

HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Area 3a – Wyke Road

Hilperton Parish Council supports the suggestion of the CGR working group that the residents of these houses should choose which civil parish they reside in. The Parish Council would be happy for the 'transfer in' of the Trowbridge residents if no decisive decision can be reached by the residents themselves. The Parish Council feels that having all the houses in Hilperton would reflect the identity and interests of the community in that area and would, in addition, be effective and convenient.

Area 3b – Hilperton Gap

Neither the Parish Council nor the Town Council proposals were displayed at the meeting earlier this month. The Parish Council is led to believe that neither proposal is being taken forward by the working group and so the 'land grab' by the Town Council for greenfield land, with no designation for development, will fall. Hilperton Parish Council is content if this is correct and the *status quo* will prevail for this area of land.

Area 3c – Paxcroft Mead south of Hilperton Drive/Halfway Close and brook

Trowbridge Town Council Proposal

The Parish Council was surprised to see the Town Council suggestion for this area used in the presentation at County Hall, as the Parish Council understood that the working group had made a decision that the land to the east of Leapgate was not being taken forward; a decision the Parish Council would agree with as this is, basically, another greenfield 'land grab' (the 'cricket square' and surrounding open space) which would rip the heart out of the south of the parish. Only about thirty properties are in the area but it also contains one of the two Hilperton primary schools, the Community Centre (the Parish Council is the custodian trustee), all the shops in the Local Centre (including the local branch of Budgens, a fish and chip shop and a Chinese takeaway) and one of the three pubs in the parish (the Red Admiral).

The wish of the Town Council to seize the housing in the Painters Mead area is covered below.

Hilperton Parish Council Proposal

The realignment of part of the Hilperton/Trowbridge boundary follows distinct physical features and, as demonstrated at the Trowbridge CGR meeting, meets with approval from the residents who firmly see themselves as residents of Hilperton.

In the FAQ paper supplied by Wiltshire Council, it states 'Therefore any changes made by a CGR **must** (our emphasis) improve communities and local democracy'.

Not 'maintain' but 'improve'. How would transferring these houses to Trowbridge meet this objective?

Bearing this statement in mind, the Parish Council would like to suggest that the proposed boundary suggested by it last year should be revised to more closely follow the fence line of the properties in Halfway Close/Hilperton Road so that all the open space to the north of Faverolle Way remains in Hilperton. It would also suggest that the boundary line should remain 'as is' in the area of Walmesley Chase/Montague Court.

Other Comments relating to area 3c

At the recent Salisbury CGR meeting an item was discussed – at great length – as under:-

“Suggestions were received for the Hampton Park and Bishopdown Farm areas of Salisbury city, and Laverstock and Ford Parish. The two schemes seek to move properties into one parish or the other, hence the current consultation on the two proposals”.

Hilperton Parish Council understood that a similar scheme was under consideration for the Painters Mead area of Paxcroft Mead as shown by the powerpoint at the Trowbridge CGR meeting referring to proposals relating to '200 – 600 + properties being presented completely neutrally'; the idea being that the 600 houses would move either all into Trowbridge or all into Hilperton.

Is this proposal no longer under consideration? If not, why not? It would represent a consistent approach across the county.

Marylyn Timms
Clerk to Hilperton Parish Council
20th October, 2015