

REPORT OF CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Meeting held 13 June 2000)

1. BOUNDARY BETWEEN BRAMSHAW AND COPYTHORNE PARISHES (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 8)

The Committee has considered a request from three property owners in Wittensford to move the boundary between Bramshaw and Copythorne Parishes, so that their properties transfer from Copythorne Parish to Bramshaw Parish. The Bramshaw Parish Council supported the request, while Copythorne Parish Council objected. Two of the residents concerned addressed the Committee.

The residents wished the boundary moved as -

- (i) part of Wittensford is already located in Bramshaw Parish;
- (ii) most of their social activities are centred in Bramshaw and many of their friends live in that parish;
- (iii) in respect of one of the properties, Wittensford House, the dwelling is situated in Copythorne, but most of the owners' land, on which their animals graze, is in Bramshaw, separated by the Cadnam River.

The Committee considered the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions' guidance in respect of creating parish boundaries and the issues to be taken into account. Whilst the residents' views appeared to fall within the guidelines, the majority of the members of the Committee were concerned at the precedent which would be created if the request was agreed. There are a number of small settlements throughout the District which are closer in geographic terms to centres of population in adjoining parishes than villages in their own parishes, and the Committee was mindful that granting the current request could lead to similar requests from residents of other areas. Individual residents in a number of parishes happily avail themselves of facilities in adjoining parishes and the Committee did not consider that the arguments put forward in this case warranted a change in boundary.

It was noted that, if the request was granted, consultation required by the relevant legislation would have to be undertaken. This, coupled with officer time, would mean that the change in boundary would cost between £800 and £1000. The Bramshaw Parish Council and one of the residents had offered to contribute towards this cost.

The Committee decided to take no action on the request.

2. ANNUAL EMPLOYEE TRAINING REPORT (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 10)

The Committee has considered a comprehensive report on the training and development undertaken during 1999/2000 and the broad proposals for 2000/01.

Members have noted that the Training and Development Strategy entitled "Developing Together" is a key part of the Council's approach to meeting its corporate aims. The Strategy particularly focuses on the continuous development of employees within the Council as an Organisation of Excellence.

The Performance and Development Interview (PDI), which is the Council's vehicle for performance assessment and appraisal, is an important part of the training and development process and ensures that all employees have their training and development needs identified.

The Committee has been informed of, and was pleased to note the wide range of training undertaken. Members were also pleased to learn of the Council's involvement in the New Deal scheme. The Committee paid tribute to the team of employees who had helped to ensure the Council's reaccreditation for the Investors in People award.

3. LAND AT ASHLEY, RINGWOOD (REPORT E) (MINUTE NO. 14)

The Committee has agreed to the freehold disposal of land at Ashley, outside the New Forest District Council's area, to the Ringwood Town Council for a nominal sum.

The Council will be aware that it is this Council's policy not to dispose of open space land freehold to parish and town councils. However, in this instance, as the land is situated outside the District, the Committee felt that it could be regarded as an exception and that the freehold disposal would not create a precedent. The disposal of the land to the Town Council is subject to the Town Council meeting this Council's legal costs, and to a 90% clawback should the land subsequently be sold by the Town Council.

**Councillor P C Greenfield
CHAIRMAN**