



# NORTH BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

INCORPORATING

*NORTH BRADLEY, BROKERSWOOD AND YARNBROOK*

Coasters  
5 Chapel Close  
Southwick  
Trowbridge  
Wiltshire  
BA14 9RY

24<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Eric Pickles MP  
Houses of Parliament  
Westminster

Dear Sir

## **Governance Review, Wiltshire**

I am writing on behalf of the Parish Council of North Bradley, regarding the proposed boundary changes that are being proposed by Wiltshire Council as part of the Governance Review.

The Parish of North Bradley is situated approximately four miles outside of Trowbridge, the county town of Wiltshire and the Governance Review is being carried out by Trowbridge Town Council.

We have 666 properties and our precept for 2014/15 is £14.27 per property giving a total fund for the year of £9,882.00p. There is a large development of 2,600 properties, including business premises and a school being undertaken on the outskirts of West Ashton, the next village to North Bradley. A portion of the development will come within the boundary of North Bradley Parish.

The Governance Review shows that Trowbridge Town Council are proposing to extend the boundary to take the area on which the new development is proposed and more, including existing properties at present within the Parish of North Bradley.

The premise of Trowbridge Town Council's argument is that the effect on the electorate numbers is minimal and completely ignores that the Parish Council loses out and only Trowbridge Town Council gains. There is no balance or benefit for the Parish, any reduction will severely impact on the viability of North Bradley Parish Council with the strong possibility that the precept could reduce by up to half and therefore the Precept income would be just sufficient to pay for a Parish Clerk. This would mean that there is a strong possibility Parishes such as North Bradley will find themselves having to ask their local Council to subsidise them as their property base has been eroded and there is insufficient money from the precept for the parish purse.

We also question that the proposed review/changes are premature. The 2,600 houses being built in West Ashton are likely to generate twice the number of voters and inevitably will need to establish a ward in its own right.

Whilst we understand that Wiltshire Council have the power to affect change with such reviews, taking into account population changes and the need for re-defined boundaries, it is also essential that they take into account the wishes of local inhabitants and the affect that such changes will have on village areas. With the eroding of the Parish boundary, it does lead us to fear that, Wiltshire Council could decide that North Bradley is too small to function on its own and join it with one of the other villages in the area or bring the village under the umbrella of Trowbridge town. It is already felt that Trowbridge Town Council have very little concern for the local villages, are lax in the managing of Parish needs and have no thought on the negative effect on rural and village life the proposed changes will make.

It is only a short time ago that in 2010 David Cameron championed giving more power to local communities and you were made Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in May 2010. A large amount of time, effort, expertise, organisation and money was spent on this idea, which was not only greatly welcomed but also felt to be of a great benefit to communities. I am sure North Bradley Parish Council were not the only ones who believed that these changes allowed communities to be able to help themselves, being the ones on the ground that knew what their community required and work along with local Councils to get the best for all concerned. We do not believe the changes were made so Trowbridge Town Council can hive off areas of local Parishes to subsidise larger towns to the detriment of the Parish.

We would be grateful if you would please review the boundary changes being proposed by Trowbridge Town Council with a view to allowing North Bradley Parish Council to remain, at least as it is now, with no change to its existing boundaries.

Yours faithfully

Roger Evans (Chairman of North Bradley Parish Council)

Mrs Lee Lee (Vice Chair of North Bradley Parish Council)

Judy Lane (Clerk to North Bradley Parish Council)

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Cc Andrew Murrison MP, Houses of Parliament, Westminster, London  
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