

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
18 MAY 2010**

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

**QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ERNIE CLARK
HILPERTON DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR JOHN BRADY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND HOUSING**

Question 1

Time and again we see the strap line 'Wiltshire Council.' Where everybody matters'. Could the planning portfolio holder therefore advise why the Spatial Planning department seems intent on ignoring the opinion of some 500+ Hilperton residents in their response to a WWDC consultation document regarding future development around Hilperton? Does he want a petition served on the council, similar to that from Chippenham residents recently, to convince him that this council is working against residents and not for them in Hilperton?

Why has the stance regarding the Hilperton Village Policy Limit changed since the recent departure of an ex WWDC planning consultant?

Response

The outcome of the Wiltshire 2026 consultation that was undertaken last year is being analysed and consideration will be given to the views of the Hilperton residents before any decisions are made about how Hilperton is shown in the draft Core Strategy. A petition would not provide any additional weight to the comments already received. We fully appreciate and understand the weight of opinion of the local community on the issues surrounding future development at the village including its status and are taking this into consideration in developing the draft Wiltshire Core Strategy.

The position regarding the status of Hilperton in adopted planning policy and as indicated in the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy (Wiltshire 2026 consultation document) has not changed. Notwithstanding this, it would be wrong at this stage in the process to make statements about what the Core Strategy should and should not contain in advance of considering all the evidence and completing the draft Core Strategy for Committee approval