
From: Westbury [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 May 2017 15:24
To: Claire Hughes
Cc: Colin S Evers; Simon Phelps
Subject: Electoral review of Forest of Dean District Council

Hello Claire

In response to the call for opinions from Forest of Dean Parish and Town Councils in relation to the above, Westbury-on-Severn Parish Council offer the following:

As an outcome of the ongoing review, Westbury on Severn Parish Council proposes the abandonment of the present arrangement by which Westbury-on-Severn Parish is part of a combined Newnham and Westbury Ward that currently returns 2 District Councillors. Instead, our support and preference is for a single Member ward that at its core encompassed our Westbury-on-Severn Parish in the reorganisation of the District Council divisions.

To achieve this objective, Westbury-on-Severn Parish Council feels that to join the parish of Blaisdon (NE) with the parish of Westbury (PO) would prove to be a very suitable amalgamation for the following reasons.

- (a) The combined number of electorate would achieve the increase required to warrant a single District Councillor ward.
- (b) Blaisdon, Flaxley and Westbury are in the same County Council ward; unlike the current arrangement where Westbury and Newnham are in a different County Council wards.
- (c) Children of primary school age from both Blaisdon and Flaxley (part of Blaisdon parish) already attend Westbury-on-Severn primary school, and have done for a great many years.
- (d) It is already the norm for children from both parishes to attend Dene Magna secondary school.
- (e) Within living history there has always been a great deal of social interaction between the three villages, and it is a feature of local life which is ongoing.
- (f) Blaisdon, Flaxley and Westbury churches are in the same joint benefice.
- (g) Sense of place continuity would be retained far better than the current 2 District Councillors Newnham and Westbury Ward achieves.

Kind regards

Fiona Wallbank – Clerk
Westbury-on-Severn Parish Council