

From: B ALLEN [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 June 2017 15:41
To: reviews
Subject: Fwd: The Boundary Commission review of the F O D D C Warding Arrangements . Staunton(North) Parish Council Letter of Submission .
Attachments: LETTER TO REVIEW OFFICER.pdf

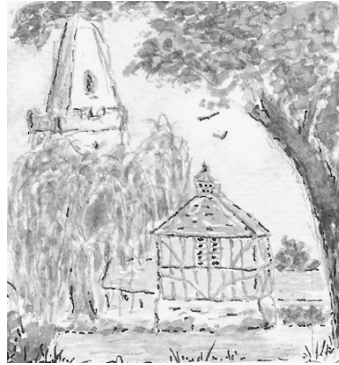
We submit the following for perusal during your Review .

Yours faithfully,

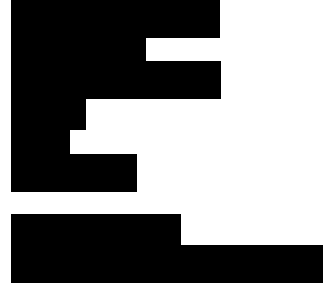
Bas Allen
Chairman Staunton(North)Parish Council

STAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:
Mr Bas Allen



Clerk:



Letter to the Review Officer (Forest of Dean)

Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor, Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SWP 4QP

1st June 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re. Boundary Commission Review of the Forest of Dean Warding arrangements.

At a Staunton (North) Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2017 the Councillors unanimously agreed, and minuted, ***‘To request The Boundary Commission to alter the Wards of Staunton (North) & Corse so that both Villages henceforth, would be in the same Ward’.***

Although legally separate for many years our mantra has been, ***‘Two Villages One Community’*** as both Villages share the same facilities and are proud of their links to Britain’s social history. Irrespective of previous Village names (Corse was originally Snigs End) our Community was really formed on July 12th 1848 when Fergus O’Connor (a founder member of the Chartist Movement), via his Chartist Land Company, inaugurated our Chartist Settlement which lies in both Staunton & Corse. Only five Settlements were ever built with ours considered as the finest surviving example. My Council has worked hard to protect our heritage & has erected signs on all approach roads proclaiming **‘A Chartist Settlement since 1848’**, in addition our existing **JOINT** Parish Council Noticeboard also carries both the above messages.

Our Settlement has been recognised as being of National importance (we have circa 35 Grade II listed Buildings in both Parishes) attracting the full support of Conservation Officers, Planning Officers & the Planning Inspectorate. Balancing the need to protect our Community's past, with the Country's need for new housing, we have accepted some 250 new houses that have been built in Staunton during recent years. The recently built new housing has ensured the future of our vibrant Community which would be further enhanced as one cohesive unit.

In addition to the requested Ward change we also feel strongly that the Parish Councils should be merged forming one entity as the duplications that currently exist are uneconomic, not necessary or relevant. The fact that both Parish Councils meet in the same

Village Hall (we only have one!) one week after each other to discuss, in the main, the same things that affect the **whole of the community**, aptly illustrates that we should use this golden opportunity to rectify this long overdue anomaly. The present duplications of District Councillors, Parish Councillors, Vice & Chairman together with **two** salaried Clerks are not in the best interests of the Parishioners of either Parish as we are beyond doubt a single Community sharing all of the following Facilities, Services, Businesses & Organisations:

- 1/ Staunton & Corse Doctors Surgery & Dispensary
- 2/ Staunton & Corse Primary School (Academy)
- 3/ Staunton & Corse Play Group @ the School
- 4/ Staunton Post Office
- 5/ The Swan at Staunton Public House (A good Community Pub)
- 6/ Staunton & District Women's Institute
- 7/ Staunton & Corse Scouts
- 8/ Staunton & Corse Cubs
- 9/ Staunton & Corse Guides
- 10/ Staunton & Corse Brownies
- 11/ Staunton & Corse Beavers
- 12/ Staunton & Corse Football Club
- 13/ Staunton & Corse Amateur Theatrical Society
- 14/ Staunton Mowers & Growers Gardening Group
- 15/ Staunton, Corse, Hartpury, Maisemore & District over 60's Club
- 16/ Staunton Garden Centre
- 17/ Staunton Business Park
- 18/ Staunton Cross Garage
- 19/ Corse & Staunton Village Hall
- 20/ Corse & Staunton Playing Fields
- 21/ Corse & Staunton Cricket Club
- 22/ Corse & Staunton Short Mat Bowling Club
- 23/ Corse Garage

24/ Corse, Staunton & Hartpury Mothers Union

25/ The Leadon Vale Cycling Club

26/ The Day Centre at Johnson Close

27/ BP Service Station & Shop

28/ The Hawthorns Business Park

All of the above enjoy the full support of this vibrant **Community** with just the Parish Church's serving their Individual followers. Both Parish Councils have worked together in the past with a notable example being the formation of a **Joint Parish Plan** & its subsequent **Joint Affordable Housing Survey**.

The Parish Plan, which took several years to complete, was overseen & independently analysed by the GRCC (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council) who stated that it was their first **Joint** Parish Plan & the final result was '*An exemplar for other Parish's to emulate*'.

The Plan highlighted a number of issues where we could improve communication between the Parish's i.e. a **Joint** Noticeboard & a **Joint** Website** with both items receiving immediate attention. The Plan also identified the need for 15 Affordable Houses for the existing residents of BOTH Parishes, hence the Survey. We are proud to have overseen the building of the 15 Housing units in Staunton and to have ensured that they were only allocated to the residents of our Community.

The Plan Questionnaire on pages 68 & 69 asked the question '*How can your Parish Council serve the Community more effectively?*'.. we list the majority of replies received: -

"More/better communications"

"Communicate better"

"Increased awareness & better communication"

"Corse & Staunton as One"

"More communication between Corse & Staunton"

"Work closely with Staunton"

"Consider what is best for Corse not Corse & Staunton"

"Get some of the red tape out of the system"

"Clear objectives"

*"Link up with Corse & make a Joint Website" ***

"Improve communication"

"Combine Staunton & Corse Parish Councils"

"Staunton & Corse could become one"

"By merging with Corse P C to become Staunton & Corse P C"

"If Staunton & Corse P C'S worked together it would be more cost effective & efficient"

"The two Villages are so intertwined there should be one Parish Council"

"Old Village prejudices, particularly from some Corse residents, should be forgotten in favour of one Community."

The Parish Councils should merge to reflect the interests of all".

"Form one P C no need for two"

"Work together as a team no need for conflict"

"Stop petty bickering over Village Signs & stand as one Parish Council rather than two"

To ensure confidentiality of the **Joint Parish Plan** Questionnaire all replies were sent direct to the G R C C for independent analysis, therefore the examples of comments listed above from our Parishioners, **is** a true reflection of their views on this subject. The G R C C shares our views on the above subjects, and indeed enthusiastically supported us, throughout our decision to carry out a **Joint Parish Plan**. The G R C C is happy for you to contact them, should the need arise, contact Kate Bough on [REDACTED] or by email to [REDACTED]

The GAPTC (Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils) also support our view that, One Ward & One Parish Council, is the only sensible option for our future. The G A P T C is also happy for you to contact their CEO Allison Robinson on [REDACTED] or by email to [REDACTED]

We trust the above supporting information allows you to come to the right & proper decision for this Community, so that we can work towards even closer co-operation & harmony, to the future benefit of all Parishioners of both Staunton & Corse.

Yours faithfully,

Bas Allen
Chairman Staunton Parish Council