

**From:** Andrew Gardiner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 November 2017 12:27  
**To:** Ashby, Jonathan; reviews  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: ELECTORAL REVIEW OF FOREST OF DEAN: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

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**From:** Andrew Gardiner [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Mon, Nov 6, 2017 at 11:57 AM  
**Subject:** FW: ELECTORAL REVIEW OF FOREST OF DEAN: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

To: Jonathon Asby and Mark Cooper, Review Officer - Boundary Commission - Forest of Dean District

4<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Jonathon and Mark

I appreciate that this letter was written after consulting with Ruardean, Drybrook and Lydbrook Parish Councils, which means it is rather a late approach to you both, however I had no alternative because I was bound to speak with all three PC Councils prior to writing. I have attended the Forest of Dean District Council's (FODDC) boundary group and I am somewhat appalled that such consultation simply on focused on the creation of a single ward for Lydbrook. Two of the three councillors who currently serve Lydbrook and Ruardean have representational interests in this Parish and therefore, the isolated proposal for Lydbrook to be a single ward.

Having consulted extensively, albeit late because of PC meetings, I believe it will be far more equitable and democratic for the Parishes of Lydbrook and Ruardean along with the inclusion of Ruardean Hill, Polling District, Div 2 (NO) which includes Ruardean Woodside and Brierley, to become a two Councillor Ward of Lydbrook and Ruardean. Supporting this proposals I have listed the following:

- 1) Currently, the parishes share their boundaries with the River Wye and there are a number of issues relating to this aspect such as the river economy and rights of way issues concerning the restoration of the Wye Valley long distance footpath in conjunction with the preservation and restoration of the Stowfield Viaduct across the River Wye (100 yards across the river) to the Welsh Bicknor Youth Hostel.
- 2) Ruardean Parish, the oldest settlement in the Forest of Dean, also includes a large portion of Lydbrook in its ecclesiastical parish which is different to its civil parish.
- 3) The two parishes are culturally are bound together. Should the FODDC recommendations prevail to include Ruardean with Mitcheldean, this would make the work of future councillors very difficult because their high populations are remote from each other, unlike other sparsely or countrified populated polling districts.
- 4) **Proposed boundaries, Map Sheet SO61NW (six inches to the mile) for the addition of Ruardean Hill, Polling District, Div 2 (NO) to the existing Lydbrook and Ruardean Ward.**

Starting from the easterly boundary at map reference 632167, (Map SO61NW) follow the old medieval road marked as a forestry track southwards to a point that intersects the A4136 road on the east side of Herbert

Lodge field, then follow the main road A4136 westerly until it intersects the Lydbrook PC Boundary, then follow the Lydbrook PC boundary northwards until it intersects back to the Ruardean PC boundary.

5) On a historical note, the Celtic root names of **Din, Dene**, given to this ancient settlement is recorded prior and in the Domesday survey. Later it gradually changed to become Ruardean, which gave its name to the Forest of **Dean** - yet the FODDC Review Group chose to leave out the name of Ruardean despite its significance as being one of the most important names in Gloucestershire.

6) **The Pludds Polling Station** - with the contentious removal of the polling station from The Pludds Village Hall, the addition the Polling District, Ruardean Hill, Div 2 NO – which itself is a natural part of Ruardean Village and Woodside – would support the return of the Polling Station to the isolated hamlet of The Pludds on the grounds of increased electorate numbers because Brierley does not have a polling station and is a close neighbour of The Pludds.

Thank you for receiving this late consideration.

Kind regards

Andrew Gardiner

Andrew

District Councillor for Lydbrook and Ruardean

PS - Copies the the Leader of the FODDC and Parish Clerk to Drybrook and Ruardean Parsh Council.

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**From:** Andrew Gardiner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 04 November 2017 18:04  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: ELECTORAL REVIEW OF FOREST OF DEAN: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Jonathon Asby, - Mark Cooper, Review Officer

Dear Jonathon and Mark 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017

I appreciate this letter was wrote after consulting with Ruardean, Drybrook and Lydbrook Parish Councils, which means it is rather a late approach to you both, however I had no alternative because I was bound to speak with all three PC Councils prior to writing. I have further attended the Forest of Dean District Council's (FODDC) boundary group and I am somewhat appalled that such consultation concentrated simply on focusing to create a single ward for Lydbrook. Two of the three councillors who currently serve Lydbrook and Ruardean have representational interests in this parish.

However having consulted extensively, albeit late because of PC Meetings, I believe it will be far more equitable and democratic for Lydbrook and Ruardean along with the inclusion of the Ruardean Hill, Polling District, Div 2 (NO) which includes Ruardean Woodside and Brierley to become a two Councillor Ward of Lydbrook and Ruardean. Supporting this proposals I have listed the following;

- 1) Currently the parishes share their boundaries with the River Wye and there are a number of issues relating to this aspect such as the river economy and rights of way issues concerning the restoration of the Wye Valley long distance footpath in conjunction with the preservation and restoration of the Stowfield Viaduct across the River Wye ( 100 yards across the river) to the Welsh Bicknor Youth Hostel.
- 2) The Ruardean Parish the oldest settlement in the F.O. Dean also includes a large portion of Lydbrook in its ecclesiastical parish which is different to its civil parish.
- 3) Not only culturally are the two parishes bound together ,but also the terrain and should the FODDC recommendations prevail to include Ruardean with Mitcheldean, this would make the work of future councillors very difficult because their high populations are remote from each other, unlike other sparsely or countrified populated polling district.
- 4) **Proposed boundaries Map Sheet SO61NW (six inches to the mile.)**  
Easterly boundary for additional boundary line. From a point map reference 632167 follow the old medieval road marked as a forestry track to a point that intersects the A4136 road on the east side of Herbert Lodge field ---- then follow the main road A4136 westerly until it intersects the Lydbrook PC Boundary ---- then follow the Lydbrook PC boundary northwards until it intersects back to the Ruardean PC boundary.
- 5) Finally it seems incredible that the Celtic root name of Din and then Dene which was later became Ruardean was the ancient settlement which gave its name to the Forest of Dean - yet the FODDC Review Group failed to use this name and left out the singling most important name in Gloucestershire, without a second thought. God help us all

Thank you for receipt of this late consideration.

Kind regards