

## WORKING GROUP ON PARISH & COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

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**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PARISH & COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2015 AT ATRIUM, COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.**

**Present:**

Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Ian McLennan and Cllr Stuart Wheeler

**Also Present:**

Ian Gibbons  
John Watling  
Paul Taylor  
Jessica Croman

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**9 Welcome & Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced the panel.

**10 Purpose and procedures of the meeting**

The Chairman explained the reasons for Community Governance Reviews, procedure for the meeting, and that decisions on boundaries would be taken by Full Council.

**11 Proposals**

Maps were presented showing the proposals.

**11a Area 3C Halfway Close and Brook**

**Comments in support:**

Peter Fuller

- The whole area should be uniform and in the same parish. Those living there and local candidates are unsure which parish which houses are in.

- The whole of the Paxcroft area should fall into Trowbridge and be uniform.
- Residents think that they are part of the town with services not in a village.
- In order for Trowbridge town to improve its services they need to be able to expand.

Andrew Bryant - TTC Chair of Town Development

- Agree with the proposals – The services will diminish in the area including grass cutting/ maintenance and local facilities.
- TC can take on the capacity and improve the services.
- TC get more of the precept so have the finances to support the area properly.
- Painters Close etc use the services of TTC, Hilperton does not have or provide any services.
- The residents in that area associate their community identity as in Trowbridge.
- Most of the Paxcroft area is already in Trowbridge so it makes sense to make the whole area uniform.

### **Comments against:**

Danny Faltford – Local Resident in Paxcroft

- Like area & community and do not want change.
- Hilperton PC has been outstanding.
- Cannot see the benefits of moving into Trowbridge TC.

Peter Frost

- Services provided within the area are adequate and not a good reason to move the area into Trowbridge.

Tony Rural – Local resident

- Feel as though I live in Hilperton.
- Residents do know where they live and they are proud to live there.
- Do not want to be consumed by Trowbridge.
- Using services in Trowbridge is the same as using services in Bath or any other surrounding town/city.

New Comment

- Trowbridge Town Cllrs are arrogant and do not know what the people

of Paxcroft want. They need to go out and speak to the people who live there.

**Additional comments/ questions:**

June Hawker

- What will happen with the Hilperton gap? Would that impact development?
  - Boundaries would not affect any planning issues.

Jenny Ragged – Campaign for Transport

- Is planning really unaffected? Any changes would affect the community infrastructure levy change?
- Council tax – what goes to PC compared to TC?
- Criteria for drawing the boundary?
  - The levy is still not set in place. Depending on where any development is built, if it is between two parishes then the levy would be split.
  - Council tax rates – the precept is set by the parish/ TC by themselves and Wiltshire Council collect the precept on their behalf. The working group is not allowed to take into consideration precept rates while making recommendations or full council when making the decision.

**12 Area 3a Wyke Road**

**Comments in support:**

Andrew Bryant (TTC)

- Prefer border to the right to tidy up the area.
- Unfair on houses below who pay the higher precept and that small area does not.

Shan Debashi – voluntary group

- The voluntary group have plans to hopefully help all areas to be proud to use facilities in Trowbridge.
- Parish lines can determine or deprive areas of step changes because of finances.
- All surrounding parishes are users of Trowbridge town.
- Only because of the perception of Trowbridge TC people are negative but that needs to change.

Derek Carville

- The area should be in Trowbridge and the boundary line should follow the Hilperton gap road.

**Comments against:**

None

**Additional comments:**

New comment

- Unfair if not giving everyone in the area a choice on whether they want to be in Trowbridge or Hilperton.

**12a Shore Place**

**Comments in support:**

Jeff Osbourne

- Logical move and agree with the proposal.
- Current boundary is based on old maps.
- Trowbridge is unable to sort local issues (dog droppings) as part of the area falls in Wingfield and Wingfield will not supply bins.

Helen Osbourne

- Currently unable to support residents on the same road who have the same problems as they are based in Wingfield. The whole area needs to be in the same parish.

Andrew Bryant Trowbridge TC

- Agree with the scheme

Tracey Sullivan – Town Hall Arts and Culture

- Agree with the proposal, will make a difference to the town.
- Will help make people feel proud to be part of Trowbridge (community identity).

**Comments against:**

None

**Additional comments:**

None

**12b Area 4a Old Farm, West Ashton**

**Comments in support:**

Alan Cooper– Biss Meadows Country Park

- If the Biss Meadows was under the Town Council then they would get more support.
- Country park is split part of it is in Trowbridge and part in West Ashton, makes sense to bring the whole area together as part of Trowbridge.
- The development land where houses are proposed will extend Biss Meadows. Need to move the whole area into Trowbridge before they are built.

Andre Bryant – Trowbridge TC

- Agree that the area should move into Trowbridge
- The current area is far extended away from the West Ashton parish
- Built right next to Trowbridge boundary

New comment – Castle Mead School

- Consider the school and area as part of Trowbridge and follows the Trowbridge admissions process
- Facilities are big benefit in Trowbridge and used by all
  - The school was already in the Trowbridge boundary.

Derek Callaway

- Old Farm Road is a new development so how did West Ashton live before? It should have little effect.

New comment

- Do not think it will effect West Ashton because Trowbridge has a good sense of community

**Comments against:**

Tim Lemare – Local Resident

- Do not want to move into Trowbridge, do not associate identity with Trowbridge
- See little benefit from being part of Trowbridge
- Many people find work and recreation outside of the area and do not necessarily use Trowbridge town but Bath and surrounding areas just as much.
- Percept is spent well in the West Ashton parish area
- The local village hall is used by the whole county
- 303 houses in West Ashton parish – 117 in old farm estate – if taken West Ashton will reduce by 38%.
- West Ashton as a parish will become unsustainable and unfeasible if Old Farm is taken away.

Richard Covington – West Ashton PC

- Castle Mead school is already in Trowbridge
- The whole Ashton Park area needs to be considered as one
- West Ashton PC have put plans forward to develop the Business Park with sport facilities and child care. If the whole area is looked at as one the area is going to grow and provide a democratic area for West Ashton PC.
- If the Old Farm Area is taken then there will be a significant hit on PC and services provided
- Weighting on survey results PC vs TC?
- 75% of children in Parish Council school come from Trowbridge

Roger Evans – North Bradley PC

- Supports West Ashton PC
- Trowbridge TC is land grabbing from parishes and it will get worst if they are allowed to take this land.
- Start taking small areas and will slowly grow and take more
- People live in parishes to be in a village setting and they do not want to be part of the town.

**Additional comments:**

Hayley Bell – Trowbridge TC

- Paxcroft is a great community area
- TC provided free activities for the children in those areas – funded by TC. The Parishes cannot offer that service.
- Investment would grow for sporting facilities if TC could grow
- TC planning on buying Woodmarsh and residents want to use those

facilities.

### 13 Close

The Chairman welcomed addition comments on schemes not included on the agenda.

Jeff Osborne

- Ashton Park – why has it not been considered?
- Would like to see the area resolved before it's developed and people live there.
  - CGR will take another look at the area.

New Comment

- Trowbridge residents use the parish council facilities just as much as parishes use Trowbridge facilities.
- PCs cannot provide services due to the size of the budgets and should not be comparable. This does not mean Towns should take over the villages for those reasons.

Richard Covington

- Support Jeff Osborn why has Ashton Park not been considered.
- Why put sport facilities on the other side of the town when building houses there?
- TC statutory powers are no different to PC – if PC grows they could offer the same facilities as the TC is offering. We should be working together and supporting each other not against each other.

Roger Evans - North Bradley PC

- If the area is given to TC the large area of West Ashton PC and North Bradley will be hugely effected. Want to see the overall picture considered and not little pockets.

Andre Bryant – Trowbridge TC

- If the parishes want to retain a unique image of being a village why try to compete and take on more and more stay as a village, don't grow.
- Parish pathways etc are paid for by WC not parishes.

New Comment

- Ashton Park/ Old Farm road residents who are there would like to stay where they are. They moved there for a reason.
- You would not be upsetting people if they are not there yet. It's better to move the Parish line now rather than later.
- Trowbridge is full and needs to expand in order to develop services.
- The TC has facilities in North Bradley and has no intention to take over that parish over.

#### Len Turner – Transforming Trowbridge

- Trowbridge has strategic significance and needs to grow.
- Additional housing in core strategy was to serve the needs of Trowbridge.
- Businesses look to the TC to provide support.
- The White Horse Businesses Park should be in Trowbridge.

#### Francis Morland – Southwick PC

- The process is flawed and residents have been consulted too late.
- Public need more notice and information about the proposals.
- It is a clear land grab by TC to take in the rural areas.
- If Trowbridge is expanding to that extent it will affect the Area Board's representation and it will not have a continuing function.

#### David Feather

- What is the process going forward?

Chairman gave information on the next steps of the process.

#### Mike Roberts

- How long will the process take?

The Chairman informed the meeting that recommendations will be taken to the Full council meeting on the 24 November. There would be the possibility to extend consultations if needed and the working party was not in a rush to make recommendations.

There was a question on declarations and an explanation was given.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.



(Duration of meeting: 7.00 - 8.40 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Jessica Croman, of Democratic Services, direct line , e-mail

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