

Forest of Dean District**Personal Details:****Name:** G H Jones**E-mail:** [REDACTED]**Postcode:** [REDACTED]**Organisation Name:****Comment text:**

While I fully recognize the close relationship between Corse and Staunton and the strong argument for their being in one ward, I am less convinced of any close connection between Hartpury and Rudford & Highleadon. A much closer connection exists between Hartpury and Staunton & Corse and I would therefore strongly support Staunton, Corse & Hartpury being in a single ward - combined if appropriate for electoral balance with any other adjacent Parish. My concern with your proposals is the choice of a two member ward. Over the years we have maintained a close relationship with our District Councillor who has been able to maintain clear local connections and knowledge of our area. I am concerned that with a two member representation we shall lose this close relationship and neither of the two members would have the same direct interest & connections with their constituents. I would therefore strongly suggest that your proposals are reconsidered with the aim of retaining single member wards for our area. G H Jones, Hartpury Resident
- [REDACTED]

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 October 2017 09:21
To: reviews
Subject: Forest of dean - boundary review
Attachments: local boundary review_Forest of Dean.pdf

To Whom it may concern,

Please accept the attached letter and consider its contents as part of your review process...

I would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt?

Regards,

James Kelly
Local resident - Corse Paris, Hartpury Ward, Forest of Dean

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Review Officer (Forest of Dean)

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England 14th Floor,

Millbank Tower

Millbank

London

SW1P 4QP

29th September 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing regarding the draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements and boundaries for *Forest of Dean District Councillors*. I live in the village of Corse which falls within the ward of Hartpury covering the parishes of Corse, Hartpury and Upleadon.

I wish to voice my opposition over the draft amendments suggested in paragraph 38¹ of the Electoral review. The view put forward by Staunton North Parish Council, that Staunton and Corse should be combined within the same ward, is local political posturing by a limited number of persons and does not represent the majority view. The majority view is more likely that most people don't have a strong view provided their representative is visible, effective and has tangible links to the area. This visibility and effectiveness would be much reduced by such an amalgamation.

The proposal to combine the eight parishes within the wards of Redmarley and Hartpury would result in a new ward covering an area far too wide and dispersed to effectively reflect the respective local communities.

¹ Paragraph 38, Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Forest of Dean District Council – Electoral review, August 2017.

I firmly believe that the wards of Redmarley and Hartpury should remain split as two distinct electoral and geographical wards. This is in the interests of the local community and to the benefit of the parishes within. Maintaining the status quo in this location will enable effective and convenient local government to continue whilst reflecting the needs, interests and identity of the residents in each respective and geographically distinct area.

I feel it necessary to point out, in the strongest possible terms, that the purpose and mandate of this electoral review cannot be corrupted by an opportunistic few attempting to covertly blend the parishes of Staunton and Corse. This can only be made with direct, open and candid consultation between the both parish residents.

I therefore respectfully request that the wards of Redmarley and Hartpury should remain as two single-councillor wards similar to existing arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

James Kelly

Forest of Dean District

Personal Details:

Name: Katie Lord

E-mail: 

Postcode: 

Organisation Name: N/a

Comment text:

I agree that the amount of councillors should be reduced and the remaining ones should cover a larger area. With modern technology and communication resources more readily available, it makes it easier to cover a larger geographical area. I feel the boundaries should be set by the council though.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

Forest of Dean District

Personal Details:

Name: David Meek

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

The creation of the geographically large Awre ward seems to have been done just to satisfy the question of equalisation of residents per councillor, Surely the interests of Littledean residents are more likely to be represented by Cinderford coucellors.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

From: mary newton [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 November 2017 19:59
To: reviews
Subject: BOUNDARY SUBMISSION FOREST OF DDEAN

Importance: High



Dear Sir,

I

wish to make the following points with regard to ward changes for the election of representatives.

The Littledean Parish is rural. It is important to retain its rurality by aligning Littledean to other rural areas such as Awre, Blakeney, Soudley and Newnham as proposed by the Commission. This would provide a clear mandate to an elected representative to support the rurality of the area. A FODDC Sub-Committee recommended that Littledean be joined to Cinderford which has urban aspirations. This is inappropriate because a representative would be required to represent two conflicting aspirations, local residents wishing to maintain the landscape and wildlife of their surroundings as opposed to urban development as promoted for instance at Cinderford Northern Quarter where extensive development is to take place on an important wildlife area.

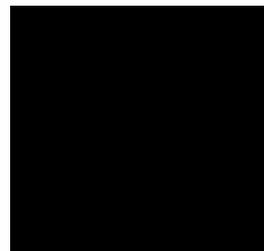
The strong feelings local residents have to protect its landscapes and wildlife was demonstrated in the opposition to a Solar Farm planning application which being refused went to Appeal and failed. The Judgement of Inspector Orrid confirmed the importance of the landscape and protection of feeding areas of the greater and Lesser Horseshoe Bars..

I support the proposal made by the Commission. However if the Commission are intent on aligning Littledean with Cinderford I propose that the Westbury-on-Severn boundary be extended to travel up Lumbars Lane an ancient Parish boundary to the Escarpment, turn North to join the A4151, enclosing Littledean Hall, the church, Littledean Jail, Chestnut and Welshbury Woods joining the existing proposal for the Westbury boundary.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Mary Newton



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The Review Officer (Forest of Dean)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor
Millbank Tower
Millbank
LONDON
SW1P 4QP

30th October 2017

Dear Sirs,

I notice that you are proposing to include Redmarley in a ward with seven other parishes to be represented by two District Councillors. I am concerned about the size of this proposed ward and the number of parishes the councillors will have to attend to.

For many years we have been well served by being in a ward with Pauntley and Staunton and have been looked after by a local person who knows the area and the people who live here.

Your proposals could leave us with two councillors neither of whom are local. This would not be either convenient or effective.

It seems that your proposal arises because Staunton and Corse Parish councils want to be in the same ward. A certain few residents of those parishes may hold this opinion but the people I talk to see this as a minority view and are concerned that Local Government in this area will suffer as a result.

We now learn that Staunton and Corse parishes have changed their minds and now want to be in a single member ward with Hartpury. This might suit them but Hartpury residents are not happy with the proposal and the remaining five parishes would presumably have to form a second ward which would be around ten miles long. This is even less likely to provide effective local government than your enormous two member ward proposal which itself seems to be far from an ideal proposition.

While I support your proposal to have less District Councillors, the obvious solution to manage the consequential increase ward size in this area is to add Bromsberrow to the existing Redmarley ward (Redmarley, Pauntly and Staunton). A second ward would then add Rudford and Highleadon to the existing Hartpury ward (Corse, Hartpury and Upleadon). Both would be manageable and convenient for councillors and residents alike.

I would close by reminding you that Corse and Staunton have always been separate parishes, often squabbling amongst themselves and despite their shared facilities

(incidentally also shared by other surrounding communities, some of whom are not even in the Forest of Dean District) have always seemed to manage quite well in separate County Council Divisions as well as separate District Council Wards.

Please do not disrupt our community or that of the other parishes in this area just to satisfy a minority view.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of G Poole.

G Poole

Forest of Dean District

Personal Details:

Name: David REES

E-mail: 

Postcode: 

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

My comments are as follows. At the initial meeting when this review was introduced I gained the impression that 1 member wards were the ideal. This makes sense for all sorts of reasons - the main one being that electors can identify with a single councillor. Whilst recognising that this may not always be possible I believe that 2 member wards should be the maximum. 1) My ward of St Briavels. I am happy with this. Combining Hewelsfield and St Briavels makes sense. The two communities have a lot in common - they are a united benefice for ecclesiastical purposes and have a shared "Village News". The downside on this is the inclusion of Alvington within this ward. The geography of this area means that there is no easy link (narrow country lanes only) between Alvington and the other two communities. 2) 3 Member wards. I think further efforts should be made to avoid these. The Ideal to me is a one member ward. Obviously this is not always possible. However I fail to understand why there is a need to go beyond this. For example the proposed Tidenham ward is a three member one. Sedbury and Beachley are a community within their own boundary they are suburban whereas the rest of the ward is mainly rural. It makes more sense to me to make the area currently suggested as the Tidenham Ward as a 2 member ward for Beachley and Sedbury and a 1 member ward for the remainder of Tidenham (or vice versa if the number of electors does not support my original suggestion) In addition the "rural" Tidenham ward could then possibly include Alvington rather than St Briavels. Similar exercises could be carried out for the other 3 member wards. With the present proposal for three member wards - particularly for those where chunks of towns have been mixed with areas that are rural in nature I believe there is a real risk of an unintended political bias when it comes to voting patterns.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

Forest of Dean District

Personal Details:

Name: Venkatesh Shenoi

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name: None

Comment text:

Longhope and Huntley Wards can be left alone with one councillor each and that will also meet the requirement to reduce overall councillor numbers.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

From: Linda Thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 November 2017 08:53
To: reviews
Subject: Forest of Dean ward boundary changes 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Proposed Ward Boundary changes for the Forest of Dean 2017
Deadline for submissions 6th November 2017

I can appreciate that the allocation of one councillor per so many residents seems like a nice tidy solution to the complex issue of ward boundary changes but it seems to me that it fails completely to recognize the needs of the local electorate. No ward should have fewer than two councillors. Not only is it a heavy burden of responsibility for any single individual to represent the concerns and issues in his or her area, it is also necessary to offer the electorate a choice of representative. It is my personal experience that the abilities, capacity for objectivity and understanding of important issues among local councillors is variable. Moreover there is currently one councillor in the district who has failed, for whatever reason, to attend any of the last 14 meetings where attendance was expected. If such absenteeism were to occur in a one councillor ward, perhaps because of an extended period of ill health, local residents would have no means of channelling their concerns.

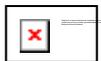
You may argue that voters have the opportunity of weeding out those candidates who fail to achieve the high standards expected but the reality is that few people put themselves forward for such a demanding role. It is therefore important that two councillors should be allocated to each ward: the electorate must have a fighting chance of having their views expressed in a coherent and appropriate fashion.

For this reason I would propose that each ward, regardless of population, should be allocated two councillors.

Yours faithfully

Linda Thomas

Pillowell Ward
Forest of Dean



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