

Agenda Item

Council

6 December 2006

JW



Boundary Changes

Summary

Due to a change in the use of the former Fairmile Inn, near Ottery St Mary and a building development in the area of Gittisham Hill House, near Honiton, the District Ward and Parish boundaries in these two areas are difficult to follow for administration, Council Tax and electoral registration purposes. It is therefore proposed that the boundaries be moved to follow identifiable features which run around, instead of through, the properties concerned.

Recommendation

That the Secretary of State be requested to issue two Orders under the Local Government & Rating Act 1997 - Parish Reviews to the effect that:

1. the Talaton/Ottery St Mary Parish boundary and the Whimple/Ottery St Mary Rural District Ward boundary in the area of the former Fairmile Inn be moved to run in front of the former inn, following the line of the road locally known as the 'old A30', instead of leaving the line of the road to run the rear of the former inn.
2. the Honiton/Gittisham Parish boundary and the Honiton St Michael/Feniton and Buckerell District Ward boundary in the area to the west of Gittisham Hill House be moved to run further west than at present to follow the track up to Sidmouth Road before rejoining the existing boundary.

a) Reasons for Recommendation

The amendment to the boundaries have been requested by the Electoral Services Officer and appears to be a logical proposition to which no objections have been received.

b) Alternative Options

Not to support the request.

c) Risk Considerations

No risks identified.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

e) Date for Review of Decision

Not applicable

1 Main Body of the Report

The procedure to be followed:

The stages to be following when considering a boundary change are laid down in the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 - Parish Reviews. The three main steps that we have to follow are stated as:

- 1) the District Council decides to review parish arrangements and publicises the review
- 2) the District Council takes representations into consideration and, if it decides to make draft recommendations publicises them
- 3) the District Council takes representations into consideration and, if it decides to make recommendations to the Secretary of State, publicises them. Interested parties may then make representations direct to the Secretary of State

Consultations carried out under stages one and two have involved a public notice in the Midweek Herald, notices on Town and Parish Council notice boards, letters to residents and local Councillors and articles in Parish magazines and the Knowledge. No representations opposing the proposals have been received to date.

Revision of boundaries in the area of the former Fairmile Inn

The District Ward and Parish Council boundaries run to the rear of the former Fairmile Inn on the old A30. North of this road lies within the parish of Talaton, which falls within the District Ward of Whimble. South of the road falls within Ottery St Mary. The former Fairmile Inn lies to the South of the road but the Parish and District Ward boundaries at this point stop following the road and instead run behind the former inn. The inn has been converted into four properties and there is uncertainty about which Ward/Parish they are in. The recommendation is to move the boundaries to follow the route of the road locally known as the 'old A30'.

Revision of boundaries in the area to the west of Gittisham Hill House

The District Ward and Parish Council boundaries run to the west of Gittisham Hill House. In 2001 the first 10 properties of a projected development of 22 houses were completed. At this time the GGP system was not available to us. The remaining houses are due for completion soon and the GGP system now in use shows the Parish and District Ward boundaries running through the middle of the development. It is unclear exactly which properties will lie in which Ward/Parish. As it makes sense for all the properties to fall within the same area it recommended that the boundaries be moved west to run from the existing boundary, up the track to meet with the Sidmouth Road before rejoining the existing boundary.

A decision of the full Council is needed in order to progress these matters further by making a recommendation to the Secretary of State.

Legal Implications

There are no legal matters other than those referred to in the report which require comment.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications to this report.

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

Ottery St Mary Town Council, Honiton Town Council, Gittisham Parish Council, Talaton Parish Council, directly affected residents and other local residents.

Background Papers

Local Government and Rating Act 1997 – Parish Reviews