

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
18 MAY 2010**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

QUESTION FROM MR ROSS KAVANAGH OF HILPERTON

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

Question

In the West Wilts Core Strategy, Hilperton was treated as a village. During the consultation process more than 300 objections - over half of total responses - were received concerning further development around Hilperton.

Why in the consolidated Wilts 2026 paper is Hilperton no longer listed as a village but as part of Trowbridge? Will the Council provide concrete assurance that such a clear public mandate will be acted upon and Hilperton will continue to be treated as a village for planning purposes?"

Response

In the Spatial Strategy background document, which accompanied the Wiltshire 2026 consultation, and on which the consultation document is based, Hilperton is identified as part of a 'grouped settlement' (Appendix B). This list includes 'Tidworth and Ludgershall', as well as the 'Trowbridge and Hilperton (including Staverton Marina) functional grouping'. 'Laverstock and Salisbury' are treated similarly in the South Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Appendix B to the Spatial Strategy background paper states:

"If Hilperton were located at some distance from Trowbridge, it would be able to function more independently as a small town or village. However, due to its proximity to Trowbridge, and its close relationship with its neighbour, it cannot be considered in isolation."

There is an eminently practical reason why, for the purposes of the Core Strategy, Hilperton should be treated as a part of the 'Trowbridge/Staverton Marina/Hilperton' functional grouping. Namely, that the Local Development Framework should allocate an appropriate level of development to each settlement in accordance with its needs. By treating Hilperton as part of a "grouped settlement", such additional development can be accommodated at the most suitable location, or locations, for the grouping as a whole. If

Hilperton were regarded as separate and distinct from Trowbridge for the purposes of the Core Strategy, additional development would have to be accommodated in or around the village to satisfy, what would then be, a separate need.

This 'grouping' of settlements for the purpose of the Core strategy, is just that. It implies no loss of identity for Hilperton, but merely reflects, from a spatial planning perspective, the relationship between settlements either abutting or in close proximity to one another.

The outcome of the Wiltshire 2026 consultation that was undertaken last year is being analysed and consideration will be given to the views received before any decisions are made about how Hilperton is shown in the draft Core Strategy when it is prepared. We fully appreciate and understand the weight of opinion of the local community on the status of the village for planning policy purposes and are taking this into consideration in developing the draft Wiltshire Core Strategy.

It would be wrong at this stage in the process to make statements about what the document should and should not contain in advance of considering all the evidence and completing the draft Core Strategy for formal approval by members.