

PETITION FOR A PARISH OF FURZEHILL

I am Geoff Chopping and I am the organiser of this petition for a Parish of Furzehill.

Following: the approval of the Structure plan in 2014, which included 600 plus houses between Wimborne and Furzehill and the possibility of further housing on the Woodlease site within Furzehill, it seemed that Wimborne might be eventually expanded to include Furzehill.

In 2015 a Governance Review was concluded. This had initially proposed that two thirds of Furzehill would be included as part of Wimborne.

It is perhaps not surprising that the support for this petition has been very strong. Very very few have declined to sign it. Many have thanked me for spending my time walking around and collecting the signatures.

The "Guidance on Community Governance Reviews" document welcomes such petitions as a way that electors can say how they wish to be governed and to define: their local community; their local distinctiveness; their size; and their boundaries.

The requirement for this petition is to have signatures of at least 50% of the voters on the electoral register. I have collected over 70%, with similar support from both the current Colehill and Holt electors.

70% is a clear majority when you consider that: some have died; some moved away; some are at university; some are rather ill; and some never seem to be in, when I called.

Considerable research was undertaken before this petition was launched. A meeting with Council officers was a useful part of this research. From this research a document was produced in order to help the members, of the Furzehill Resident's Association, understand the mechanics and consequences of requesting a Parish of Furzehill. It included the names/numbers of the 149 dwellings, included in the 9 electoral areas, from across Colehill and Holt, of the proposed Parish of Furzehill. Presentations were also made to Holt Parish Council.

It is not appropriate to try and present this document to this meeting, but a copy of this document has already been supplied to the Legal & Democratic Services Manager as an input to the governance review, along with a map. This map has been included to assist members understand the area of the proposed Parish.

The petition states:

Petition Organiser: Geoffrey Chopping Furzehill Wimborne Dorset BH21 4HD.

We the undersigned are electors of the proposed Parish of Furzehill and petition that East Dorset District Council call a governance review in order to grant the status of parish to the community, which is comprised of the four hamlets known as: Furzehill; Dogdean; Grange; and Bothenwood: the Parish is to be known as the Parish of Furzehill and it is to be grouped under a common parish with the existing Parish of Holt, so that it is administered by an enlarged Furzehill and Holt Parish Council.

The Parish is requested to comprise an area, which is bounded by existing parish boundaries where possible and which includes at least -

- the 99 (95) dwellings of the following 5 electoral areas of Colehill West:

Cranborne Road	6	Dogdean	17
Furzehill, Wimborne	64	Grange	11
High Hall	1		

- and the 50 dwellings of the following 4 electoral areas of Holt:

Bothenwood	7	Furzehill, Wimborne	21
Grange	18	Long Lane, Wimborne	4

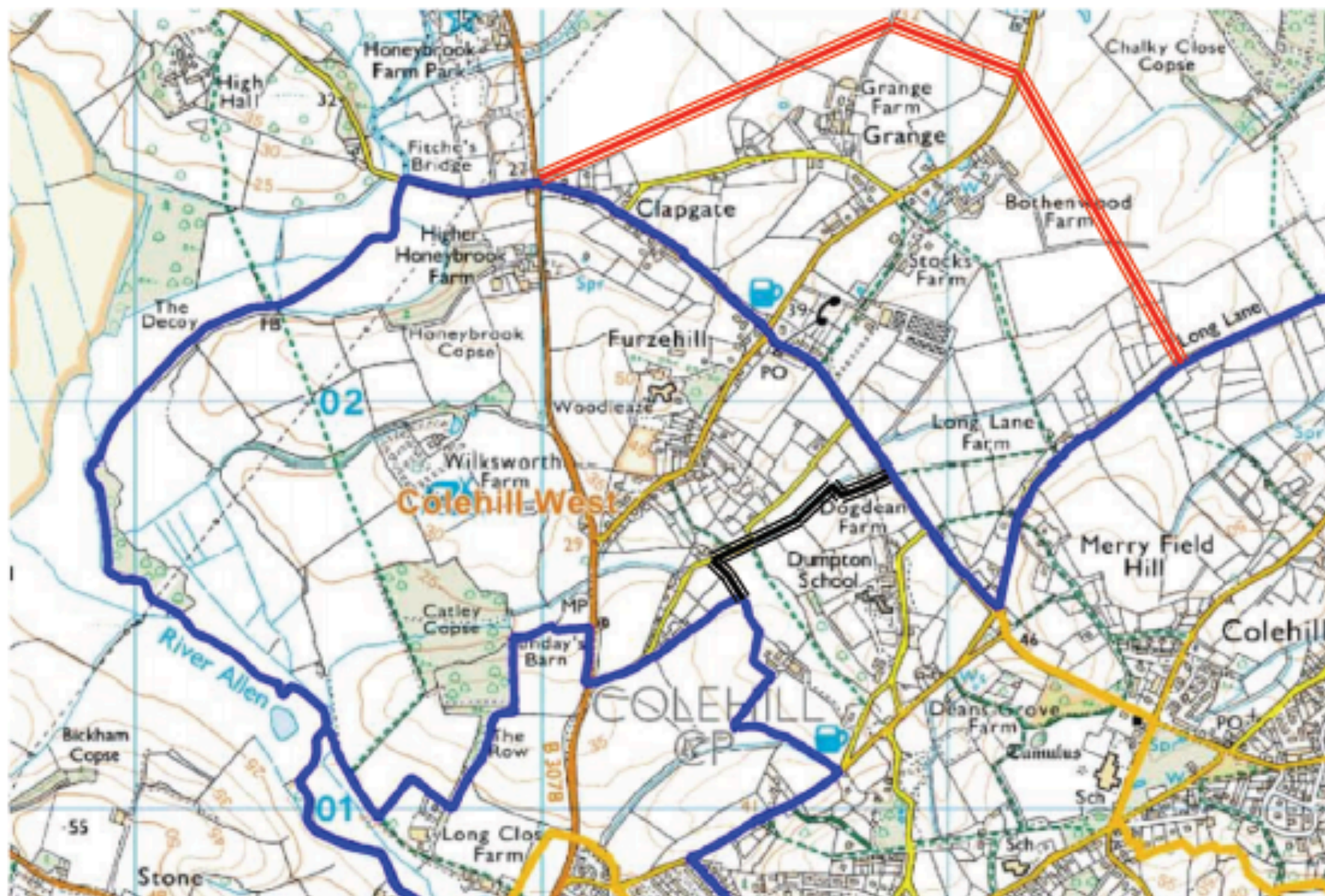
- making a total of at least 149 dwellings. The dwellings in Smuggler's Lane are all included within the above two "Furzehill, Wimborne" electoral areas.

It is further requested that the Proposed Parish of Furzehill is recognised as having a rural nature and that the Parish should retain its current identity and character, which has similarities to the many hamlets in the Parish of Holt, but which is distinctly different from the expanding town of Wimborne and the urban Parish of Colehill.

If warding is required then it is requested that: the dwellings from Colehill West become Furzehill West; and the dwellings from Holt become Furzehill East.

Please note there are actually 99 dwellings from Colehill Parish and not 95.

I hope that East Dorset will convene a Governance Review and create the Parish of Furzehill and group it with the Parish of Holt.



Blue line shows the existing boundaries near Furzehill
Black line detaches part of Colehill to become a part of Furzehill
Red line detaches part of Holt to become other part of Furzehill