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Sent: 25 October 2016 10:54

To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Teignbridge District Council - Proposed recommendations for Rural North West

Teignbridge District Council - Proposed recommendations for Rural North West

At a recent Parish council meeting we discussed your proposal that we should become a two member ward with the communities of Tedburn St Mary and Dunsford Parishes. We strongly disagree with the recommendations for the following reasons:

- Tedburn St Mary and Moretonhampstead are very different communities with little in common. The geography of the area prevents easy communication. We are located in separate steep sided valleys with narrow and windy roads linking us. People who live in Tedburn St Mary access services along the A30 from Exeter to Okehampton, whilst people in Moretonhampstead look more to the east of Dartmoor and the towns of Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot and Ashburton for their services.
- Moretonhampstead, Manaton, North Bovey, and Lustleigh are situated in the National Park and share the same planning authority whilst Tedburn St Mary falls under Teignbridge DC Planning Authority. Our current district councillor attends the DNP Planning meetings; it would not be feasible for a district councillor to attend planning meetings for two separate authorities.
- The proposal creates a geographically large ward. If two members from different parties were elected both members would have to attend all parish council meetings. We think we would be better represented by one member who was responsible for a smaller area who we could reliably expect to attend all our meetings which take place monthly.

Our proposal is that Moretonhampstead should be in the same one member ward as the villages of Lustleigh, North Bovey and Manaton with which we have strong connections. People from these villages use the Moretonhampstead's shops, health centre, and primary school. The churches are also part of the Moretonhampstead Benefice.

The other ward should contain Dunsford and Tedburn St Mary. We believe that the numbers of electors in each would be very close to the margins of what you are trying to achieve in terms of balancing numbers but the overall effect would be to strengthen democracy in the two wards by allowing us to hold our representatives properly accountable for what is happening in our communities.

Jane Willis
Chairman
Moretonhampstead Parish Council

