

From: Claire Hughes [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2017 12:06
To: reviews
Subject: Electoral Arrangements for Forest of Dean - Response to consultation
Attachments: Boundary Commission Letter 201017.pdf; Hartpury and Redmarley Wards Oct 17.pdf; Tidenham Ward 061017.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Sirs

Please see attached from Forest of Dean District Council

Regards

Mrs. Claire Hughes
Legal Team Manager and Monitoring Officer
Forest of Dean District Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
www.fdean.gov.uk

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Forest of Dean District Council, High Street, Coleford, GL16 8HG
Telephone 01594 810 000 Minicom 01594 812 500
Visit the Council website at www.fdean.gov.uk

reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Contact: Mrs. C. Hughes

Direct Line: [REDACTED]

Direct Fax: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Our Ref: CH

Your Ref:

Date 20 October 2017

Dear Sirs

**Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Electoral Review of Forest of Dean District Council: Draft Recommendations**

I am writing on behalf of the Forest of Dean District Council in relation to the recommendations issued by the Commission.

Following a meeting of Full Council on 19 October 2017, the Council has confirmed that it is content with the suggestion of 38 members, although notes that this is a change from the 39 initially put forward. However, it does have some specific and general observations on the proposed warding patterns as set out below.

The Council are content with the suggestions put forward for the following wards:

- Dymock
- Longhope and Huntley
- Westbury on Severn
- Lydbrook
- Cinderford East
- Cinderford West
- Ruspidge
- Berry Hill
- Coleford
- Bream
- Pillowell
- Lydney North
- Lydney East
- Lydney West and Aylburton
- Newland and Sling

In relation to the remaining wards, the following comments/submissions are made:

Ward	Comments/Submissions
Hartpur and Redmarley	<p>The Council does not believe that this area works effectively as a multi-member division as it considers that it would not operate effectively in such a large a rural area. It is considered that the proposal for this area would lead to a lack of representative democracy and reduction of transparency and public accountability and therefore urges the Commission to reconsider this element of its proposal.</p> <p>Having considered the matter the Council is of the opinion that this area would work more effectively as two single member wards, made up of a Hartpur ward consisting of the parishes of Corse, Hartpur, Rudford & Highleadon and Upleadon and a Redmarley Ward consisting of the parishes of Bromsberrow, Redmarley, Pauntley and Staunton. Maps of these proposals are attached.</p>
Newent	<p>The Council accepts the proposal for a three member ward but would suggest that it is renamed Newent and Taynton.</p> <p>However, the Commission should note that the Council has consulted with the Town Council who have expressed their concerns about the proposal for this area. It is understood that they have established a working group to review the proposals and will be writing to the Commission independently.</p>
Mitcheldean and Drybrook	<p>The Council accepts the proposal for this area but given the local historical significance of Ruardean would suggest that it is renamed the Mitcheldean, Drybrook and Ruardean Ward.</p>
Awre	<p>The Council does not agree that this area works as a two member ward as it considers that it would not operate effectively in such a large rural area. It is considered that the proposal for this area would lead to a lack of representative democracy and reduction of transparency and public accountability and therefore urges the Commission to reconsider this element of its proposal.</p> <p>It is noted that there is no clear rationale in the proposal for separating the parish of Ruspidge and Soudley.</p> <p>Specifically in relation to Littledean there is no evidence of any community connections between it and the other parishes within this ward. Littledean has a much stronger community connection with Cinderford.</p> <p>Given the underlying problems with the proposal for this area the Council would suggest that the Commission considers how it could</p>

	<p>be separated into two single councillor wards.</p> <p>Further, the Commission should note that the Council has sought the views of the local parishes who have indicated that they are not content with the proposals either.</p> <p>By way of example, Newnham on Severn Parish Council submitted: The current boundary review essentially has two aims, namely to ensure that each councillor represents approximately the same number of voters and to create a pattern of wards that reflects the interests and identities of local communities.</p> <p>The proposed ward (provisionally named Awre) consists of an extremely long geographical north-south stretch.</p> <p>In terms of social identity it is characterised by an eclectic mix of communities, starting with Awre in the south-eastern corner which is an agricultural settlement to Blakeney in the South-West, a typical disparate Forest of Dean settlement and stretching a long way North to take in parts of Cinderford, a large industrial settlement.</p> <p>There is consequently a total absence of any common identity in this construct which therefore fails comprehensively to achieve one of the main objectives of the review.</p> <p>It is an ill-defined assemblage for the purpose of adding up voter numbers to the required level. Not surprisingly it does indeed achieve this quantitative objective but to the severe detriment of the second, equally important dimension.</p> <p>Astonishingly it is proposed to name the ward Awre (correct pronunciation uncertain) which is located at the extreme periphery of the ward, whilst Newnham is at its centre both geographically and in terms of its historical standing as a thriving port and trading, manufacturing and administrative centre which once returned its own member of parliament.</p>
Tidenham	<p>Whilst the Council acknowledges that Tidenham Parish Council has raised no objection to the proposals it is the Council's view that this area does not operate effectively as a multi-member ward and would be better separated.</p> <p>In order to make an alternative suggestion for this area it has been necessary to also look at the proposals for the St Briavels ward.</p> <p>The Council would suggest that the area is separated as follows:</p>

- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• St Briavels and Tidenham North (2 members)• Woolaston and Alvington (1 member)• Tidenham South (1 member) |
|--|---|

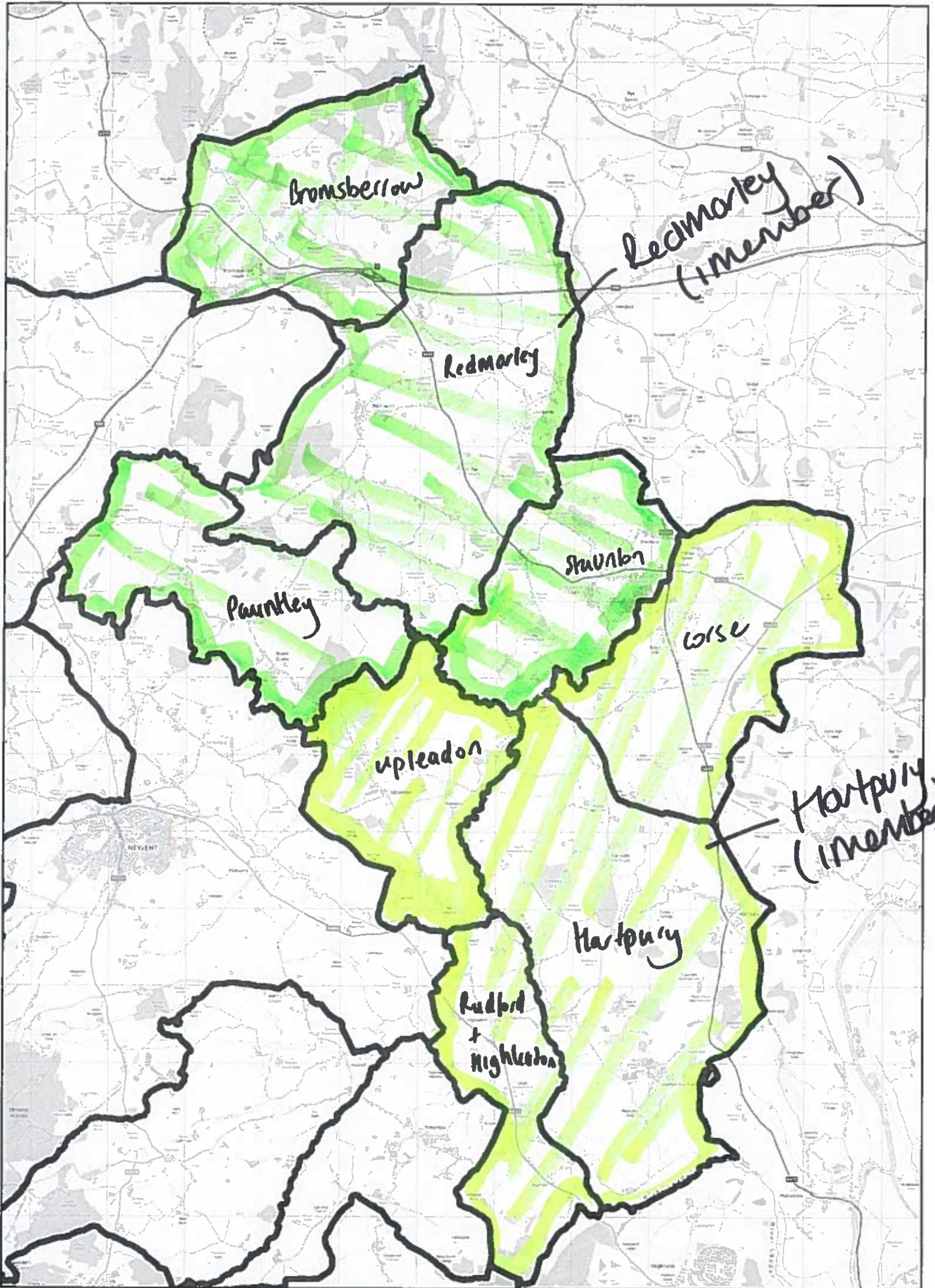
A map of this proposal is attached.

Yours faithfully



Mrs. C. Hughes
Legal Team Manager and Monitoring Officer

Enc. Maps



Bromsberryow

Redmarley
(1 member)

Redmarley

Parnkley

Stunbn

WISE

Upleadon

Hartpury
(1 member)

Hartpury

Raddford
&
Nightholton

St Bnaveles
+ Tidenham
North
(2 member)

Woolaston
+ Avington
(1 member)

Tidenham
South
(1 member)