Mere and I would expect any other developments in the area A would also find a close relationship with Mere town to be beneficial as well as convenient.
2	Recommendation 1 - Mere/Zeals	A resident of Mere	Agree	The site is much closer to Mere town with residents able to walk to Hillbrush restaurant and to the proposed care home etc. No need to use cars 🖐
3	Recommendation 1 - Mere/Zeals	A resident of Mere	Agree	The area in question is a natural part of Mere
4	Recommendation 1 - Mere/Zeals	A resident of Mere	Agree	Makes excellent sense
5	Recommendation 1 - Mere/Zeals	A resident of Mere	Agree	Agree that the land in question becomes part of Mere
6	Recommendation 1 - Mere/Zeals	A resident of Mere	Agree	The businesses (existing and planned) on the site are closely associated with Mere. Staff at the existing business walk to work from Mere. Any improvements for new businesses would be to Mere.
7	Recommendation 1 - Mere/Zeals	A resident of Mere	Agree	It lies naturally in Mere
8	Recommendation 1 - Mere/Zeals	A resident of Mere	Agree	Area A is very close to Mere and much further then Zeals. Many people are amazed that it's not considered to be part of Mere already

9	Recommendation 1 - Mere/Zeals	A representative of a town or parish council affected by the proposals	Agree	The Hill Brush site is known as being in Mere by their postal address, residents and visitors, and I'm sure most people would be surprised to learn that its considered to in Zeals at present. Residents of the care home and other businesses will most likely use services and facilities in Mere, and recruit employees from there. It seems very disjointed to have it in Zeals when there are major road barriers (eg the A303) between that location and Zeals.
10	Recommendation 1 - Mere/Zeals	A resident of Mere	Disagree	There is potential for several businesses to open on the industrial site near the Hill brush company which is currently within the boundaries of Zeals. Moving this boundary within Mere will allow the cabal on the council and mere chamber of trade to keep businesses out and to keep the wages low.
11	Recommendation 2 - North Bradley/Trowbridge	A resident of Trowbridge (area to be transferred)	Agree	
12	Recommendation 2 - North Bradley/Trowbridge	A resident of Trowbridge (area to be transferred)	Agree	I want to be back in the parish of North Bradley
13	Recommendation 2 - North Bradley/Trowbridge	A resident of Trowbridge (area to be transferred)	Agree	I agree the recommendation as we are effectively part of North Bradley and are affected by all actions and activities emanating from North Bradley Parish Council. We are currently unable to participate in any of their decision making. Also, we are unable to exist our property without entering North Bradley.
14	Recommendation 5 - Broad Town/Clyffe Pypard	A resident of Broad Town	Disagree	I disagree with the proposal because there is no need to change it

15	Recommendation 5 - Broad Town/Clyffe Pypard	A resident of Clyffe Pypard (Area to be transferred)	Disagree	Clyffe Pypard is a historically a rural and dispersed community. It is isolated and not connected well with neighbouring settlements. Since the very sad closure of the village pub the sense of community has reduced and people from neighbouring settlements no longer come to the village. Removing outlying dwellings would only serve to increase this sense of isolation and connection to the wider locality. The proposed boundary change seems only concerned with the tidiness of lines on a map and serves no discernible purpose and would appear to benefit no one. The quiriness of English parishes and our boundaries should be preserved and celebrated not rubbed out.
16	Recommendation 5 - Broad Town/Clyffe Pypard	A resident of Clyffe Pypard (Area to be transferred)	Disagree	103 is geographically closer to Clyffe Pypard's Church & Pub, there is an already acknowledged deep connection with Clyffe Pypard and given that other isolated homes exist there is no difference in governance terms. Clyffe Pypard parish has to be driven through in order to shop or receive utility deliveries and road 87701 links Clyffe Pypard (C120) to 103. When you walk out of 103 you are in Clyffe Pypard. Other properties not unified in one parish are the norm. Moving the boundary is contrary to Clyffe Pypard's community plan, namely to protect our heritage identity. The parish should retain not loose properties like 103. 103 and Clyffe Pypard village share the same rare identity both being remote, rural locations away from a main traffic route with an ambience of peace and solitude. 103 has nothing in common with Broad Town having been in the parish of Clyffe Pypard since the domesday. This change will not make one iota of difference to governance and there is no need for this change
17	Recommendation 5 - Broad Town/Clyffe Pypard	A resident of Broad Town	Disagree	Between both parishes of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town there are many remote and isolated properties like this one. I fail to understand how cherry picking this property will improve governance. The change is not needed and has no benefit.

18	Recommendation 6 - Chippenham (Pewsham and Hardens & Central wards)	A representative of a town or parish council affected by the proposals	Agree	No objection to the draft recommendation
19	Recommendation 9 - Wilcot, Huish, and Oare/West Overton	A representative of a town or parish council affected by the proposals	Disagree	Please see the document submitted to the CGR team via email, which is too long to submit here due to the word limit.
20	Recommendation 9 - Wilcot, Huish, and Oare/West Overton	A representative of a town or parish council affected by the proposals	Agree	Kennet Valley Parish Council support the proposal due to the remote location and proximity to 2 other properties within our Parish. The PC agreed unanimously to support the slight boundary change at a full parish Council meeting on 11/03/24.

Written and Emailed Responses to the Draft Recommendations Consultation

Comment	Date received	Recommendation	Respondent Status	Details
P1	21/02/24	9 – Wilcot, Huish, and Oare	Wilcot, Huish, and Oare Parish Council	Disagrees with proposal to amend boundary between Wilcot, Huish, and Oare, and West Overton
P2	28/02/24	1 – Mere/Zeals	Unknown	Agrees with Town Council proposal
P3	07/03/24	11 – Melksham	Melksham Town Council	No comment on recommendation, but identification of another potential boundary issue
P4	04/03/24	2 – North Bradley	Local resident	Seeking amendment of proposal to 'assist future planning activity'
P5	6/3/24	9 – Wilcot, Huish, and Oare	Resident	Opposed to proposal to move Health Cottage from Wilcot, Huish, and Oare
P6	12/03/24	5 – Clyffe Pypard	Local resident	Disagrees with proposal to amend Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town Boundary

P1

Wilcot, Huish & Oare Parish Council objects to the recommendation made by the CGR to redraw the boundary between this parish and that of Kennet Valley Joint Parish Council.

1. The long-established existing parish boundary reflects the historical manorial boundaries and the ancient Savernake Forest wards. It would be irresponsible to obliterate this valuable witness to the past reality.
2. Re-drawing the boundary will not alter the remoteness of the property in question. As the crow flies, it is not much further from the remote Huish Down Farm in Wilcot, Huish & Oare parish as it is from the remote Bayardo Farm in Kennet Valley parish. Remote dwellings are a feature of rural areas.
3. When last visited by a Wilcot, Huish & Oare parish councillor, the residents of the property in question confirmed that they were content with their remote location and that they did not feel in any way detached from the parish, nor indeed had a wish to be more attached to any parish at all. Remoteness need not be a disadvantage; some human beings choose remoteness, and human beings have differing levels of appreciation for isolation, with some far more gregarious than others.
4. The Briefing Note 24:03 Community Governance Review received on Monday 12th February 2024 is the first formal notification received by Wilcot, Huish & Oare Parish Council about this proposal. No communication has been received from Electoral Services nor from Kennet Valley Joint Parish Council relating to this proposal. Briefing Note 23:27 on 4th October 2023, notifying all parishes of the Review, did not mention this proposal in either the accompanying email or in the Briefing Note itself.

5. The Community Governance Review team is referred to the minutes of the meeting of Wilcot, Huish & Oare parish council held on Tuesday 9th January, item 24/05, which can be viewed at www.wilcotandhuishpc.gov.uk

6. Common courtesy would suggest that an informal approach should have been made to this parish council PRIOR to suggested changes being proposed to the Review Team. During the 2019/2020 CGR, this parish council had the decency to contact neighbouring parishes to ensure proposals were MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE, prior to escalating suggested changes to the Review Team. This parish council is aware that other parish councils within the Pewsey Vale also negotiated informally before that Review, as a result of which some suggestions were discarded before being subject to consideration, to full Review, and consequent rejection, at public expense.

7. Wilcot, Huish & Oare Parish Council would therefore have appreciated the opportunity to point out the historical reasons for the apparent anomaly earlier in the process.

8. The Draft Recommendations document states on page 22 that this parish will be consulted. It is not clear whether that means the parish will be consulted directly. The Briefing Note 24:03 states that the parish council is expected to respond to the generic consultation link provided in the Briefing Note. In the light of item 4 above, the parish council notes that the lack of direct contact from Wiltshire Council could have easily led to this parish council being unaware of the proposal and unable to participate in the process.

9. Wilcot, Huish & Oare Parish Council is submitting an objection via the link but, due to the word limit restricting comment, this full response will be sent directly to the Community Governance Review team.

P2

Agree with Mere town council.

P3

Melksham Town Council received the above briefing note at a meeting on 26 February. They note the proposed change and have no comment.

Council has however asked me to contact you about another anomaly regarding Coronation Road, where one side is in Forest Ward and one in South Ward for Town elections. For county elections, this is further complicated by having the area south of Milton Avenue in Melksham South and the area to the North in Forest.

P4

I would like to propose an amendment to the proposed boundary adjustment between Trowbridge and North Bradley which will enable the Parish Council (in Partnership with the Town Council) to achieve appropriate protection to North Bradley village for the foreseeable future, from inappropriate development to its eastern side. My reasons are set out in the attachment.

I am sending it to you in this form as I need to retain a copy of the email for my future reference.

(Attachment included at the end of this document)

P5

(Attachment included at the end of this document)

P6

(Attachment included at the end of this document)

Response to Community Governance Review 2023-24

1 I understand that the driving force behind a Community Governance Review is the need to balance electorates. However, I would expect that the opportunity of amending boundaries might be used to assist in future planning activity as well. So I propose that a somewhat different boundary be chosen in the area between Woodmarsh and The White Horse Business Park (WHBP). This is shown below, together with my reasons.

2 I see from the consultation information that :-

A Community Governance Review will be decided to reflect the identity and interests of local communities and ensure effective and convenient local governance.

3 The point about ensuring effective local governance is particularly applicable to this case, as North Bradley Parish Council has recently commenced Public Consultation on a Review of its Neighbourhood Plan. This is being done in partnership with Trowbridge Council to maintain the current Plan boundary.

4 In reviewing the Neighbourhood plan, I would expect that consideration will have to be given to various policies in the Core Strategy and the Local Plan Review. Looking at the Core Strategy first, Issues and considerations, paragraph 5.147 sets out specific issues to be addressed in planning for the Trowbridge Community Area, which include :-

“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.” This issue is embedded in Core policy 29.

5 The Core Strategy in paragraph 6.79 states *“There is a need to protect the distinct character and identity of the villages and settlements in Wiltshire, and a particular issue has been highlighted in those parts of the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area which adjoin the administrative area of Swindon Borough Council, where there may be additional development pressure. The separate identity of these settlements should be protected in line with Core Policy 51. **The local community may also wish to consider this matter further in any future community-led plan, such as a neighbourhood plan.**”*

Core Policy 51 states *“Landscape - Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance landscape character and must not have an unacceptable impact upon landscape character; while any negative impacts must be mitigated as far as possible through sensitive design and landscape measures..... In particular, proposals will need to demonstrate that the following aspects of landscape character have been considered:”*including *“ii. the locally distinctive character of settlements and their landscape settings.”*

6 In addition, Strategic objective 4: helping to build resilient communities states :- *“3.7 This strategy will provide support for Wiltshire’s communities, enabling them to help themselves and improve their quality of life, foster a sense of community belonging, safety, social inclusion and self-sufficiency.”* One of the Key Outcomes is set out as *“Significant progress will have been made towards addressing the identified shortfall in the range of sport, leisure and recreation facilities.”*

7 When the North Bradley Parish Council was developing the current plan it wished to pursue the Core Strategy policies by incorporating an encompassing Landscape Gap to protect North Bradley village's physical separation from Trowbridge Town. Unfortunately it was stymied in doing this because the layout of the WHSAP allocation of housing on site H2.2, adjacent to the WHBP, was not settled. Thus, the current Plan only includes an area to the North, mostly the Trowbridge Town Football Club site.

8 Progress on the H2.2 Planning Application, with a New Masterplan having been submitted, could now permit consideration of a Landscape Gap extension along the East side of North Bradley village on the part of the site that is now no longer proposed for housing. This would allow a boundary between North Bradley village as shown by a red broken line on the submitted Masterplan below.

9 As mentioned at the beginning, North Bradley Parish Council has recently commenced Public Consultation on a Review of its Neighbourhood Plan, in partnership with Trowbridge Council to maintain the current Plan boundary. In carrying out the review, consideration will also have to be taken of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review. There are many references in the Local Plan Draft that are relevant. These are set out in the appendix to this document.

10 If the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is to produce the best possible Neighbourhood Plan in the most cost efficient way, it clearly needs the Boundary Review body to determine for the future and and adjust the Parish boundary as shown on the above plan, to allow for the landscape Gap extension.



DF Proposed Amendment to the advertised alteration of the North Bradley - Trowbridge Boundary

Appendix – Relevant Wiltshire Draft Local Plan Policies that will have to be considered in the Neighbourhood Plan

Policy 83

Health and wellbeing

Proposals should demonstrate that development will contribute positively to health and wellbeing by enabling and promoting healthy lifestyles and **minimising any negative health and wellbeing impacts.**

Policy 88

Biodiversity and geodiversity

Development proposals must demonstrate how they protect features of nature conservation value, both terrestrial and aquatic, and geological value as part of the design rationale. **There is an expectation that such features shall be retained, sufficiently buffered, and managed favourably to maintain their ecological value, connectivity and functionality in perpetuity.**

Local sites, priority habitat and habitats of principal importance and local ecological networks

Development will avoid direct and indirect impacts upon local sites by maintaining sufficient buffers and ecological connectivity with the wider environment. **Damage or disturbance to local sites will be unacceptable,** other than in exceptional circumstances where it has been demonstrated that such impacts:

1. cannot reasonably be avoided;
2. are reduced as far as possible;
3. are outweighed by other planning considerations of overriding public interest;
4. where appropriate compensation measures can be secured through planning obligations or agreements.

Development proposals should avoid negative impacts upon priority habitat, habitats of principal importance, ecological networks, and wildlife corridors, instead promoting their conservation, restoration, and enhancement alongside the recovery of priority species.

Policy 90

Woodland, hedgerows, and trees

Proposals for major development shall make provision for the retention and enhancement of Wiltshire's woodlands, hedgerows, and trees, and shall incorporate these assets into development design

Policy 91

Conserving and enhancing Wiltshire's landscapes

Development will conserve and where possible enhance Wiltshire's landscapes by:

2. conserving, enhancing, and restoring the characteristics and views of landscapes along with valued attributes and existing site features such as trees, hedgerows, dry stone walls and waterbodies that contribute to the character and quality of the area;
3. conserving and enhancing the locally distinctive character of settlements and their landscape settings;

Policy 98

Ensuring high quality design and place shaping

A high standard of design is required in all new developments, including extensions, alterations, and changes of use of existing buildings. This will be achieved through:

- i. enhancing local distinctiveness by responding to the value of the natural and historic environment, relating positively to its landscape setting and the existing pattern of development and responding to local topography by ensuring that important views into, within and out of the site are to be retained and enhanced;
- ii. the retention and enhancement of existing important landscaping and natural features, (e.g. trees, hedges, banks and watercourses), in order to take opportunities to enhance biodiversity, create wildlife and recreational corridors, effectively integrate the development into its setting and to justify and mitigate against any losses that may occur through the development;

End

Community Governance Review Consultation – February 2024

The council very strongly encourages respondents to complete a survey online at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-cgr> rather than by use of this hard copy form. This will also allow more space for responding.

A community governance review must:

Reflect the identities and interests of the communities in that area; and provide effective and convenient local governance.

Consequently, a review must take into account:

The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

This survey will ask for details of your name and postcode. This is in order to analyse responses by area and to analyse multiple respondents at the same postcode. Unless representing an organisation or group, names of respondents will not be published. Hard copy responses will be input into an online database along with the online responses. Names/Email addresses will be deleted after the conclusion of the review by March 2025.

Note: Additional sheets may be included, should you wish to expand beyond the space provided.

1. Please tick the following box if you consent to participate in the survey and provide the information requested for the purposes listed above

2. **What is your name?**

3. **What is your postcode or postcode of your business/organisation?**

4. **Which recommendation part are you responding to?**

Recommendation 9 – Wilcot Huish and Oare, and West Overton

5. **Are you responding to this survey as?**

- A resident of Wilcot, Huish and Oare (Area K)
- A resident of Wilcot, Huish and Oare (not from Area K)
- A resident of West Overton
- A business or commercial concern in the area affected by a proposal
- A representative of a town or parish council affected by a proposal, or a unitary representative from the area affected. Specify _____
- An interested party not necessarily from the area affected by the proposals

8. Also taking account of the criteria of 'Effective and Convenient Local Governance' and 'Community Identity and Interests' please explain the reason you agree or disagree with the recommendation.

Having lived in Heath Cottage for 40 years, worked at Care School for 27 years, attended there as a pupil myself 60 years ago, I feel very much part of Care. My own children also attended Care School, my daughter got married at Huish church, which we still attend for services such as Christmas. I feel strongly associated with Huish and Care and this family belonging goes back for more than 100 yrs as Heath Cottage belonged to my great grandfather.

I enclose extracts from "The Land of Lettore Sweetapple" which show that Heath Cottage was extant and situated in the parish of Huish at least as early as AD 939. The house may even have been named after Ralph atte Hele, which seems to be an ancient Saxon name. For more than 1000 yrs my house has been the most northerly dwelling in the parish and this is reflected in the "Pan Care Area" book published by the Care Village Hall Committee in 2000 AD, where we have pride of place as the very first photographic entry of properties recorded in this millennium record of the parish.

I mentioned my long family association with Care School. I am very concerned that if Heath Cottage is transferred to West Overton, future generations of children will have to be transported at cost and inconvenience to Wilts Council and its taxpayers, due to the much greater distance to the alternative school in a new catchment area. Apart from transport, the difficulties associated with after-school clubs and friendships would be exacerbated by the long distance to

8. Also taking account of the criteria of 'Effective and Convenient Local Governance' and 'Community identity and Interests' please explain the reason you agree or disagree with the recommendation.

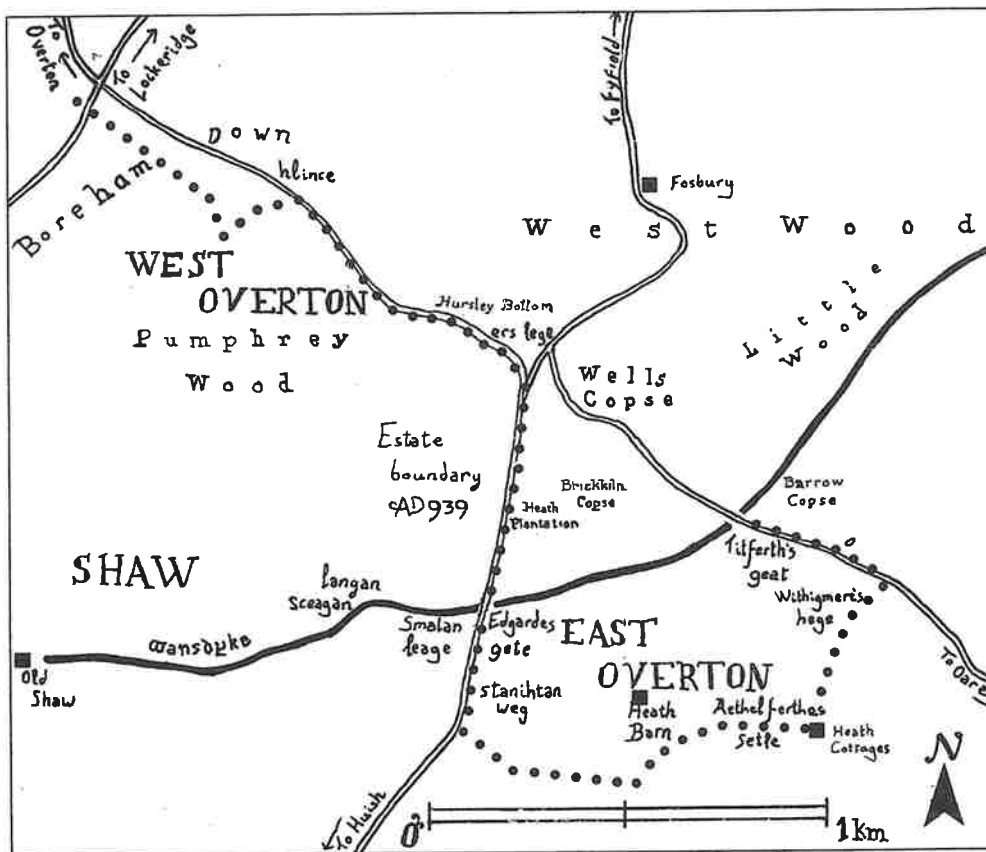
the new catchment school.
I received the letter about this consultation on 21st February so have lost 9 days of the survey period. The letter says that the "Background" was a survey from 31st October - 26th November 2023 but I asked my parish council (Wilcot Huish and Oare PC) but they said they had not been contacted about my house during 2023. They said they had not been asked to take part in a survey of relevant parish councils.

THE LAND OF
LETTICE SWEETAPPLE

An English Countryside Explored



Peter Fowler & Ian Blackwell



63 Map of the southern bounds of East Overton, AD 939, shown as a dotted line clockwise from 'Tiferthes geat' to 'hlince'. Other points from the East Overton charter are named, as are some other features for the purposes of identification using a modern map.

which was the home of Ralph atte Hethe four hundred years after the charter.

The present parish boundary follows the tenth century one here as it turns west at Heath Cottages, and heads south along the edge of Heath Grounds and then west to join the track from Huish to Lockeridge (SU 14706514), the *stanihtan weg* of the charter. The 'stony way' suggests that this route was metalled, perhaps in a similar manner to the Ridgeway at the West Overton/East Kennet ford as described in the West Overton charter. So perhaps it was a busy way too, giving added significance to our identification of another gap through Wansdyke as another 'gate', *Eadgardes gete* (SU 14786548). This break in the ditch lay near *langan sceagan*, the long wood, and *smalan leage*, the small or narrow lea. The boundary then continued east of Pickrudge and Pumphrey Wood, *thurh scyt hangran and lang thaes weg* to them *hlince*, through Chichangles — wonderful name — along the path to the lynchet. At the time *scyt hangran*, the 'wood on the steep hill-side', marked the western edge of Savernake. Over the generations this tongue twister was modified into a word the people of Wiltshire found easier to pronounce, *Chichangles*. In the early nineteenth century, in another act of etymological vandalism, the new tenant farmer

have stood at the western edge of the estate on the boundary now marked by the Ridgeway (61). At first we thought the site may have been near the sixteenth-century Orchard Farmhouse, probably in the area of the original village of West Overton, but the early maps from the Record Office pointed to a spot a little further south. At the junction of The Ridgeway and the track called Double Hedge Way which travels across the downs to West Woods, the cartographer of 1794 had inked in 'Church Ditch'. Caution has to be shown here, for this land may simply have been ecclesiastical. The reference certainly does not prove a church, let alone the Anglo-Saxon church we sought, stood here; yet such a reference might conceivably have caught an earlier memory, and the location itself appears promising (58).

The small church was presumably a simple wooden building in origin but possibly with at least stone foundations by the tenth century. It could have served the needs not only of the small community straddled along the Ridgeway, but also the travellers who were increasingly using this downland route in Anglo-Saxon times to journey, with their flocks, herds and goods, between the Thames Valley and the Wessex chalklands to the south. West Overton in, say, the eighth and ninth centuries could well have been a busy spot, the perfect place for a church to prosper, catering for pilgrims, weary shepherds, monastic staff on business, traders and warriors. The remnants of the church, wherever it stood, have not yet been discovered, even after an extensive aerial photographic search. Walking the fields after the next ploughing, though, may prove more successful.

The greatest reward of all for the modern explorer comes, however, when he or she sets out, with charter in hand, to trace these boundaries of a thousand years ago. The hackneyed sentence that 'The past is a foreign country' comes to mind for, although the landscape may be reasonably familiar, you are looking at it through the eyes and mind-set of a 'foreigner' from another time-country. So imagine our satisfaction at discovering that the charter's *Tiferth's gate* actually existed at a gap in Wansdyke, the significance of which had not previously been spotted; and at suddenly stumbling across 'withypond' of the charter and finding willows still there. Another cliché, the one about walking in the footsteps of the past, literally becomes true (63).

Here we are working out what happened after *Tiferth's gate* around the extreme south eastern corner of the East Overton estate as visited in AD 939. We wonder if they had some sort of sketch map as well as their vellum text. We used old Ordnance Survey 25 inch (1:2500) and 6 inch to the mile (c. 1:10,000) maps; you can easily follow, on the ground but without even getting out of your chair, using one modern Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, New Explorer sheet 157. The 'gate' was at the south corner of Wells' Copse and Little Wood and at the west corner of Barrow Copse where a track passes through Wansdyke (SU 15406570). From the gate, the boundary travelled to the east side of the hedge at 'willow pond' (*withigmeres hege*) and then *suth on butan Aethelferthes setle on thone stanihtan weg*, 'south around Aethelferthe's dwelling to the stony way'. The pond lies just beyond the long barrow we met earlier in Barrow Copse (Chapter 8), and willows continue to grow there. Indeed, the species at Willow Pond might well be lineal descendants of the Saxon ones.

Locational exactitude is important, for the following point in the charter holds out the rare promise of being able to identify the site of a Saxon house of a named person. Aethelferthe — though we have not yet found it. The site lies somewhere high among (former) woodland on clay-with-flints. The place may have been near the end of the track from the clay pits (SU 15126527), where a settlement stood from the late eighteenth century until at least the 1930s. Or it may have been near Heath Cottages (SU 15586514).

Response to draft recommendation 5 area marked “F”

Thank you for your letter dated February 2024 informing me of the draft recommendation to move my property (103) out of Clyffe Pypard. I would be grateful if you could consider the following points in response to the consultation :

Closest community

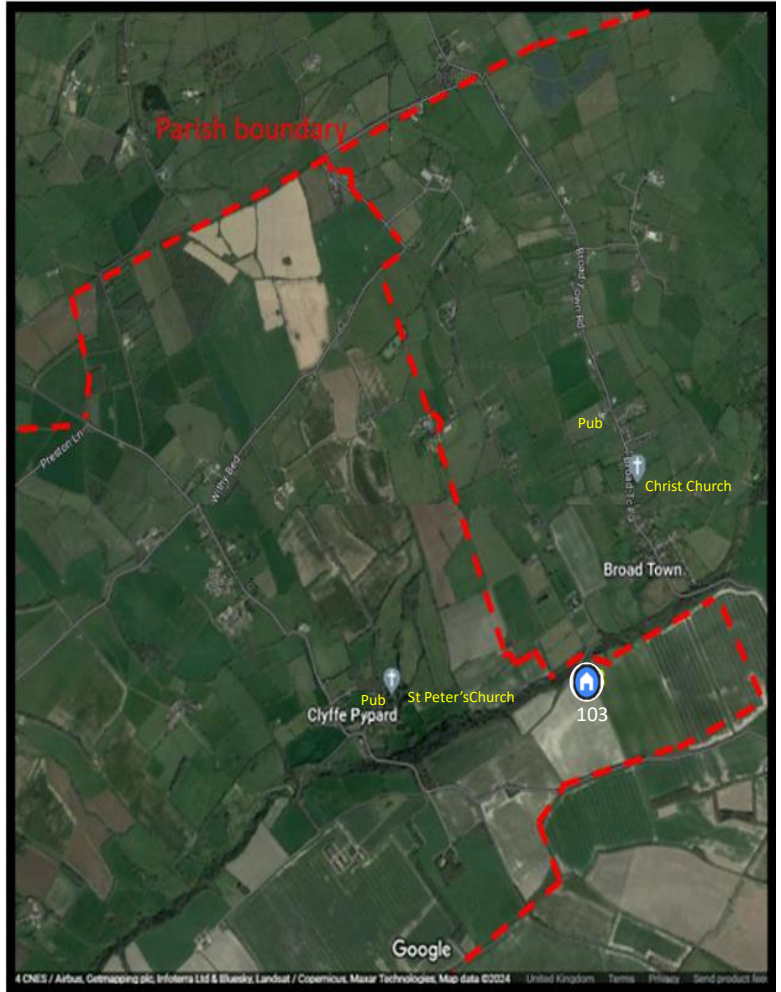
The draft recommendation states that Broad Town is much closer in geography and community connections, however, the map used during the committee meeting (when this recommendation was made) only showed 30% of Broad Town. I would be very grateful if you could widen the scope to include the remaining 70% of Broad Town?

As shown in the wider context opposite both parishes of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town each have a Church and a pub where communities come together (shown in yellow).

103 (📍) is geographically closer to Clyffe Pypard’s Church & Pub¹.

Community connection is a consequence of choice and it is **widely acknowledged that I am deeply connected with Clyffe Pypard.**

Overall 103 is closer to the parish of Clyffe Pypard



Access

Both Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town lost their village shops many years ago resulting in rural communities having to travel to grocery stores nearby. The distance maps opposite demonstrate that Lyneham is marginally closer to 103 being 8.4km away.

Clyffe Pypard parish has to be driven through in order to travel to the nearest grocery store.



The remote positioning of 103 means that **utilities such as LPG gas, septic tank emptying, rubbish/recycling collection all drive through Clyffe Pypard in order to service 103.**

103 is accessed from the unclassified adopted road ref: [87701](#) running from the C120 (Clyffe Pypard) past 103 to the C119 (Broad Town).

When you walk out of 103 you are in Clyffe Pypard.

¹ The Clyffe Pypard Pub is currently on the market as a public house

Unifying properties in one parish

The map below demonstrates that there are three examples on this boundary alone (between Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town) where two properties are in close proximity yet not unified within one parish :

	<p>1</p>	<p>Two properties (Scrap View & the Birches - 77m apart) divided between the parishes of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town</p>	
	<p>2</p>	<p>Two properties (Manor Farm cottage & South Farm Cottage - 20m apart) divided between the parishes of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town</p>	
	<p>3</p>	<p>Two properties (103 & 101 - 60m apart) divided between the parishes of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town</p>	

It seems unfair and unreasonable to move 103 out of the parish of Clyffe Pypard when there are other properties in close proximity divided between the parishes of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town. Clyffe Pypard already services a wide area including many other isolated homes, therefore, there is no difference in governance terms.

The well-defined parish boundary was created in 1846 following agricultural fields, hence the above 3 kinks. Given the agricultural history and remote rural setting surely this isn't an anomaly this is normal?

Broad Town & Clyffe Pypard continue to share strong historical ties e.g. the Spackman Educational Trust offering funding to help educate children or young people residing in both the parishes of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town.

The Community plan results below show that there's a strong emphasis on protecting landmarks, heritage and agricultural rural roots suggesting that the boundary should be left alone and not amended.

- 87% of respondents said it was important to protect our rural landscape.
- 79% of respondents said it was important to protect our heritage
- 83% of respondents said it was important to have access to wildlife and protect our landmarks
- 85% of respondents said it was important that they lived in a rural setting

The existing boundary is easily identifiable following footpath BTOW5. The proposed boundary has no ground feature.

I'm not suggesting for one minute that these other properties should be unified within Broad Town because if anything Clyffe Pypard's falling population suggests that the parish should retain not loose properties.

It is unfair to move 103 when it is normal to have properties not unified in one parish given the agricultural history, historic ties, community wishes and use of identifiable ground marks such as the footpath.

Is the current boundary understood?

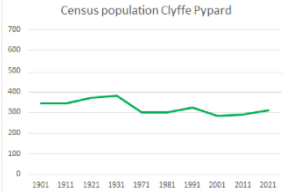
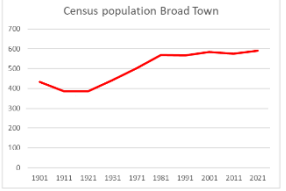
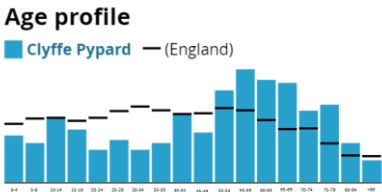
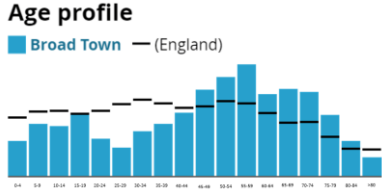
Moving 1 property from the parish of Clyffe Pypard isn't going to solve the disparity in the number of households believed to be within the parish of Clyffe Pypard (shown opposite).

Source	# households
Parish Council	150
Post Office Address File (PAF)	152
Wiltshire Council address file	141
Community Plan	112

Moving 103 out of the parish of Clyffe Pypard will not make the boundary more well-defined/understood/recognisable.

Understanding the unique characteristics and needs of the local population

The table below highlights the dimensions of both parishes:

	Clyffe Pypard	Broad Town
2021 census # households population Source : ONS	130 310 	240 590 
Parish area in acres	3,217	2,040
2021 census Age Source : ONS	Age profile ■ Clyffe Pypard — (England) 	Age profile ■ Broad Town — (England) 
Planning Status Source : Settlement Strategy	No status - Clyffe Pypard is defined as “in the countryside where only housing to enable workers to live at or in the immediate vicinity of their place of work in the interests of agriculture or forestry or other employment essential to the countryside” is permitted	Framework Boundary – Broad Town is defined as “small”. Despite development being limited to infill, outline planning for a new small estate has been approved opposite the Church

The above dimensions highlight sparseness as the important characteristic identity of the parish of Clyffe Pypard. The lack of a planning status for Clyffe Pypard indicates that the parish should retain not loose properties like 103.

103 and Clyffe Pypard village share the same rare identity both being remote, wooded, rural locations away from a main traffic route with an ambience of peace and solitude with little intrusion from the world beyond. 103 has nothing in common with Broad Town’s busy main road² or the two housing estates with a 3rd development agreed in outline planning terms.

If listening to residents’ voices and involving them in decision-making is important moving 103 out of Clyffe Pypard goes against Clyffe Pypard’s community aims and objectives to protect our heritage and setting and to protect and enhance the individual, separate identity of the many historic rural settlements within its area (see [Clyffe Pypard Community Plan](#)).

I won’t repeat what I’ve already said, however, please note the deep community connection and points previously made.

If you weigh up all of the above points I hope you will conclude that on the balance of probability moving 103 out of the parish it has been in since the domesday will not make one iota of difference to effective and convenient local governance or the identities and interests of local communities.

If you do one good thing today please recommend that there is NO change to the parish boundary leaving 103 where it has always been in the parish of Clyffe Pypard.

² the last metrocount measured 1,969 daily vehicles

Wiltshire Council

Electoral Review Committee

3 April 2024

Parish Name Change Review

Purpose

1. To consider proposals to change the name of the parish of Clyffe Pypard

Background

2. Changing the name of a parish or parish council can be done through a Community Governance Review process in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
3. However, such a change may also be progressed under s.75 of the Local Government Act 1972.
4. As the latter would be a simpler process in terms of structure, consultation and decision, the Committee at its meeting on 21 September 2021 resolved that where a request was received solely regarding a parish name change, the s.75 process would be followed.
5. This report relates to requests from the parish of Clyffe Pypard, which is located south of Royal Wootton Bassett, within the Electoral Division of Lyneham.
6. 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). This 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, it could not be recommended.

Main Considerations

7. Clyffe Pypard Parish Council requested that the name of the parish be changed to Clyffe Pypard and Bushton. The reason for the request was:

To more accurately reflect the communities served by the Parish Council, which has historically represented the two neighbouring villages.

The parish includes two main settlements: Clyffe Pypard and Bushton. Bushton is the larger settlement, but it is not reflected in the name of the parish.

This change was unanimously supported by the parish council

8. 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.
9. 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 above.

10. However, at request of the Committee on 9 January 2024 a survey was set up to seek any local views, with a request this be circulated in the community by the parish council and others.

11. 44 responses were received to the survey, as attached at **Appendix A**. 36 responses were in favour and 8 against the proposal. 2 of the responses against the proposal (which were submitted from the same email address) incorrectly stated Clyffe Pypard and Bushton were separate parishes under a joint parish council, when the area is a single parish with multiple communities.

12. 42 responses stated they were submitted by residents of the parish. As the total electorate of Clyffe Pypard is approximately 251, then even with the total population being higher than the electorate this would indicate a very significant proportion of the parish have responded to the name change proposal.

Safeguarding Implications

13. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

14. There are no public health implications.

Procurement Implications

15. There are no procurement implications.

Risk Assessment

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

Equalities Implications

17. There are no equalities implications.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

18. There are no environmental implications.

Workforce Implications

19. There are no workforce implications.

Financial Implications

20. There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

21. This report is consistent with the requirements of s.75 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Options

22. 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 council to recommend an alternative name to Full Council if appropriate.

Proposal

23. To consider whether to recommend Full Council approve the following name changes:

The Parish of Clyffe Pypard be changed to the Parish of Clyffe Pypard and Bushton.

Perry Holmes - Director, Legal and Governance

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Appendices

Appendix A – Responses to the Name Change Survey

Background Papers

None

Appendix A

Number	Status	Agree/Disagree	Comments
1	Interested Party	Agree	It makes absolute sense to include both parishes, and also for the settlements to be names in that order as Clyffe is the original name and Bushton is being added to it.
2	Interested Party	Agree	Agree with the proposal as it may Bushton residents feel more included in the PC
3	Resident	Disagree	The suggested new name is a bit of a mouthful. Why change something that has been fine for hundreds of years.
4	Resident	Agree	The parish name should reflect the names of both neighbouring settlements of Clyffe Pypard and Bushton. I am proud to live in this area and would like Bushton's name to be included in the parish name.
5	Resident	Agree	It totally makes sense as Bushton is the larger settlement and therefore should be recognised.
6	Resident	Agree	Bushton should be included, as it is a large part of the parish area.
7	Resident	Disagree	Clyffe Pypard Parish is the historical name and in my opinion should be retained. The settlements of Bupton and The Barton are also within Clyffe Pypard Parish.
8	Resident	Agree	It makes sense and is more reflective of the actual residents
9	Resident	Disagree	I prefer the shorter and historical name of Clyffe Pypard for the Parish.
10	Resident	Disagree	My postal address is Bushton, but it doesn't bother me one iota that the Parish name excludes Bushton. So what if Bushton is the larger settlement, in the grand scheme of things does it really matter!
11	Resident	Agree	The name needs to change to reflect the reality of the community - Bushton and Clyffe Pypard are the 2 main settlements but Bushton is not currently recognised in the civic parish name
12	Resident	Agree	More people working together.
13	Resident	Agree	It will make us all feel included in local matters.
14	Resident	Agree	Sensible proposal so that both villages are included in the title
15	Resident	Agree	Bushton is a key part of the parish community
16	Resident	Agree	
17	Resident	Agree	
18	Resident	Agree	
19	Resident	Agree	
20	Resident	Agree	better integration of the community
21	Resident	Agree	Bushton is the larger settlement and also the location of the village hall. It deserves to be included in the Parish name
22	Resident	Agree	It makes sense for both communities to be represented.

23	Resident	Agree	It would make good common sense to do it BUT is there a cost (eg printed maps, guides etc)
24	Resident	Agree	Bushton should be included in the name of the parish council
25	Resident	Agree	makes sense!
26	Resident	Agree	
27	Resident	Agree	Currently both villages are impacted by the parish council decisions so fair request to include Bushton in the name
28	Resident	Agree	I think it makes the whole settlement more inclusive.
29	Resident	Agree	We are anonymous the last link to Clyffe Pypard we SHOULD be joined as... CLYFFE PYPARD and BUSHTON Parish Council!!!! there are after all enough people living in BUSHTON..... i am a resident.
30	Resident	Agree	
31	Resident	Agree	It is more logical to have both names in the title.
32	Resident	Disagree	Don't really see the need for such a change
33	Resident	Agree	To bring together both settlements Clyffe Pypard and Bushton. The village hall is in Bushton.
34	Resident	Agree	It seems like a good idea to bring the communities together.
35	Resident	Agree	It's logical, makes perfect sense - in line with reasons already submitted by Parish Council.
36	Resident	Agree	It is a very logical change to make. Both settlements make the whole parish and it should be reflected in the name
37	Resident	Agree	While largely ambivalent about the change I can see that it reflects the physical "on the ground" make up of the Parish.
38	Resident	Agree	the reasons stated by the PC
39	Resident	Agree	The name is more inclusive and gives Bushton residents a clearer identity. We understand that associated costs would be minimal.
40	Resident	Agree	It makes sense
41	Resident	Agree	Reflects the close ties and equality of the 2 villages more appropriately
42	Resident	Disagree	We are two separate parishes and I wish to remain as such, I can't see any good reason to change it as there doesn't seem to be any advantage for the change. According to the old maps the area has always been known as Clyffe Pypard. I have no objection to the Parish Council being called Clyffe Pypard and Bushton parish council because that is what it is (a joint council of the two parishes)
43	Resident (Duplicate email to 42)	Disagree	I don't see the reason to change,. I have been here 44 years and no problems. I came here with my husband and three children and still love the area. We are two different parishes, always have been.and I always want them to be. I don't mind the Parish Council being joint but certainly not the

			area. I would like CLYFFE PYPARD to remain a separate parish.
44	Resident	Disagree	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. The Civil Parish of Clyffe Pypard was established from five tythings at the close of the 19th. Century as you know. In all subsequent legal and governance matters it has been so referred. The Neighbourhood Plan enabling regulations are also reflective. Therefore it does not seem necessary or relevant and will probably result in additional costs revising a number of existing references and legalities etc. The equivalent to changing the name of a Civil Parish could be likened to an application to change the name of Wiltshire Council to Wiltshire and Salisbury and Chippenham Council . Based on a vainglorious and similar attempt - and which could be expanded as well (Marlborough, Pewsey, Wilton etc.)! Hence "Clyffe Pypard and Thickthorn and Bushton and Woodhill and The Barton and Upper Ham Parish Council" Clyffe Pypard is the notation for the civil electoral (Parish) area and should remain just that. Thank you Keith</p>