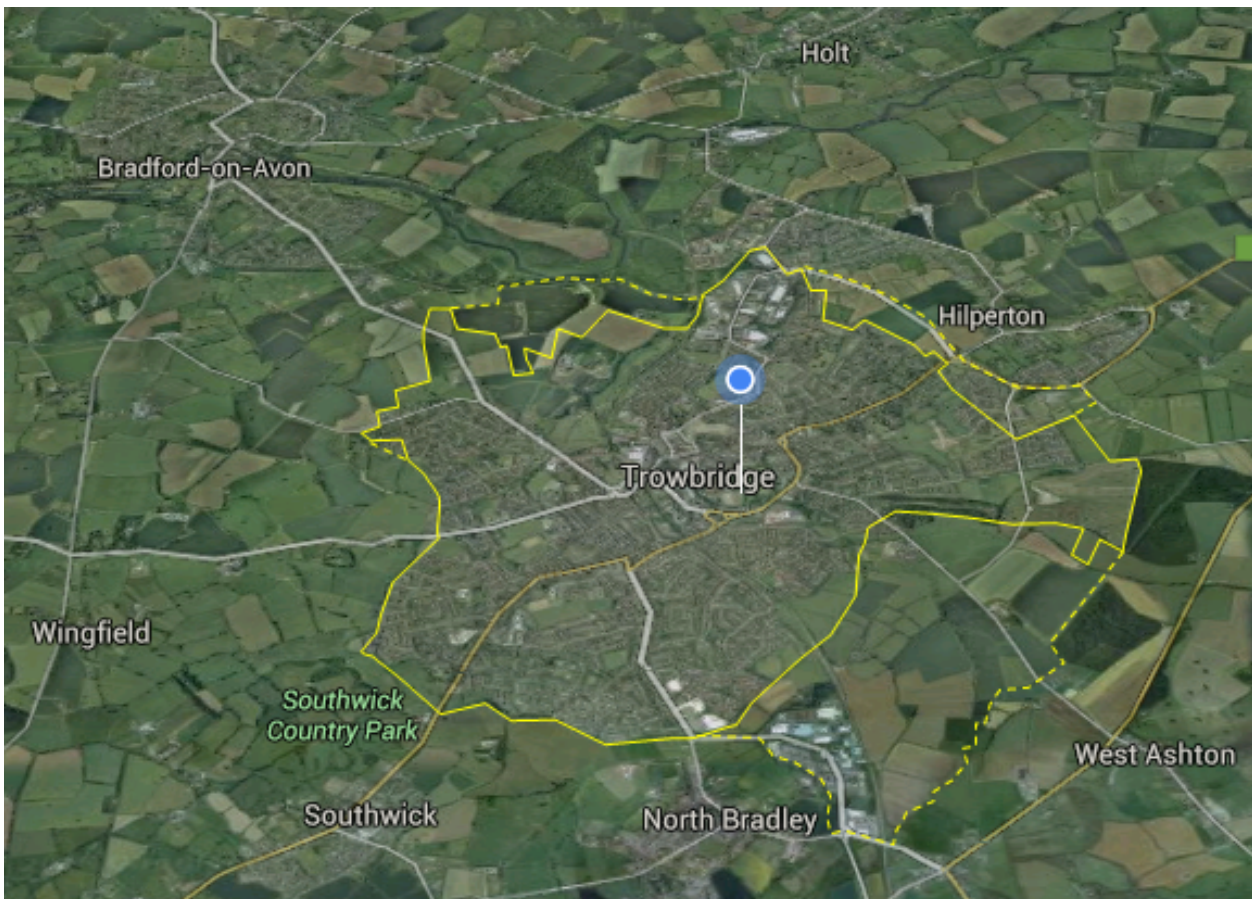


Submission to the Community Governance Review - May 2016

Introduction

Trowbridge Town Council submitted evidence to Wiltshire Council prior to the Review commencing and during the Review, this evidence was presented to Wiltshire Council at the November 2015 meeting. This submission summarises the town council's position and updates the evidence, based upon the latest information and in response to submissions made by others.

Trowbridge provides a range of facilities and services for a wide community and in order to continue to provide efficient and effective local government on behalf of the whole town, Trowbridge requires; one town council for all of the town. The town should include; areas of current and planned development where they are detached from neighbouring villages, and, where development is contiguous with neighbouring villages, appropriate natural boundaries, such as main roads should be used, in accordance with the government guidance.



Aerial photographs showing Trowbridge and neighbouring towns and villages with current and proposed boundary. © Google

One town council for all of the town

Area 1 (Scheme 21) Wingfield to Trowbridge.

The current boundary runs through the middle of residential properties and divides streets. Shore Place, Kingsley Place and Chepston Place are part of the 'Broadmead' Estate, built over 40 years ago and only accessible via other parts of Broadmead, all in Trowbridge. Chepston Place and Kingsley Place are split between Trowbridge and Wingfield. All other properties in Wingfield are part of Wingfield village or are independent farm related buildings.

This proposal would improve community identity because properties which are part of the community of Trowbridge would be included in Trowbridge Parish. This proposal would also improve efficient and effective community governance, utilising a good natural boundary.



Current boundary runs through the middle of the semi-detached homes in the centre of the picture.
© Google

Area 2 (Scheme 24) Holt to Trowbridge.

The current boundary is poorly defined, the three residential properties are within a few metres of properties in Trowbridge and can only be accessed via Trowbridge, across a bridge over the river Biss to Canal Road adjacent to residential and industrial areas and next to a supermarket. The government guidance states,

“As far as boundaries between parishes are concerned, these should reflect the “no-man’s land” between communities represented by areas of low population or barriers such as rivers, roads or railways.”

The Kennet & Avon Canal, river Avon and railway line are all barriers without bridges between this area and Holt village, making this area and the residences within it remote from Holt. Holt and all of the facilities in Holt are 3 miles away. Facilities in Trowbridge, Hilperston and Staverton are significantly closer.

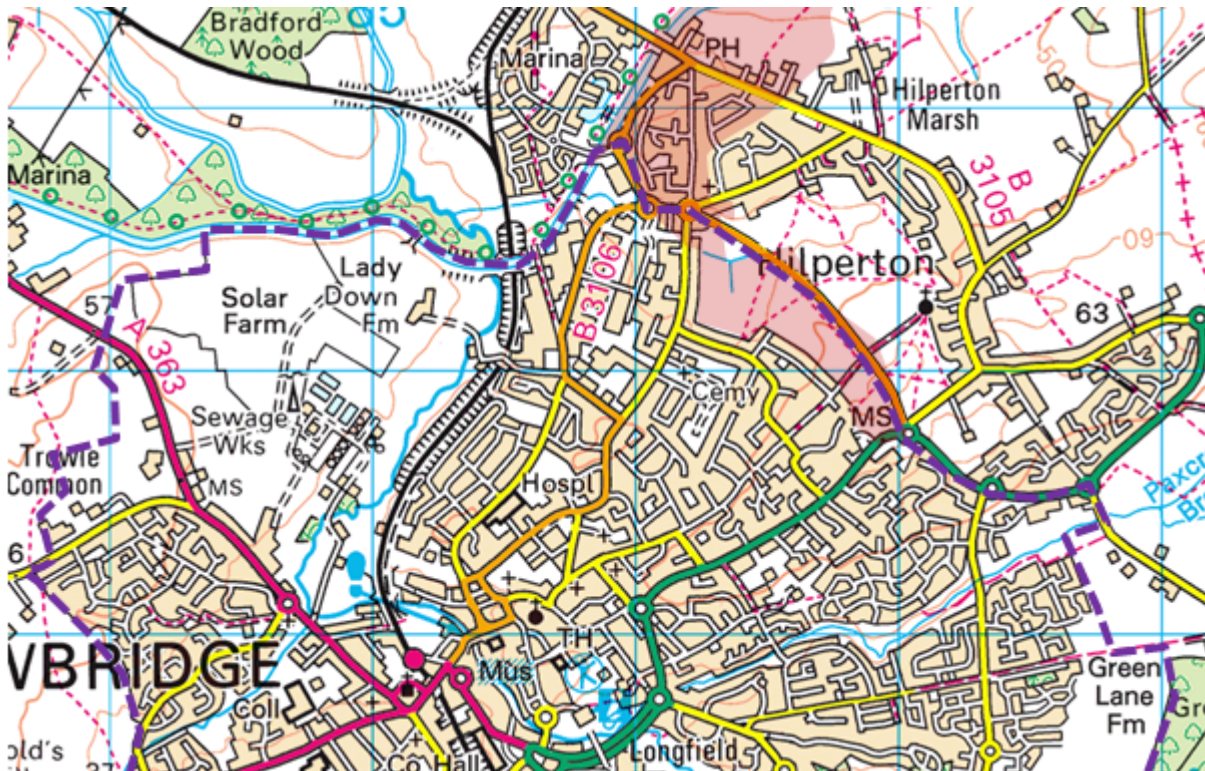
This proposal would improve community identity and efficient and effective community governance, utilising an excellent natural boundary.

One town council for all of the town

Area 3 (Schemes 20, 22 & 25) Hilperton to Trowbridge.

Now that Elizabeth Way is open to traffic, there is no better natural boundary between Hilperton and Trowbridge than the main roads; B3105/Elizabeth Way and A361/Hilperton Drive. This proposal resolves the anomaly that properties in Paxcroft Mead have been built on the boundary. Development is contiguous between Trowbridge and Hilperton, both along Wyke Road and through Paxcroft Mead. Without areas of “no-man’s land”, the only good natural boundary, in line with the government guidance are the main roads, which are clearly defined and unlikely to change over time.

This proposal would improve community identity and efficient and effective community governance, utilising a good natural boundary in accordance with the government guidance.



Map of Trowbridge (north) showing areas transferred from Trowbridge to Hilperton in 1991 (red) and the proposed town boundary. © Ordnance Survey

Area 3a (Scheme 20) lies to the south of Elizabeth Way/B3105 and until 1991 was within the Trowbridge boundary.

Area 3b (Scheme 25) lies to the south of Elizabeth Way/B3105 and until 1991 almost all of it was within the Trowbridge boundary.

Area 3c (Scheme 22) lies to the south of Hilperton Drive/A361.

Alternative proposals fail to use good natural boundaries. At its worst, properties in Painter’s Mead would still be split between two parishes, with #38 & #40 remaining in Trowbridge. Under Trowbridge Town Council’s proposal more than 400 homes in Paxcroft Mead will still be in Hilperton, north of the A361/Hilperton Drive.

One town council for all of the town



Trowbridge Town Council's proposed boundary, A361/Hilperton Drive. © Google



Hilperton Parish Council's proposed boundary, leaving homes on the right in Trowbridge and those on the left in Hilperton. © Google

One town council for all of the town

Paxcroft Brook forms the boundary in the alternative proposals, but is at the centre of an extensive area of open space which acts as a focal point for the whole community, with play areas, benches, cycle-paths and bridges. The government guidance states,

“For instance, factors to consider include parks and recreation grounds which sometimes provide natural breaks between communities but they can equally act as focal points.”



Paxcroft Brook open-space from Leap Gate shows buildings both sides, bridges & cycle-paths. © Google

If the whole of the open space is to be well managed and maintained, and the facilities developed and enhanced efficiently and effectively, then a single local council is needed which has the resources, capacity and willingness to undertake that role and provide leadership to the community in accordance with the government guidance. Trowbridge Town Council can do this. Alternative proposals fail to place the Paxcroft Brook open space in a single parish.

Area 4 (Schemes 26, 27, 28 & 29) West Ashton and North Bradley to Trowbridge.

The whole area is included within the revised Trowbridge Settlement Boundary and is either already developed, or allocated as a Strategic Site and Urban Extension (Ashton Park) in the adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy. West Ashton Parish Council has accepted that it is appropriate to transfer the areas from their parish to the town once the development has been completed. Wiltshire Council has the opportunity to make that decision now, following the adoption of the Core Strategy, whilst planning applications are being considered, knowing that development will happen and without reconsidering the whole process again in five or ten years' time.



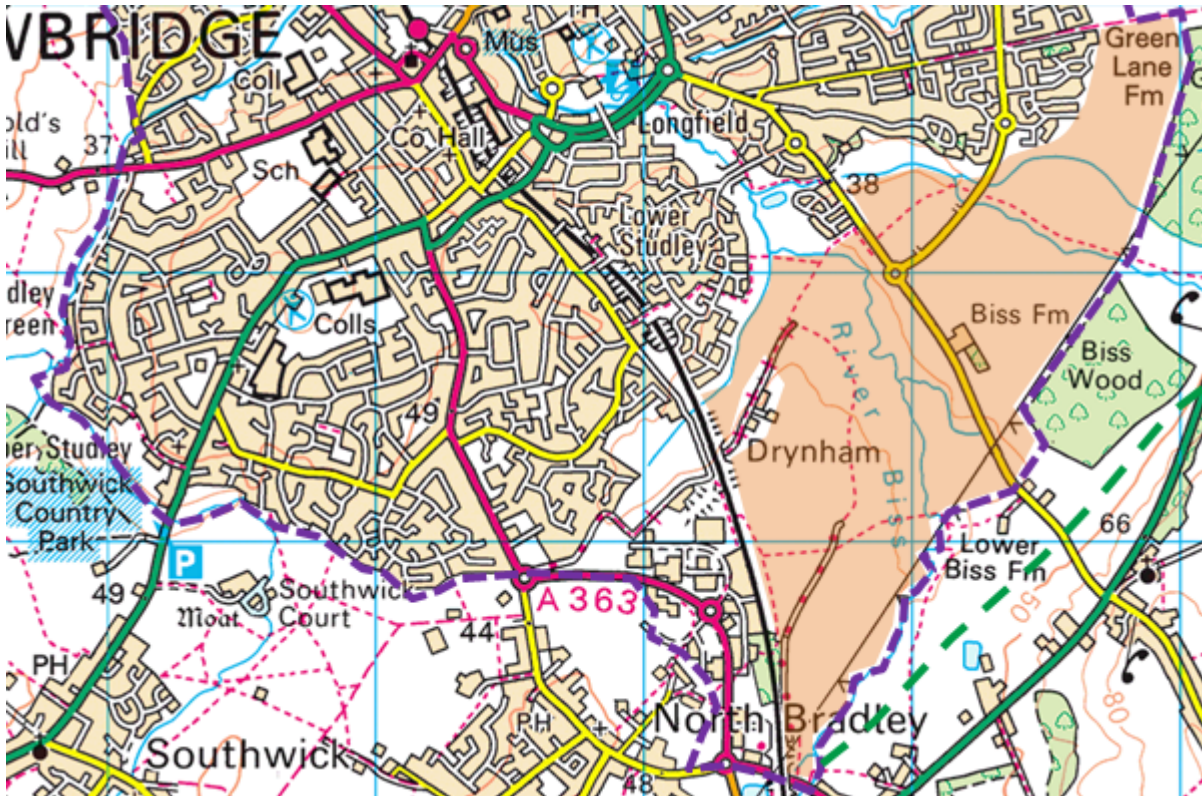
From West Ashton cross roads (A350) with West Ashton village behind, Ashton Park in the middle ground (orange) and Trowbridge in the background view. © Greenhalgh Landscape Architecture.

One town council for all of the town

At the public consultation meeting held on 13th October 2015 Richard Covington of West Ashton Parish Council said;

“The whole Ashton Park area needs to be considered as one.”

Ashton Park is currently split between two parish councils, only under Trowbridge Town Council’s proposal is the whole of Ashton Park contained in a single parish.



Map of Trowbridge (south) showing areas of allocated and consented development (orange), the planned A350 West Ashton by-pass and the proposed town boundary. © Ordnance Survey

At the same consultation meeting Roger Evans of North Bradley Parish Council said;

“People live in parishes to be in a village setting and they do not want to be part of a town.”

This is why large business parks and urban extensions should be within the town boundary, so that they do not swamp the existing villages with urban-centric demands. If North Bradley does not want to be part of a new-town which is bigger than Malmesbury or Durrington then they can remain a separate and distinct village with green space between it and the growing suburbs of their neighbouring town. This would be one of three Trowbridge new-towns neighbouring a large town of over 10,000 homes;

- Ashton Park West with North Bradley
- Ashton Park East with West Ashton
- Paxcroft Mead with Hilperton

Trowbridge Town Council’s proposal delivers the needs of our differing communities whilst ensuring efficient and effective local government in accordance with the government guidance.