#### Written and Emailed Responses to the Draft Recommendations Consultation

Comment	Date received	Recommendation	Respondent Status	Details
P1	21/02/24	9 – Wilcot, Huish, and Oare	Wilcot, Huish, and Oare Parish Council	Disagrees with proposal to amend boundary between Wilcot, Huish, and Oare, and West Overton
P2	28/02/24	1 – Mere/Zeals	Unknown	Agrees with Town Council proposal
Р3	07/03/24	11 – Melksham	Melksham Town Council	No comment on recommendation, but identification of another potential boundary issue
P4	04/03/24	2 – North Bradley	Local resident	Seeking amendment of proposal to 'assist future planning activity'
P5	6/3/24	9 – Wilcot, Huish, and Oare	Resident	Opposed to proposal to move Health Cottage from Wilcot, Huish, and Oare
P6	12/03/24	5 – Clyffe Pypard	Local resident	Disagrees with proposal to amend Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town Boundary

#### P1

Wilcot, Huish & Oare Parish Council objects to the recommendation made by the CGR to redraw the boundary between this parish and that of Kennet Valley Joint Parish Council.

- 1. The long-established existing parish boundary reflects the historical manorial boundaries and the ancient Savernake Forest wards. It would be irresponsible to obliterate this valuable witness to the past reality.
- 2. Re-drawing the boundary will not alter the remoteness of the property in question. As the crow flies, it is not much further from the remote Huish Down Farm in Wilcot, Huish & Oare parish as it is from the remote Bayardo Farm in Kennet Valley parish. Remote dwellings are a feature of rural areas.
- 3. When last visited by a Wilcot, Huish & Oare parish councillor, the residents of the property in question confirmed that they were content with their remote location and that they did not feel in any way detached from the parish, nor indeed had a wish to be more attached to any parish at all. Remoteness need not be a disadvantage; some human beings choose remoteness, and human beings have differing levels of appreciation for isolation, with some far more gregarious than others.
- 4. The Briefing Note 24:03 Community Governance Review received on Monday 12th February 2024 is the first formal notification received by Wilcot, Huish & Oare Parish Council about this proposal. No communication has been received from Electoral Services nor from Kennet Valley Joint Parish Council relating to this proposal. Briefing Note 23:27 on 4th October 2023, notifying all parishes of the Review, did not mention this proposal in either the accompanying email or in the Briefing Note itself.

- 5. The Community Governance Review team is referred to the minutes of the meeting of Wilcot, Huish & Oare parish council held on Tuesday 9th January, item 24/05, which can be viewed at <a href="https://www.wilcotandhuishpc.gov.uk">www.wilcotandhuishpc.gov.uk</a>
- 6. Common courtesy would suggest that an informal approach should have been made to this parish council PRIOR to suggested changes being proposed to the Review Team. During the 2019/2020 CGR, this parish council had the decency to contact neighbouring parishes to ensure proposals were MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE, prior to escalating suggested changes to the Review Team. This parish council is aware that other parish councils within the Pewsey Vale also negotiated informally before that Review, as a result of which some suggestions were discarded before being subject to consideration, to full Review, and consequent rejection, at public expense.
- 7. Wilcot, Huish & Oare Parish Council would therefore have appreciated the opportunity to point out the historical reasons for the apparent anomaly earlier in the process.
- 8. The Draft Recommendations document states on page 22 that this parish will be consulted. It is not clear whether that means the parish will be consulted directly. The Briefing Note 24:03 states that the parish council is expected to respond to the generic consultation link provided in the Briefing Note. In the light of item 4 above, the parish council notes that the lack of direct contact from Wiltshire Council could have easily led to this parish council being unaware of the proposal and unable to participate in the process.
- 9. Wilcot, Huish & Oare Parish Council is submitting an objection via the link but, due to the word limit restricting comment, this full response will be sent directly to the Community Governance Review team.

#### **P2**

Agree with Mere town council.

#### **P3**

Melksham Town Council received the above briefing note at a meeting on 26 February. They note the proposed change and have no comment.

Council has however asked me to contact you about another anomaly regarding Coronation Road, where one side is in Forest Ward and one in South Ward for Town elections. For county elections, this is further complicated by having the area south of Milton Avenue in Melksham South and the area to the North in Forest.

#### **P4**

I would like to propose an amendment to the proposed boundary adjustment between Trowbridge and North Bradley which will enable the Parish Council (in Partnership with the Town Council) to achieve appropriate protection to North Bradley village for the foreseeable future, from inappropriate development to its eastern side. My reasons are set out in the attachment.

I am sending it to you in this form as I need to retain a copy of the email for my future reference.

(Attachment included at the end of this document)

P5

(Attachment included at the end of this document)

**P6** 

(Attachment included at the end of this document)

#### Response to Community Governance Review 2023-24

- I understand that the driving force behind a Community Governance Review is the need to balance electorates. However, I would expect that the opportunity of amending boundaries might be used to assist in future planning activity as well. So I propose that a somewhat different boundary be chosen in the area between Woodmarsh and The White Horse Business Park (WHBP). This is shown below, together with my reasons.
- 2 I see from the consultation information that :-

A Community Governance Review will be decided to reflect the identity and interests of local communities and ensure effective and convenient local governance.

- The point about ensuring effective local governance is particularly applicable to this case, as North Bradley Parish Council has recently commenced Public Consultation on a Review of its Neighbourhood Plan. This is being done in partnership with Trowbridge Council to maintain the current Plan boundary.
- In reviewing the Neighbourhood plan, I would expect that consideration will have to be given to various policies in the Core Strategy and the Local Plan Review. Looking at the Core Strategy first, Issues and considerations, paragraph 5.147 sets out specific issues to be addressed in planning for the Trowbridge Community Area, which include:-

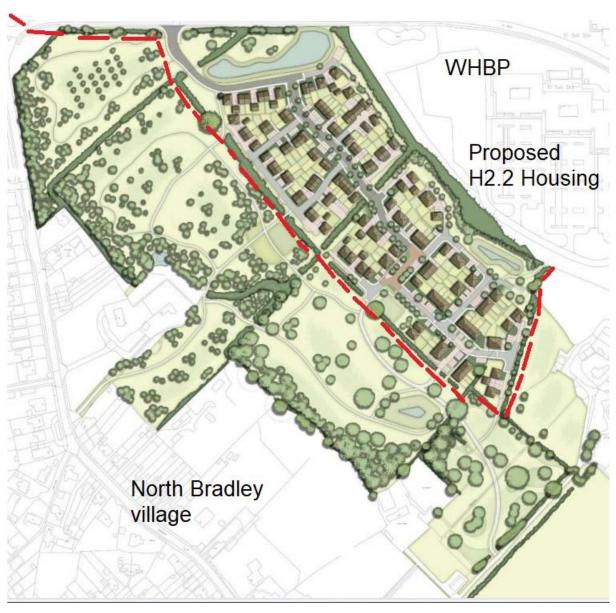
"It is recognised that the villages surrounding Trowbridge, particularly Hilperton, Southwick North Bradley and West Ashton have separate and distinct identities as villages. Open countryside should be maintained to protect the character and identity of these villages as separate communities. The local communities may wish to consider this matter in more detail in any future community-led neighbourhood planning." This issue is embedded in Core policy 29.

The Core Strategy in paragraph 6.79 states "There is a need to protect the distinct character and identity of the villages and settlements in Wiltshire, and a particular issue has been highlighted in those parts of the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area which adjoin the administrative area of Swindon Borough Council, where there may be additional development pressure. The separate identity of these settlements should be protected in line with Core Policy 51. The local community may also wish to consider this matter further in any future community-led plan, such as a neighbourhood plan."

Core Policy 51 states "Landscape - Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance landscape character and must not have an unacceptable impact upon landscape character, while any negative impacts must be mitigated as far as possible through sensitive design and landscape measures....... In particular, proposals will need to demonstrate that the following aspects of landscape character have been considered:" ....including "ii. the locally distinctive character of settlements and their landscape settings."

In addition, Strategic objective 4: helping to build resilient communities states:"3.7 This strategy will provide support for Wiltshire's communities, enabling them to help
themselves and improve their quality of life, foster a sense of community belonging, safety, social
inclusion and self-sufficiency." One of the Key Outcomes is set out as "Significant progress will
have been made towards addressing the identified shortfall in the range of sport, leisure and
recreation facilities."

- When the North Bradley Parish Council was developing the current plan it wished to pursue the Core Strategy policies by incorporating an encompassing Landscape Gap to protect North Bradley village's physical separation from Trowbridge Town. Unfortunately it was stymied in doing this because the layout of the WHSAP allocation of housing on site H2.2, adjacent to the WHBP, was not settled. Thus, the current Plan only includes an area to the North, mostly the Trowbridge Town Football Club site.
- 8 Progress on the H2.2 Planning Application, with a New Masterplan having been submitted, could now permit consideration of a Landscape Gap extension along the East side of North Bradley village on the part of the site that is now no longer proposed for housing. This would allow a boundary between North Bradley village as shown by a red broken line on the submitted Masterplan below.
- 9 As mentioned at the beginning, North Bradley Parish Council has recently commenced Public Consultation on a Review of its Neighbourhood Plan, in partnership with Trowbridge Council to maintain the current Plan boundary. In carrying out the review, consideration will also have to be taken of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review. There are many references in the Local Plan Draft that are relevant. These are set out in the appendix to this document.
- 10 If the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is to produce the best possible Neighbourhood Plan in the most cost efficient way, it clearly needs the Boundary Review body to determine for the future and and adjust the Parish boundary as shown on the above plan, to allow for the landscape Gap extension.



DF Proposed Amendment to the advertised alteration of the North Bradley - Trowbridge Boundary

## <u>Appendix – Relevant Wiltshire Draft Local Plan Policies that will have to be considered in the Neighbourhood Plan</u>

#### **Policy 83**

#### Health and wellbeing

Proposals should demonstrate that development will contribute positively to health and wellbeing by enabling and promoting healthy lifestyles and minimising any negative health and wellbeing impacts.

#### Policy 88 Biodiversity and geodiversity

Development proposals must demonstrate how they protect features of nature conservation value, both terrestrial and aquatic, and geological value as part of the design rationale. There is an expectation that such features shall be retained, sufficiently buffered, and managed favourably to maintain their ecological value, connectivity and functionality in perpetuity.

## Local sites, priority habitat and habitats of principal importance and local ecological networks

Development will avoid direct and indirect impacts upon local sites by maintaining sufficient buffers and ecological connectivity with the wider environment. Damage or disturbance to local sites will be unacceptable, other than in exceptional circumstances where it has been demonstrated that such impacts:

- 1. cannot reasonably be avoided;
- 2. are reduced as far as possible;
- 3. are outweighed by other planning considerations of overriding public interest;
- 4. where appropriate compensation measures can be secured through planning obligations or agreements.

Development proposals should avoid negative impacts upon priority habitat, habitats of principal importance, ecological networks, and wildlife corridors, instead promoting their conservation, restoration, and enhancement alongside the recovery of priority species.

#### Policy 90

#### Woodland, hedgerows, and trees

Proposals for major development shall make provision for the retention and enhancement of Wiltshire's woodlands, hedgerows, and trees, and shall incorporate these assets into development design

#### Policy 91

#### Conserving and enhancing Wiltshire's landscapes

Development will conserve and where possible enhance Wiltshire's landscapes by:

- 2. conserving, enhancing, and restoring the characteristics and views of landscapes along with valued attributes and existing site features such as trees, hedgerows, dry stone walls and waterbodies that contribute to the character and quality of the area;
- 3. conserving and enhancing the locally distinctive character of settlements and their landscape settings;

#### Policy 98

#### Ensuring high quality design and place shaping

A high standard of design is required in all new developments, including extensions, alterations, and changes of use of existing buildings. This will be achieved through:

- i. enhancing local distinctiveness by responding to the value of the natural and historic environment, relating positively to its landscape setting and the existing pattern of development and responding to local topography by ensuring that important views into, within and out of the site are to be retained and enhanced;
- ii. the retention and enhancement of existing important landscaping and natural features, (e.g. trees, hedges, banks and watercourses), in order to take opportunities to enhance biodiversity, create wildlife and recreational corridors, effectively integrate the development into its setting and to justify and mitigate against any losses that may occur through the development;

End

### Community Governance Review Consultation – February 2024

The council very strongly encourages respondents to complete a survey online at <a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-cgr">http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-cgr</a> rather than by use of this hard copy form. This will also allow more space for responding.

#### A community governance review must:

Reflect the identities and interests of the communities in that area; and provide effective and convenient local governance.

#### Consequently, a review must take into account:

The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

This survey will ask for details of your name and postcode. This is in order to analyse responses by area and to analyse multiple respondents at the same postcode. Unless representing an organisation or group, names of respondents will not be published. Hard copy responses will be input into an online database along with the online responses. Names/Email addresses will be deleted after the conclusion of the review by March 2025.

Note: Additional sheets may be included, should you wish to expand beyond the space provided.

		se tick the following box if you consent to participate in the survey and provide the ation requested for the purposes listed above
2.	,	What is vour name?
3.	,,,	What is your postcode or postcode of your business/organisation?
4.		Which recommendation part are you responding to? Recommendation 9 – Wiltcot Huish and Oare, and West Overton
5.	-	Are you responding to this survey as?
		A resident of Wilcot, Huish and Oare (Area K)
		A resident of Wilcot, Huish and Oare (not from Area K)
	П	A resident of West Overton
	Ħ	A business or commercial concern in the area affected by a proposal
		A representative of a town or parish council affected by a proposal, or a unitary
		representative from the area affected. Specify
		An interested party not necessarily from the area affected by the proposals

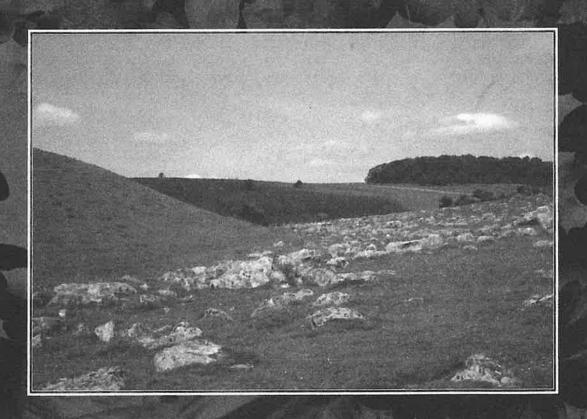
6.	Having studied Recommendation 9, do you?
* 5	Agree with the recommendation
	Disagree with the recommendation
	Suggest an amended recommendation
7.	If suggesting an amendment, please provide details of that revision with any reasoning for the proposal, taking account of the criteria of 'Effective and Convenient Local Governance' and 'Community Identity and Interests' (If agreeing or disagreeing with the Recommendation, leave blank, and move to next page)
	a vi a
Y	

Also taking account of the criteria of 'Effective and Convenient Local 8. Governance' and 'Community Identity and Interests' please explain the reason you agree or disagree with the recommendation.

8.	Also taking account of the criteria of 'Effective and Convenient Local Governance' and 'Community identity and Interests' please explain the reason you agree or disagree with the recommendation.				
	the new Cotchment school.  I received the letter about this consultation on 21st February so have lost 9 days of the survey period the				
736	letter says that the "Background" was a survey from 31st October - 26th November 2023 but I asked my parish council (Wilco Huish and Oare PC) but they said they had not been contacted about my house				
	during 2023. They said they had not been asked to take part in a survey of relevant parish councils.				

# THE LAND OF LETTICE SWEETAPPLE

An English Countryside Explored



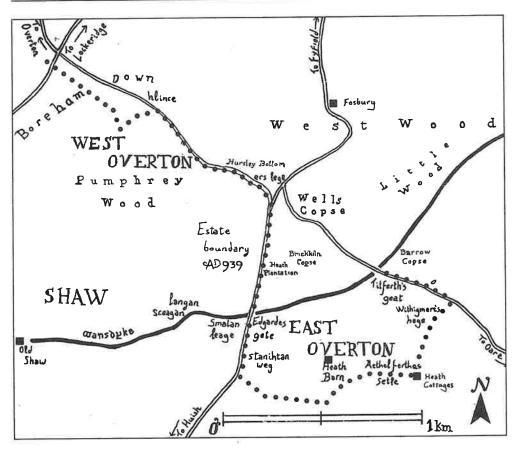
Peter Fowler & Ian Blackwell

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63 Map of the southern bounds of East Overton, AD 939, shown as a dotted line clockwise from 'Titferthes geat' to 'hlince'. Other points from the East Overton charter are named, as are some other features for the purposes of identification using a modern map.

which was the home of Ralph atte Hethe four hundred years after the charter.

The present parish boundary follows the tenth century one here as it turns west at Heath Cottages, and heads south along the edge of Heath Grounds and then west to join the track from Huish to Lockeridge (SU 14706514), the stanihtan weg of the charter. The 'stony way' suggests that this route was metalled, perhaps in a similar manner to the Ridgeway at the West Overton/East Kennet ford as described in the West Overton charter. So perhaps it was a busy way too, giving added significance to our identification of another gap through Wansdyke as another 'gate', Eadgardes gete (SU 14786548). This break in the ditch lay near langan sceagan, the long wood, and smalan leage, the small or narrow lea. The boundary then continued east of Pickrudge and Pumphrey Wood, thurh scyt hangran and lang thaes weges to them hlince, through Chichangles — wonderful name — along the path to the lynchet. At the time scyt hangran, the 'wood on the steep hill-side', marked the western edge of Savernake. Over the generations this tongue twister was modified into a word the people of Wiltshire found easier to pronounce, Chichangles. In the early nineteenth century, in another act of etymological vandalism, the new tenant farmer

have stood at the western edge of the estate on the boundary now marked by the Ridgeway (61). At first we thought the site may have been near the sixteenth-century Orchard Farmhouse, probably in the area of the original village of West Overton, but the early maps from the Record Office pointed to a spot a little further south. At the junction of The Ridgeway and the track called Double Hedge Way which travels across the downs to West Woods, the cartographer of 1794 had inked in 'Church Ditch'. Caution has to be shown here, for this land may simply have been ecclesiastical. The reference certainly does not prove a church, let alone the Anglo-Saxon church we sought, stood here; yet such a reference might conceivably have caught an earlier memory, and the location itself appears

The small church was presumably a simple wooden building in origin but possibly with promising (58). at least stone foundations by the tenth century. It could have served the needs not only of the small community straddled along the Ridgeway, but also the travellers who were increasingly using this downland route in Anglo-Saxon times to journey, with their flocks, herds and goods, between the Thames Valley and the Wessex chalklands to the south. West Overton in, say, the eighth and ninth centuries could well have been a busy spot, the perfect place for a church to prosper, catering for pilgrims, weary shepherds, monastic staff on business, traders and warriors. The remnants of the church, wherever it stood, have not yet been discovered, even after an extensive aerial photographic search. Walking the fields after the next ploughing, though, may prove more successful.

The greatest reward of all for the modern explorer comes, however, when he or she sets out, with charter in hand, to trace these boundaries of a thousand years ago. The hackneyed sentence that 'The past is a foreign country' comes to mind for, although the landscape may be reasonably familiar, you are looking at it through the eyes and mind-set of a 'foreigner' from another time-country. So imagine our satisfaction at discovering that the charter's Titferth's gate actually existed at a gap in Wansdyke, the significance of which had not previously been spotted; and at suddenly stumbling across 'withypond' of the charter and finding willows still there. Another cliché, the one about walking in the footsteps of the past, literally becomes true (63).

Here we are working out what happened after Titferth's gate around the extreme south eastern corner of the East Overton estate as visited in AD 939. We wonder if they had some sort of sketch map as well as their vellum text. We used old Ordnance Survey 25 inch (1:2500) and 6 inch to the mile (c. 1:10,000) maps; you can easily follow, on the ground but without even getting out of your chair, using one modern Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, New Explorer sheet 157. The 'gate' was at the south corner of Wells' Copse and Little Wood and at the west corner of Barrow Copse where a track passes through Wansdyke (SU 15406570). From the gate, the boundary travelled to the east side of the hedge at 'willow pond' (withigmeres hege) and then suth on butan Aethelferthes setle on thone stanihtan weg, 'south around Aethelferthe's dwelling to the stony way'. The pond lies just beyond the long barrow we met earlier in Barrow Copse (Chapter 8), and willows continue to grow there. Indeed, the species at Willow Pond might well be lineal descendants of the Saxon ones.

Locational exactitude is important, for the following point in the charter holds out the rare promise of being able to identify the site of a Saxon house of a named person. Aethelferthe — though we have not yet found it. The site lies somewhere high among (former) woodland on clay-with-flints. The place may have been near the end of the track from the clay pits (SU 15126527), where a settlement stood from the late eighteenth century until at least the 1930s. Or it may have been near Heath Cottages (SU 15586514). Thank you for your letter dated February 2024 informing me of the draft recommendation to move my property (103) out of Clyffe Pypard. I would be grateful if you could consider the following points in response to the consultation:

#### Closest community

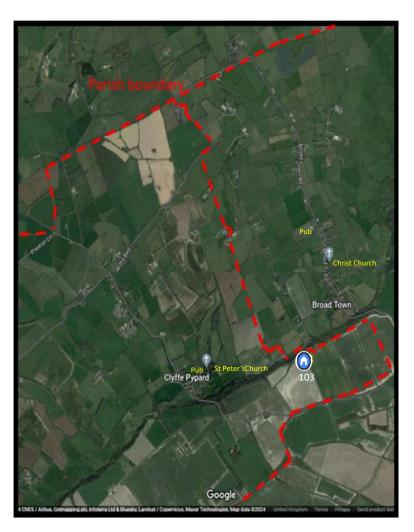
The draft recommendation states that Broad Town is much closer in geography and community connections, however, the map used during the committee meeting (when this recommendation was made) only showed 30% of Broad Town. I would be very grateful if you could widen the scope to include the remaining 70% of Broad Town?

As shown in the wider context opposite both parishes of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town each have a Church and a pub where communities come together (shown in yellow).

103 ( ) is geographically closer to Clyffe Pypard's Church & Pub<sup>1</sup>.

Community connection is a consequence of choice and it is widely acknowledged that I am deeply connected with Clyffe Pypard.

Overall 103 is closer to the parish of Clyffe Pypard



#### Acess

Both Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town lost their village shops many years ago resulting in rural communities having to travel to grocery stores nearby. The distance maps opposite demonstrate that Lyneham is marginally closer to 103 being 8.4km away.

Clyffe Pypard parish has to be driven through in order to travel to the nearest grocery store.



The remote positioning of 103 means that utilities such as LPG gas, septic tank emptying, rubbish/recycling collection all drive through Clyffe Pypard in order to service 103.

103 is accessed from the unclassified adopted road ref: <u>87701</u> running from the C120 (Clyffe Pypard) past 103 to the C119 (Broad Town).

When you walk out of 103 you are in Clyffe Pypard.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Clyffe Pypard Pub is currently on the market as a public house

#### Unifying properties in one parish

The map below demonstrates that there are three examples on this boundary alone (between Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town) where two properties are in close proximity yet not unified within one parish:

Panéh baumbary	1	Two properties (Scrap View & the Birches - 77m apart) divided between the parishes of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town	
2 Broad Town	2	Two properties (Manor Farm cottage & South Farm Cottage - 20m apart) divided between the parishes of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town	
Clyffe Pypard  Coogle  Coogle	3	Two properties (103 & 101 - 60m apart) divided between the parishes of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town	

It seems unfair and unreasonable to move 103 out of the parish of Clyffe Pypard when there are other properties in close proximity divided between the parishes of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town. Clyffe Pypard already services a wide area including many other isolated homes, therefore, there is no difference in governance terms.

The well-defined parish boundary was created in 1846 following agricultural fields, hence the above 3 kinks. Given the agricultural history and remote rural setting surely this isn't an anomaly this is normal?

Broad Town & Clyffe Pypard continue to share strong historical ties e.g. the Spackman Educational Trust offering funding to help educate children or young people residing in both the parishes of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Town.

The Community plan results below show that there's a strong emphasis on protecting landmarks, heritage and agricultural rural roots suggesting that the boundary should be left alone and not amended.

- 87% of respondents said it was important to protect our rural landscape.
- 79% of respondents said it was important to protect our heritage
- 83% of respondents said it was important to have access to wildlife and protect our landmarks
- 85% of respondents said it was important that they lived in a rural setting

The existing boundary is easily identifiable following footpath BTOW5. The proposed boundary has no ground feature.

I'm not suggesting for one minute that these other properties should be unified within Broad Town because if anything Clyffe Pypard's falling population suggests that the parish should retain not loose properties.

It is unfair to move 103 when it is normal to have properties not unified in one parish given the agricultural history, historic ties, community wishes and use of identifiable ground marks such as the footpath.

#### Is the current boundary understood?

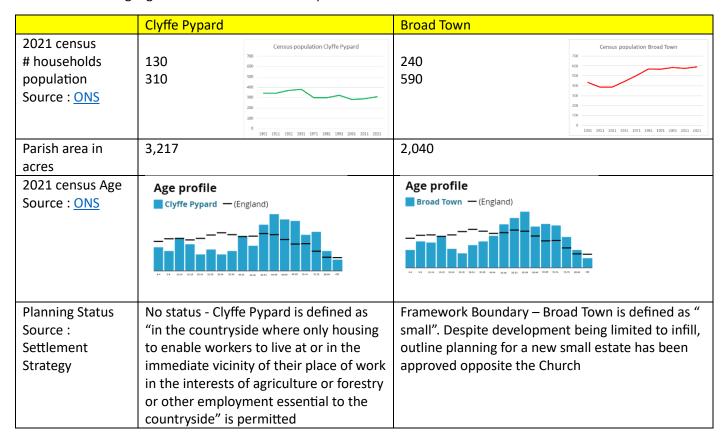
Moving 1 property from the parish of Clyffe Pypard isn't going to solve the disparity in the number of households believed to be within the parish of Clyffe Pypard (shown opposite).

Moving 103 out of the parish of Clyffe Pypard will not make the boundary more well-defined/understood/recognisable.

Source	# households
Parish Council	150
Post Office Address	152
File (PAF)	
Wiltshire Council	141
address file	
Community Plan	112

#### Understanding the unique characteristics and needs of the local population

The table below highlights the dimensions of both parishes:



The above dimensions highlight sparseness as the important characteristic identity of the parish of Clyffe Pypard. The lack of a planning status for Clyffe Pypard indicates that the parish should retain not loose properties like 103.

103 and Clyffe Pypard village share the same rare identity both being remote, wooded, rural locations away from a main traffic route with an ambience of peace and solitude with little intrusion from the world beyond. 103 has nothing in common with Broad Town's busy main road<sup>2</sup> or the two housing estates with a 3rd development agreed in outline planning terms.

If listening to residents' voices and involving them in decision-making is important moving 103 out of Clyffe Pypard goes against Clyffe Pypard's community aims and objectives to protect our heritage and setting and to protect and enhance the individual, separate identity of the many historic rural settlements within its area (see <u>Clyffe Pypard Community Plan</u>).

I won't repeat what I've already said, however, please note the deep community connection and points previously made.

If you weigh up all of the above points I hope you will conclude that on the balance of probability moving 103 out of the parish it has been in since the domesday will not make one iota of difference to effective and convenient local governance or the identities and interests of local communities.

If you do one good thing today please recommend that there is NO change to the parish boundary leaving 103 where it has always been in the parish of Clyffe Pypard.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> the last metrocount measured 1,969 daily vehicles