# Norfolk villages clash over Robertson Barracks housing boundary dispute



A peculiar battle is unfolding in Norfolk as two villages, Swanton Morley and Hoe and Worthing, find themselves in a surprising conflict over the future of a significant housing project. The proposed development at Robertson Barracks is set to bring 2,000 new homes to the area, creating a substantial economic opportunity for the local communities. However, rather than uniting against a common cause, the villages are embroiled in a contentious dispute over their identities and claims to the development.

At the heart of the conflict is a proposal put forth by Roger Atterwill, the chairman of Swanton Morley Parish Council. During a Breckland District Council meeting, Atterwill suggested altering the boundary lines to ensure that Swanton Morley would receive recognition for the upcoming housing project, largely situated on the airfield. His reasoning hinged on the expected influx of traffic and construction activity that would impact Swanton Morley, while the houses would predominantly be located within Hoe and Worthing’s more sparsely populated area.

Celia Daniel, chairperson of Hoe and Worthing Parish Meeting, vehemently opposed this proposal, arguing that it would unjustly deprive her community of its identity and space. She described Atterwill’s suggestion as "morally wrong," while local farmer Michael Goff characterised it as a "land grab," warning that the changes could render Hoe and Worthing an insignificant and diminished parish. This sentiment is echoed by broader concerns about how such developments could alter the social fabric of small villages, as highlighted in various recent housing discussions across Norfolk.

The scene is further complicated by financial disparities between the communities. Atterwill pointed out that Swanton Morley faces a significant budget shortfall of £98,000, in stark contrast to Hoe and Worthing's comparatively minor deficit of £1,800. This fiscal imbalance adds another dimension to the dispute, underscoring different levels of community need and perspective on the benefits that the housing project could deliver.

The development at Robertson Barracks, which is a significant military base that the Ministry of Defence plans to vacate by 2029, is positioned to not only provide new homes but also create a mix of commercial spaces designed to form a self-sufficient village. Collaboration between the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and Breckland Council aims to ensure that the resulting community complements the existing local infrastructure, a necessity at a time when housing demand in East Anglia is rising sharply.

In contrast to this local dispute, other parts of Norfolk are also grappling with major housing developments. For example, a colossal project in West Winch aims to create up to 4,000 new homes over 20 years. While these developments, including a primary school and public spaces, aim to address pressing housing shortages, they've met with skepticism from residents concerned about the strain on local services. Unresolved legal disputes have recently stalled progress on this huge initiative, reflecting a broader unease about whether such massive plans can be realised effectively without compromising community well-being.

With two villages vying for recognition and economic advantage, the situation surrounding the Robertson Barracks project serves as a microcosm of the larger challenges facing rural communities across the UK. These conflicts—rooted in identity, fiscal realities, and the pressures of growth—underscore the complexity of planning in areas that are both seeking development and striving to maintain their unique character. As the debate continues, the outcomes could redefine not just the landscape, but also the community dynamics of Swanton Morley, Hoe, and Worthing.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2061014/neighbour-row-norfolk-villages-mega-project-row), [[2]](https://www.derehamtimes.co.uk/news/housing/22050100.norfolk-army-base-redeveloped-400-new-homes/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2061014/neighbour-row-norfolk-villages-mega-project-row), [[3]](https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/major-housing-development-given-green-light-by-council-9380879/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2061014/neighbour-row-norfolk-villages-mega-project-row), [[5]](https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/concerns-raised-that-plans-for-4-000-home-development-could-9406290/), [[6]](https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/the-biggest-housing-project-in-west-norfolk-what-do-you-need-to-know-9380004/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2061014/neighbour-row-norfolk-villages-mega-project-row> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.derehamtimes.co.uk/news/housing/22050100.norfolk-army-base-redeveloped-400-new-homes/> - Robertson Barracks in Swanton Morley, a 165-hectare military base, is slated for redevelopment into a new community featuring approximately 400 homes and commercial spaces. The Ministry of Defence plans to vacate the site by 2029, with troops relocating to Wales from 2028. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation is collaborating with Breckland Council to plan the site's future, aiming to create a self-contained village that complements the nearby town centre. ([derehamtimes.co.uk](https://www.derehamtimes.co.uk/news/housing/22050100.norfolk-army-base-redeveloped-400-new-homes/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/major-housing-development-given-green-light-by-council-9380879/> - West Norfolk Council has approved a significant housing development in West Winch, comprising 1,100 homes, marking the first phase of a broader plan for 4,000 homes in the area. The project includes a primary school, local centre, open spaces, and new access roads. Despite concerns from over 140 villagers about potential pressures on local services, the council has given the green light for the development to proceed. ([lynnnews.co.uk](https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/major-housing-development-given-green-light-by-council-9380879/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/major-housing-development-delayed-again-as-lawyers-fail-to-reach-agreement-9402713/> - The major housing development in West Winch, involving 1,100 homes, has faced further delays due to unresolved legal agreements between Hopkins Homes and landowners. The project, part of a larger plan for 4,000 homes, is at risk of stalling if these issues are not addressed promptly. The council has granted an additional two weeks for negotiations to conclude. ([lynnnews.co.uk](https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/major-housing-development-delayed-again-as-lawyers-fail-to-c-9402713/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/concerns-raised-that-plans-for-4-000-home-development-could-9406290/> - Fears have emerged that the extensive housing development in West Winch, comprising 4,000 homes, could collapse due to ongoing legal disputes. Hopkins Homes is under pressure to finalise agreements with landowners and stakeholders to proceed with the first phase of 1,100 homes. Delays in communication and dissatisfaction with proposed deals have contributed to the uncertainty surrounding the project's future. ([lynnnews.co.uk](https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/concerns-raised-that-plans-for-4-000-home-development-could-9406290/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/the-biggest-housing-project-in-west-norfolk-what-do-you-need-to-know-9380004/> - The West Winch housing development is set to be the largest in West Norfolk, with plans for up to 4,000 new homes over the next 20 years. The project includes an access road linking the A10 to the A47, a primary school, a local centre, and open spaces. The development aims to address housing needs and infrastructure challenges in the region. ([lynnnews.co.uk](https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/the-biggest-housing-project-in-west-norfolk-what-do-you-ne-9380004/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/concerns-raised-over-mega-wisbech-housing-development-is-on-verge-of-collapsing-9406290/> - Concerns have been raised that the large-scale housing development in Wisbech, part of a broader plan for 4,000 homes in West Winch, is on the verge of collapse due to ongoing legal disputes. Hopkins Homes is under pressure to finalise agreements with landowners and stakeholders to proceed with the first phase of 1,100 homes. Delays in communication and dissatisfaction with proposed deals have contributed to the uncertainty surrounding the project's future. ([lynnnews.co.uk](https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/concerns-raised-that-plans-for-4-000-home-development-could-9406290/?utm_source=openai))