

The Review Officer (East Hampshire)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor, Millbank Tower
21-24 Millbank
LONDON SW1P 4QP

Sent by Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

2 August 2017

Dear Sir/madam

Electoral Review of East Hampshire: Warding Arrangements

Thank you for your formal notification of 13 June 2017 advising of the above Review. Given the advance notice provided to this Council, it was able to consider the matter at its Meeting on 12 June 2017.

This Council unanimously agreed to endorse its local district councillors' calls for the boundaries of local Wards of Rowlands Castle and Clanfield & Finchdean to reflect more closely the Parish boundary.

At present this civil Parish includes both the main village of Rowlands Castle and the surrounding area, including the hamlets of Finchdean and Idsworth (current electorate less than 200 in total). However representation of the Parish at Ward level is split between:

Rowlands Castle with one councillor covering the main village, and
Clanfield & Finchdean (including Idsworth) with two councillors covering areas either side of the A3(M).

The Council requests that the whole Parish be included in one Ward, incorporating the outlying hamlets of Finchdean and Idsworth and represented by at least one councillor, for the following reasons:

- a) These hamlets are within the civil Parish of Rowlands Castle, and there is an elected Finchdean (incl Idsworth) member who sits on Rowlands Castle Parish Council,
- b) Having one or two Ward Councillors dealing with the whole Parish would be both helpful and less bureaucratic,
- c) Finchdean itself has no services, with the exception of a public house, and neither does New or Old Idsworth. Rowlands Castle is geographically close to these hamlets and its services are well-used by its residents. These include a large village shop, a hardware store, doctor's surgery and pharmacy, café, animal surgery, a garage, a separate filling station and several pubs and restaurants. There are also several well-supported churches. Rowlands Castle is also a transport hub for Finchdean and the other hamlets, having a bus service and a railway station on the main line from Portsmouth to London.
- d) At present the Ward of Clanfield & Finchdean is bisected by the major trunk road of A3(M) which affects its cohesiveness,
- e) A seasonal river runs through Old Idsworth, Finchdean and Rowlands Castle and causes periodic flooding. This is mitigated by an active and effective Flood Action Group which is formed by residents of both parishes. Co-location within the same Ward would help in coordinating any response.

Thank you for inviting our response on this matter and we look forward to hearing more about the Review.

Yours faithfully

Lisa Walker
Clerk to the Council