

HINDLIP, MARTIN HUSSINGTREE & SALWARPE PARISH COUNCIL

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ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WYCHAVON (Stage One) **DISTRICT WARD- LOVETT & NORTH CLAINES**

The Parish Council of Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree and Salwarpe, in response to Stage One of the review, feel strongly that any consideration of reduction in electorate numbers in Lovett & North Claines District Ward should not be at the expense of splitting our three amalgamated parish wards.

The significance of the three combined rural parishes must not be overlooked. The essential factors are not only their intertwined historic association but their day-to-day inter-related functions. The unique combined three parishes are better suited to remaining as a whole and retained within the District Ward of Lovett & North Claines, along with its two District Councillors, in that:

1. Community Geographical Identity

The three parishes within the West Midlands Green Belt, are geographically aligned and interconnected either side of the arterial A38 Worcester to Droitwich main transport corridor and Bus service links. **[Appendix 1]**

Their overall boundaries are:

North boundary is formed by the strong physical A38 By-pass (Roman Way) and the C2086 Pulley and Newland Lanes that define separation from the urban town of Droitwich Spa.

South boundary defined by the A449 dual carriageway link to the M5 Motorway.

East boundary being the M5 Motorway adjacent Junction 6.

West boundary encompasses the 'High Park' estate and historic parkland, merging with the River Salwarpe running north to south along its natural valley.

In the Northwest is the Droitwich **Barge Canal** with its surrounding **Conservation area**, running south to north through the parishes of Martin Hussingtree and Salwarpe; popular for Fishing, Walkers and Cyclists. Also running parallel is the adjacent Worcester to Birmingham **Railway line**.

Centrally located are Martin Hussingtree '**Parish Green**' and Open Space at the cross-roads of the A38/A4538 Pershore Lane, leading to the M5 motorway.

Set in the natural open countryside and undulating landscape of the three parishes is the **village of Salwarpe** and the varied settlements/**hamlets of Hindlip and Martin Hussingtree**.

Numerous rural lanes and Public Rights of Way interconnect the three rural parishes, each parish having a central thoroughfare leading to either the A38 or A4538 Trunk roads.

2. Historic Features

The Parish Council highlights the combination of the parish names of Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree and Salwarpe with their interdependent parish wards and extensive historic links and their three churches which form combined ecclesiastical parochial parishes within the Benefice of Salwarpe, Hindlip with Martin Hussingtree that shares a team of Vicars.

Notable landmarks and establishments to be considered to ensure the continuity of the unique bond that exists between the three rural parishes:

Hindlip

- i) Historic Hindlip Hall and parkland: The Headquarters of the West Mercia Police Authority and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Services.
- ii) Sixways Stadium: Home of Worcester Warriors Rugby Club alongside David Lloyd Leisure Centre.
- iii) Offerton Youth Amateur Rugby Club.
- iv) Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Centre, Smite.
- v) Pear Tree Hotel and Inn complex.
- vi) Offerton Business Centre.

Martin Hussingtree

- i) Ancient Brown Heath Common and public open space.
- ii) Conservation area clustered around hamlet of Martin Court.
- iii) 'The Green' and Public Open Space.
- iv) Cherry Lane Garden Centre.
- v) Swan Inn.

Salwarpe

- i) Village Conservation area with clustered listed buildings.
- ii) Village War monument & surrounding Memorial open space.
- iii) Village Community Hall.
- iv) High Park historic Jacobean House/Farm and surrounding parkland.
- iv) Ancient Oakley Woods and SSSI Oakley Pool and Salt Wetland.
- v) Churchfields Farm – Ice Cream producers, Shop, Restaurant, Events venue and Education Centre.
- vi) Copcut Golf Range.
- vii) Gloverspiece Mini Farm and Education Facility.
- viii) Brookside Retail units and Café.
- ix) Copcut Elm Inn.

3. Neighbourhood Groupings

The three parishes share similar rural agricultural and farm economic profiles in terms of employment and business patterns with a myriad of small active enterprises in local properties, adding to an overall vibrant local economy.

Children largely attend early schooling at the Hindlip First School federated with the First School in the rural parish of Tibberton, with facilities spread over two sites. Nursery facilities are provided at Offerton, Hindlip.

Social and ecclesiastical interaction is equally important with residents from all three parishes frequenting the many establishments and outdoor facilities in the hamlets and participating in the many activities offered in Salwarpe village hall.

To the South is a common boundary of the Martin Brook tributary between our Parish Council and North Claines Parish Council, whose nearby village of Fernhill Heath is also within Lovett & North Claines District Ward. Residents within both parish councils share common social links and activities of local clubs and organisations.

4. Housing Development [Copcut Rise – Urban Extension]

The Parish Council embrace with confidence the challenge of integration of the emerging new urban extension development within the parish of Salwarpe which is still in the process of ongoing phased development of 740 homes, a Local Centre and B1 Employment areas.

The North boundary of the site is contained by the well-defined A38 Roman Way Bypass with the South boundary running along Copcut Lane, the main road to the village of Salwarpe.

The new urban extension has close connections based on the location and historic bonds with Salwarpe. The parish council has worked closely with the Developers and District Council to ensure all roads within the development bear historic names connected with Salwarpe parish.

The Parish Council continues its work to create community cohesion with new residents, not only to ensure their direct association with Salwarpe but with the three combined parish communities.

5. Electoral Variance

The new urban extension of Copcut Rise may be influencing the electoral variance of the District Ward of Lovett & North Claines above the 10% criteria summarised by the Boundary Commission. The Ward variance appears to be due in part to the increasing electorate of the ongoing phased new development within Salwarpe parish ward.

Electoral imbalance as a result of the in-complete development and ensuing electorate increase is not perceived as a justification for any proposed splitting of the new developing site from the parish ward of Salwarpe, in order to establish average electoral representation.

CONCLUSION

The Parish Council of Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree and Salwarpe requests that the Boundary Commission, in its consideration of district ward variances, will understand the unique amalgamation of the three parishes and their established links ensuring continuation of their shared extensive social, economic and geographical similarities.

The aim and objective of the combined three rural parishes within the West Midlands Green Belt, is prevention of coalescence and sprawl of the main urban area of Droitwich Spa Town to the North and Worcester City to the South.

Any proposed division of part of the parish of Salwarpe by re-allocating the urban extension of Copcut Rise, merely to attain an electoral ratio, would not be in the best interests of community identity, effective local parish council governance or reflect the actual physical cohesion and natural pattern of the rural parish in which the site is located.

The Parish Council of Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree and Salwarpe wants, in the interests of community cohesion, to remain with its three amalgamated rural parish wards within the existing District Ward of Lovett & North Claines.

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APPENDIX 1- GEOGRAPHICAL IDENTITY

