

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND
and
DORSET COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Boundary Commission for England have just released their draft proposals to revise the Parliamentary Constituencies. The proposal for our area would have all our local area in the same Mid Dorset and North Poole constituency. See the Boundary Commission for England map.

At present the boundary between the North Dorset Constituency and the Mid Dorset and North Poole constituency runs along Smugglers Lane and Grange, so different MPs represent the different parts of our area.

If the proposal becomes a reality then it could make it easier for us to be all under the same Parish Council.

Following the adoption of the Structure Plan in 2014, East Dorset District Council held a Community Governance Review and proposed moving the whole of Colehill West Ward of Colehill Parish Council into Wimborne as over 600 houses were to be built on the edge of Wimborne. After many objections were raised only the Green Belt development land was moved into Wimborne.

This left an area of land virtually detached from Colehill West which contained: all of Dogdean, most of the Furzehill and some of Grange; still in the Colehill West Ward. Whereas the rest of Furzehill; with the rest of Grange and all of Bothenwood was still in the Parish of Holt. Please see the Dorset Explorer Map.

In 2017, a petition was presented to East Dorset District Council to hold a further Community Governance Review in order to try and move the above area of land so that it would all be under the same Parish Council. This was requested to be with a New Parish Furzehill that was Grouped with Parish of Holt, but it could also be achieved by just changing the Holt Parish Boundary.

For the petition to be valid, 50% of the electors affected had to sign the petition. Not signing it was in effect a vote against. Signatures were obtained from over 70% of the Holt Parish residents and over 70% of the Colehill Parish residents.

70% was a very clear majority when you consider that: some had died; some had moved away; some were at university; some were ill; and some just never seemed to be in.

A considerable difficulty was that the current divide between Colehill West ward of Colehill Parish Council and Holt Parish Council is also a parliamentary boundary. Having a Parliamentary Boundary through a Parish Council Area requires that the Parish council is divided into wards, whereby the number of councillors per elector must be similar in all wards.

It was also stated by East Dorset District Council that there would be logistical difficulties when holding elections.

Consequently, if the Boundary Commission for England proposal for our area happens, then a significant difficulty would be removed.

As the electorate clearly showed, they wanted to be under the same Parish Council, hopefully as Dorset Council are about to hold a Community Governance review this year, then perhaps a change will happen.

Residents are able to make observations to the Boundary Commission for England in the Consultation which starts on the 8 June 2021.

Residents should be able to make observations to the Dorset Council as hopefully a consultation will start soon for their Community Governance Review of Parish/Town Council boundaries

The more representations that are made the more likely our wishes will be achieved.