

Starkie, Emily

From: Buriton Parish Council [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 August 2017 15:26
To: reviews
Subject: Electoral Review of East Hampshire : Warding Arrangements

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Emily Starkie,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF EAST HAMPSHIRE: WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Thank you for inviting the views of parish councils in East Hampshire at this stage of your review, but can I ask you to check that you have the correct contact details for this parish as we do not appear to have received any direct communication from you. Other parishes seem to have received a letter from Rebecca Smith around 13th June.

Our correct contact details appear at the top of this letter.

Buriton Parish Council considered this matter at its meeting on 31st July and resolved to submit the following comments, reasoning and rationale:

1. We are pleased that LG BCE is intending to make parishes the building blocks of future district wards, rather than splitting parishes between wards
2. This parish is currently grouped with the parishes of East Meon and Langrish and the Council feels that these current arrangements are logical and work well
3. Our reasoning and rationale to support a continuation of these arrangements includes the following points:
 - there are no opportunities to combine this parish with those to the east as they are in a different county (West Sussex) and a different District (Chichester)
 - there is a significant physical barrier between this parish and those to the south (ie. the steep scarp slopes of the South Downs) and so there is no connection, affinity or joint identity with any parishes to the south
 - the area immediately to the north of this parish is the town of Petersfield which has distinctly different characteristics, identity and issues (urban rather than rural). Furthermore, any amalgamation of any rural parishes with any parts of Petersfield could carry the risk that the more lightly populated part of the area might be overlooked or ignored
 - in the light of the foregoing, warding the parish of Buriton with those rural parishes to the immediate west is clearly the most logical and administratively convenient solution which keeps together a number of communities with similar local identity
4. In addition, all the three parishes in the current grouping are inside the new South Downs National Park and we are sure that you will be paying great attention to the administrative convenience (or otherwise) of having regard to the boundary of the new National Park Authority (NPA). The NPA is now the planning authority for a significant swathe of East Hampshire where different planning policies and practices will apply from the rest of the District. Wards which are either 'primarily inside' the National Park or 'primarily outside' will clearly have a very significant administrative (and policy) convenience
5. This Parish Council feels that the existing grouping of the parishes of Buriton, East Meon and Langrish should continue: retaining the grouping of rural parishes on the immediate southern and western fringes of Petersfield which are all inside the South Downs National Park
6. If it is felt that Buriton should be part of a different grouping then we feel strongly that this should comprise similar parishes as already described above

7. With regard to the name of the Ward, this Council is aware that it is often listed and referred to solely as "East Meon Ward". The Parish Council asks that the word "Buriton" is included in the title of the ward as part of the implementation of your review.

We hope that these comments and rationale are helpful to you and we look forward to seeing your proposals in due course with the opportunity to comment upon them.

Kind regards

Karen Crookshank
Clerk to Buriton Parish Council

Please note I work part time, and so you may not receive an immediate reply to your email.