

For the last 9 years I have lived in Trowbridge. Previously I have lived in towns, both Calne and Chippenham, small villages and for 6 years in a new edge of town development namely Staverton Marina.

Some of the people who live on the Paxcroft Mead estate may technically be living in Hilperton Parish, at the moment, but they do not live in Hilperton nor do they live in a village. To my mind they live in an edge of town, new development. This does not prevent them from having community spirit but that community is not a traditional village community and never will be.

Similarly the people who live on the new Home Farm development, plus the 2,500 houses still to be built will always live closer to Trowbridge than West Ashton. Indeed the village community of West Ashton would be seriously changed and affected by such a large development in their Parish. Wiltshire Council would be wise to look to the future and take this opportunity to redefine this boundary now and ensure total clarity for all new residents moving in, as the additional houses are built.

It is a ludicrous situation which splits a street in half and / or separates a few houses from the rest of their neighbours. It is little wonder to me that individuals are reduced to arguing about 'dog poo bins' when Wiltshire Councillors are reluctant to see the bigger picture and make sometimes difficult but ultimately sensible decisions.

Several times it was mentioned that Trowbridge Town Council was 'looking to land grab'. What I heard at the meeting was that Trowbridge Town Council was looking to the future, not just for town residents, such as me, but also for all of those who live in the surrounding parishes. Trowbridge Town Council is looking to continue to build on and improve the changes already made and / or which are underway in Trowbridge.

- The Civic Centre development and the services provided by the Trowbridge Information Centre
- The Odeon development
- The development of the old Peter Black site
- The improvements made to the Trowbridge Museum
- The re-opening of The Town Hall as a viable venue
- The proposed sports development to complement the new Rugby Club
- Trowbridge town park, Biss Meadow, The Sensory Garden

These are just some of the things which Trowbridge Town Council have supported, been solely responsible for or strong partners with Wiltshire Council to ensure their success.

All of these facilities are open to and available to residents of our neighbouring parishes. Indeed Trowbridge residents are extremely generous in sharing our resources to ensure a strong and effective community area.

Trowbridge Town Council is the organisation best placed with staff already in post, experience and resources to ensure continued improvement and enhancements to our County Town.

Boundary changes do not change where you live, your home will still be in the same place nor do they change the community you live in.

If we can no longer rely on older, traditional boundaries such as field boundaries and hedgerows then we must look to the future and use other obvious landscaping such as roads or rivers and streams.

Therefore I would propose that the Hilperton / Trowbridge boundary should be set as the A361. Similarly the West Ashton / Trowbridge boundary should be set as the A350. Any roads or housing developments which are split should move into Trowbridge where they will get better provision of services and, I am sure, a speedy response to their requests for 'dog poo bins',

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