

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS

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1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Council is requested to endorse the recommendations of its Community Governance Working Party (CGWP) in respect of the reviews recently undertaken in the Clun, Craven Arms and Ruyton-XI-Towns areas, following publication of the Final Proposals documents.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended:

- (a) That the Council approves the recommendations of the Community Governance Working Party in respect of Clun, specified in Section 2 of the Report attached at Appendix 1.
- (b) That the Council approves the recommendations of the Community Governance Working Party in respect of Craven Arms, contained in Section 2 of its report attached at Appendix 2.
- (c) That the Council adopts the recommendations on the Community Governance Working Party in respect of Ruyton-XI-Towns in Section 4 of the report attached at Appendix 3 and requests the Local Government Boundary Committee for England to make the Consequential Changes Order.

REPORT

3.0 Clun Review

- 3.1 This review commenced on 1 August 2011 when the Terms of Reference were published by the CGWP. Various local organisations, including the parish council, the political parties, elected members and local residents were contacted and invited to submit their comments at the initial stage. The review had been requested because of concern over the electoral

arrangements for Clun Parish Council and in particular that there has been a history on uncontested elections and/or the need to co-opt members in order to fill vacancies.

3.2 In addition, the opportunity was also taken to consider generally:

- The number of members of Clun Parish Council;
- The division of the parish into wards;
- The number of members per ward;
- The name of the Parish Council;

3.3 At present there are 157 electors and 3 seats in the Chapel Lawn ward and 801 electors and 9 seats in the Clun ward. The ratio of councillors to electors is 1:52 for the Chapel Lawn ward and 1:89 for the Clun ward.

3.4 The CGWP considers that a reduction in the number of seats on the parish council from 12 to 9 (Chapel Lawn ward 2 seats and Clun ward 7 seats) is consistent with the formula published by the Aston Business School and also the National Association of Local Councils which has been used locally in recent years as a guide.

3.5 The CGWP considers that the Council should be known as Clun and Chapel Lawn Parish Council.

3.6 The difficulty the Parish Council has had since 2007 in maintaining a full complement of councillors has been recognised. The reduction in the number of seats will help to alleviate the number of co-opted members on the parish council. The reduction in the number of seats from 12 to 9 appears to be both viable and sustainable.

3.7 Details of the proposals were published and made known to local residents, local members, political parties, other stakeholders and on the Community Governance Review page on the Council's website at the initial, draft and final stages.

3.8 Accordingly, the Council is requested to adopt the recommendations of the Community Governance Working Party as set out in Appendix 1.

4.0 Craven Arms Review

4.1 The Council gave notice of the Community Governance Review of Craven Arms on 1 August 2011. This was in response to concern having been raised over the electoral arrangements for Craven Arms.

4.2 In addition, the opportunity was also taken to consider:

- the number of members of Craven Arms Town Council

- the division of the parish into wards
- the number of members per ward
- the name of the Town Council.

4.3 Currently, there are two wards, Halford ward with 73 electors electing one councillor and the Stokesay ward with 1,775 electors electing 13 councillors. The ratio of councillors to electors from the Halford ward is 1:73 and for the Stokesay ward is 1:136.5.

4.4 The CGWP considers that a reduction in the number of seats from 15 to 11 and the abolition of the Halford and Stokesay wards will improve electoral parity, will reflect current and future patterns of development in the parish and provide convenient and effective local governance.

4.5 The CGWP also considers that the proposed reduction in the number of councillors would also be consistent with the formula published by the Aston Business School and also the National Association of Local Councils which has been used as a guide.

4.6 As with the Clun review, details of the review have been published at the initial, draft and final stages to amongst others, local residents and organisations, local members, the Town Council and political parties and on the Community Governance Review page of the Council's website.

4.7 Accordingly, the Council is requested to adopt the recommendations of the Community Governance Working Party as set out in Appendix 2.

5.0 Ruyton-XI-Towns Review

5.1 The Community Governance Review of Ruyton-XI-Towns commenced on 17 October 2011 when the Terms of Reference were published by the Community Governance Working Party. Various local organisations, local residents, elected members and political parties were amongst those consulted at the initial, draft and final proposals stages of the review.

5.2 The review considered:

- the division of the parish into wards
- the number of members per ward
- the name of the parish council
- the changes to the Whittington and Ruyton and Baschurch Electoral Divisions along the boundary of Ruyton-XI-Town parish and West Felton parish.

- 5.3 The review had been requested because 9 properties (12 electors) in Pradoc View currently lie within the Ruyton-XI-Towns Parish and it was felt that the boundary should be redrawn to include them in West Felton parish. The properties in Pradoc View were built almost 2½ years ago with the first electors being registered in January 2010.
- 5.4 The responses received to the consultation supported the idea to include Pradoc View in West Felton parish.
- 5.5 There are no proposals to change the number of seats on either Council as only 12 electors are involved.
- 5.6 Once the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order has been made the Local Government Boundary Committee for England need to be requested to make a Consequential Changes Order to bring the Electoral Division Boundaries in line with the revised parish boundaries.
- 5.7 Accordingly, the Council is requested to adopt the recommendations of the CGWP as set out in Appendix 3 and to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make a Consequential Changes Order.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Kith Barrow

Local Member

Steve Charmley, David Evans, James Gibson, Nigel Hartin and Aggie Caesar-Homden.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Final Proposals – Clun
Appendix 2 – Final Proposals – Craven Arms
Appendix 3 – Final Proposals – Ruyton-XI-Towns