

Owen, David

From:
Sent: 07 September 2017 15:51
To: reviews; Ashby, Jonathan
Subject: Saltford Parish Council's response RE: ELECTORAL REVIEW OF BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET: WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Dear David Owen,

Saltford Parish Council wishes that Saltford remains as a two seat ward on Bath and North East Somerset Council. There is a considerable work-load expected of our ward councillors as evidenced in this description of Saltford which can be found on the Parish Council web-site:

"The historic village of Saltford is a large village (4,200 residents) situated alongside the A4, the River Avon, and the main-line railway with the Bristol to Bath cycle-path passing through. Saltford is surrounded by green belt land which preserves a rural setting for the village. Saltford is a perfect hub for activities in the Avon Valley and has a vibrant community with as many residents aged 17 years and under as over 65.

There are many outdoor sport and recreation facilities in and around the village that benefit residents and visitors from neighbouring villages, towns and cities. These include tennis, cricket, football, walking, golf, cycling, horse riding, kayaking, rowing, and sailing. Saltford was the venue for the first Bath Regatta in 1849 and Saltford Rowing Centre now provides modern headquarters facilities for Avon Rowing Club and Canoe Avon. Bristol Avon Sailing Club is also based at Saltford. Saltford Golf Club hosted the prestigious English Ladies Open Tournament in 2011.

Community involvement is centred on the Saltford Community Association and with its numerous affiliated organisations. There are pubs and restaurants, a primary school, a thriving Saltford Environment Group and Saltford has Fairtrade Village Status.

Saltford is steeped in history with evidence that the Celts, Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Normans once lived and farmed here. Artefacts and historical features found in Saltford include possible evidence of roundhouses, a stone axe hammer, bronze axe heads, Roman coffins, many Roman and other ancient coins, the oldest being a Carthaginian Coin (300-264 BC), pottery fragments, an Anglo-Saxon burial ground, musket balls, and other miscellaneous glimpses of a long and interesting past.

Saltford's oldest dwelling is Saltford Manor House (c.1148) and is thought to be the oldest continuously occupied private house in England. Other important buildings include the Norman church of St Mary's, with its late Anglo-Saxon period tower, that was attacked by Roundheads during the English Civil War and Saltford Brassmill, referred to in the Domesday Book entry for Saltford when it was a watermill. The mill was converted to working brass in the 18th Century and is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument frequently open to the public. Tunnel House was at one time purchased by Brunel in connection with the construction of the GWR line through Saltford and, next door, Saltford House was from 1856 to 1867 the home of Admiral Benedictus Marwood Kelly who had fought in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars and served on the anti-slavery patrols off the west coast of Africa.

Saltford also has a fascinating geological history with Lower Jurassic rocks seen across ploughed fields and in old quarries and it has been used in many of the older houses in the village. The rocks, mainly Blue Lias limestone, have abundant fossils and provide evidence that this region was once under a warm, shallow, sub-tropical sea, 180 million years ago. Some limestone

exposures in Saltford are extremely important in our understanding of local and regional geology and have been protected as Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) in recognition of this. A gravel deposit from the last ice age near Avon Farm has national protection as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Saltford is a confident place where people enjoy living and working. The biennial Saltford Festival showcases all that is best about Saltford.

Saltford Parish Council believes that the issues and case-loads in this large and diverse village are far in excess of what would be expected in a one-member ward and the Parish Council therefore wishes that Saltford retains its two ward councillors to reflect this workload and the significance of Saltford as a place in the Bath and North East Somerset area.

Regards,

Tricia Golinski, Parish Clerk
Saltford Parish Council

- The total number of councillors elected to the council in the future
- The number of wards
- The number of councillors representing each ward
- Ward boundaries
- Names of wards

For parishes, the review can recommend changes to the electoral arrangements of parish and town councils i.e. the number, names and boundaries of parish wards and the number of parish councillors for each parish ward. However, this is only in circumstances where the parished area is to be divided between

wards. Even in these circumstances, the Commission will not normally recommend any change to the number of councillors to be elected to a parish or town council. The Commission has no power to consider changes to the external boundaries of a parish or the creation of new parishes.

When?

25 July 2017 is the start of a ten week public consultation during which the Commission is inviting proposals for new warding arrangements. The consultation will close on 2 October 2017. After considering all representations made during this consultation, the Commission intends to publish draft recommendations in December 2017. There will then be a further period of consultation on the draft recommendations. Final recommendations are expected to be published in May 2018. The new electoral arrangements will come into effect at the local elections in 2019.

How to get involved?

This is a public consultation and we welcome views from individuals and organisations across Bath & North East Somerset on where they think new ward patterns should be drawn.

The Commission is minded to recommend that 59 councillors should be elected to Bath & North East Somerset Council in the future. It is now inviting proposals to help it draw up a pattern of wards to accommodate 59 councillors.

In drawing up a pattern of electoral wards, the Commission must balance three criteria, which are set out in law, namely:

- To deliver electoral equality where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across Bath & North East Somerset.
- That the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities.
- That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

We are asking local people and organisations for their views as to the best pattern of wards for Bath & North East Somerset which meet the requirements set out above.

The Commission will treat all submissions equally and will judge each case on its merits and against the statutory criteria. If you wish to put forward a view, we would also urge you to ensure that evidence supports your submission. For example, if you wish to argue that two parishes should be included in the same electoral ward, make sure you tell the Commission why they should be together, providing evidence about community facilities, ties, organisations, and amenities, rather than simply asserting that they belong together.

There is plenty more advice on our website about how you can get involved in the consultation and put your views forward. Log on to www.lgbce.org.uk to find out more. The website includes the technical guidance that explains the process and our policies as well as guidance on how to take part in each part of the process. We have set up a page on our site which is dedicated to the review of Bath & North East Somerset where you can find all the relevant information.

You can also access interactive maps of the current ward boundaries across Bath & North East Somerset on our specialist consultation portal. The portal also allows you to draw your own boundaries, mark areas of interest on the map and upload documents directly to the site. Log on to <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk> to access the portal or find it via our main website.

Get in touch

We encourage as many people and organisations as possible to get involved with the consultation and we encourage local organisations and parish councils to engage their local networks and communities in the review.

View interactive maps of Bath & North East Somerset, draw your own boundaries, and have your say at our specialist consultation portal at: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>.

Find out more about the review at: www.lgbce.org.uk.

Email your views to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk.

Follow us on Twitter at: [@lgbce](https://twitter.com/lgbce).

Write to: Review Officer (Bath & North East Somerset)
 Local Government Boundary Commission for England
 14th Floor Millbank Tower
 Millbank
 London
 SW1P 4QP

This phase of consultation closes on 2 October 2017. We will write to you again when we open our consultation on draft recommendations.

Please note that the interests of transparency, copies of the all representations we receive during this review will be placed on our website. We remove any personal identifying information such as signatures and private residential addresses prior to placing any submissions in the public domain.

Yours sincerely

David Owen
Review Officer
Reviews@lgbce.org.uk
0330 500 1525