

From: Paul Rawson [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 October 2017 14:43
To: reviews
Subject: Electoral Review Forest of Dean: Draft recommendations
Attachments: Boundary Commission 2017.docx

Please find attached the response of the Taynton Parish Council to the Draft Recommendations.

Regards
Paul Rawson
Joint Clerk
Taynton Parish Council
[REDACTED]

TAYNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Response to Boundary Local Government Boundary Commission for England draft recommendations propose that the Forest of Dean should have 38 councillors in the future, ten fewer than the current arrangements. Those councillors should represent five three-councillor wards, seven two-councillor wards and nine one-councillor wards across the district.

At present Taynton Parish is in the Tibberton ward with:

Cliffords Mesne, Glasshouse, Tibberton, Rudford, Highleadon (part), Huntley (part), Kents Green (part) and excluding Newent town.

The proposed change would see Taynton incorporated into a new Newent ward, with Cliffords Mesne, Glasshouse, Newent Town and an area north of Newent including for example, Botloes Green, Upleadon (part) and the whole of Kents Green.

Below is an excerpt from the Boundary Commission letter outlining the reasons for the proposed change:

“The aim of the electoral review is to recommend ward boundaries that mean each councillor represents approximately the same number of voters. We also aim to ensure that the pattern of wards reflects the interests and identities of local communities as well as promoting effective local government. In order to achieve these aims, we need to re-draw ward boundaries across Forest of Dean.”

These changes would disadvantage our parish, in particular the possible increase in precept to accommodate street lighting, public toilets etc. none of which are a benefit to the parish. The proposed change, which appears arbitrary, combine us with a town of 5,000 which does not share the sort of issues faced by a very rural community, our identity and interests and, we suspect, will result in a financial "penalty" to our parishioners. Within the current arrangements single member wards have worked remarkably well. When you have more than one Councillor the public tend to take their cases on from one to the other and if you have three different political factions this leads to confusion.

In conclusion we cannot see how the proposed changes will facilitate the aims of the Boundary Commission set out above. How will "effective local government" be improved?

Yours sincerely

Paul Rawson
Joint Clerk
Taynton Parish Council
Gloucestershire