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From: Town Clerk <townclerk@andover-tc.gov.uk>
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On the whole Andover Town Council (ATC) agree with Test Valley Borough Council's (TVBC's) Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for the wards of Andover in so far as the Borough's ward system is concerned but we do not agree with the ward structure for the Parishes. ATC believe that to avoid confusion within the Town Council wards we should be mirroring TVBC and have the same number of councillors for each ward.

The boundary between Andover Romans and Bourne Valley needs revisiting as it currently runs along Finkley Road. Finkley Farm and Finkley Manor are now in Smannell parish and the rest of the houses on the other side of the road are in Bourne Valley, where is the sense in splitting this community?

However, there are a few exceptions to TVBC's recommendations, which are listed below:

Burghclere Down (BD) is to be in Millway for the Borough yet it is in Abbots Ann for the parish, this makes no sense as the community of BD use all the amenities found in Andover and none in Abbots Ann. There is a community centre in BD used by all the Estate and the residents in Floral Way. There is no other community centre in Millway ward. Children from BD attend schools in Andover, the buses run only into Andover for shops, medical facilities, leisure facilities, connection with the railways. There are no transport or footpath links with Abbots Ann. BD is also within the boundary of the A303.

Andover Manor is no longer in Winton ward, yet it is inside the slip road for the A303 which used to be the boundary for Andover Parish and the new boundary for Winton is now just beyond the Manor and cuts across a field in which there are currently no houses. Bus transport links are all to Andover rather than Upper Clatford; as are shops, medical and leisure facilities and trains. The A303 is an identifiable boundary. ATC believe that the boundaries for both Millway and Winton Wards should be the A303 and with the A3057 and the B3402 roads defining the north of Winton ward.

In relation to Harroway Ward, TVBC has followed the Hampshire County Council recommendations for the new boundary of A343 instead of the old boundary of the River Anton. Thereby splitting the community of King Arthur's Way from Romans Way. These two communities already share shops, bus travel and schools. The bus service goes via one community to get to the other so it is fair to conclude that by following HCC's recommendation, TVBC are splitting up a community which works well together in an attempt to join it to another which has no links whatsoever and unlikely to have any in the future.

Finally Andover Romans includes Romans Way and Augusta Park (AP) for the Borough, yet AP has been split between three Parishes, Smannel, Enham Alamein and Romans. AP uses all the amenities in Andover, i.e. . Schools, work, shopping, bus and train transport and medical centre needs.

The proposal for nine wards in Andover Town is disproportionate for its needs along with the number of councillors. ATC are requesting that TVBC look at this again so that the parish wards reflect the Borough.

On behalf of Andover Town Council

Wendy Coulter
Town Clerk and RFO

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