

Devizes Town Council - Governance Review

Extent of Review

Devizes Town Council propose that the boundaries of the parish of Devizes Town Council are reviewed to incorporate the whole of Roundway Parish Council and that built environment in Bishop Cannings Parish that extends the urban line of development.

In addition, the proposals include rationalising the eastern boundary to Bishop Cannings.

Map attached

Community Identity

For many years the parish boundaries of Devizes Town Council represented an urban centre surrounded by the rural hinterland of Roundway Parish; the Roundway Parish being based on the land previously forming the Roundway Estate.

The parish of Devizes is now a largely built environment, where there is very little capacity to expand, and the bulk of development over the last 40 years has mushroomed just over its boundaries into the parish of Roundway, as evidenced by Wiltshire Council's published population statistics. Indeed the development attached to Devizes has extended beyond Roundway into the Cannings Hill area of the parish of Bishop Cannings.

Roundway and Bishop Cannings are not defined as separate entities within Wiltshire Council's Core Strategy in terms of the housing allocation for Devizes Town even though the majority of that housing allocation will necessarily be satisfied by developments within Roundway and Bishop Cannings parishes. Likewise estate agents do not distinguish between Roundway or the Cannings Hill area of Bishop Cannings – properties within these areas are marketed as "Devizes".

The town provides the heart of the community and boundary between Devizes and Roundway is indistinguishable. The estates that have grown up around the perimeter of the town are considered, for all practical purposes, to be Devizes, extending into the development in Bishop Cannings. Indeed it is impossible to travel from certain parts of Roundway, such as Broadleas Park and Downlands, without crossing through Devizes.

Because of its shape Roundway Parish Council effectively surrounds Devizes like a ring doughnut. There is no geographical centre to Roundway and no appreciable sense of community. The residents, who live in the developments within Roundway, consider themselves to live in Devizes. This has been evidenced over the years through consultations where, when asked where they live, people living in Roundway will state "Devizes". It is also understood that Roundway Parish Council have undertaken consultation revealing the same outcome.

There is little by way of services and infrastructure provided within the parish of Roundway and the "Cannings Hill" area of Bishop Cannings Parish Council and people living within the developments in these parishes look to Devizes Town for goods and services.

Devizes Town Council is making these proposals to ensure more effective representation at parish council levels across the area which is considered to be "Devizes". The Council does intend to enter into discussions with the affected parishes, to ensure an open dialogue exists between all parties.