

Hinds, Alex

From: Rachel Newell [grcp1@btinternet.com]
Sent: 19 April 2012 13:48
To: Charles Lochrane
Cc: Otterway, Richard
Subject: Re: Electoral Review of Vale of White horse
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Dear Charles,

apologies for my delay in reply to your e-mail.

You have composed a response to the proposed Electoral review of Vale of White Horse Council: a content with which I fully concur and wholly support as representative of my views and most likely the views of the majority of the people in the Parish of Compton Beauchamp.

Kindest regards,
 Rachel.

Dr R. C. Newell (Clerk to the Parish Meeting),
 Church Cottage,
 Compton Beauchamp,
 Oxfordshire,
 SN6 8NN.

From: Charles Lochrane [REDACTED]
To: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Cc: richard.otterway@lgbce.org.uk; grcp1@btinternet.com [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 13 April 2012, 15:32
Subject: Electoral Review of Vale of White horse

Dear Sirs

I have received your letter of the 27th March to Compton Beauchamp Parish, announcing the Electoral review of the Vale of the White Horse.
 Your notice has been circulated to the Electors in the Parish who will no doubt make their views felt to you individually.

However, as Chairman of the Parish, having read your letter carefully I have some observations on the two issues you raise, that I am sure reflect the overarching views of our community notwithstanding any individual representation anyone might wish to make.

1. We are a small community at the western extremity of the Vale .There are a number of similar parishes in the area and we have frequently complained to the Council that when it comes to allocation of public services, we always seem to get overlooked. As a result almost every public service we get anywhere near is permanently underfunded and run on a shoestring. The usual reason given by our elected representative is that, as the majority of the population (and therefore the majority of elected councilors) is in the east of the Vale, the majority of funding is concentrated in these areas. The point of this is that in any review therefore, we would NOT expect there to be any reduction in the number of councilors representing the large, albeit less populous, areas in the west of the Vale, whereas the preponderance of representatives in the eastern population centres of Abingdon and Didcot could well be cut as they have a distinctly less difficult job communicating with their electors. I am sure our community would appreciate some clarity on this issue.
2. You indicate in your letter that "we may make recommendations for parish electoral arrangements:

ie the number, names and boundaries of parish wards". I would appreciate an explanation as to exactly what is meant by this statement? I hope very much that there is no suggestion that any of the existing parishes in the Vale might be abolished?. I am sure you can anticipate the storm of protest this would produce. The parish system is a product of ancient village community boundaries and nothing whatever to do with any political system. Our community would appreciate reassurance on this point also.

I look forward to hearing from you at the earliest opportunity, and confirm that you may record these comments, with full attribution if you wish, in the public domain. I have copied this email to our Parish Clerk, Dr Rachel Newell. Please ensure that any reply is similarly copied.

Yours faithfully

Charles R Lochrane
Chairman, Compton Beauchamp Parish