

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW (CGR) – GODSHILL

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Committee on 11 June 2010 considered the results of the initial consultation carried out as part of the CGR to assess whether to change the boundaries of Godshill Parish with Breamore and Fordingbridge at two points. Members will recall that the review was initiated at the request of Godshill Parish Council.

1.2 After taking into account the results of the initial consultation, the Committee resolved:

(a) That draft proposals to change the boundaries of Godshill –

- (i) with Breamore, at the property known as Armsley;
- (ii) with Fordingbridge, so that Crystal Hollow falls within Godshill Parish;

be published and consultations on these draft proposals be undertaken; and

(b) That the matter be further considered by the Committee at its next meeting.

1.3 This report informs members of the outcome of the consultation on the draft proposals, and recommends the publication of final proposals and recommendations, leading to the making of a Reorganisation Order.

1.4 The Committee is reminded that, before making a Reorganisation Order, the Council has a duty to ensure that community governance within the area being reviewed reflects the identities and interests of the community, and that it is effective and convenient. The following must also be taken into account:

- the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

2. RESULTS OF CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PROPOSALS

2.1 The draft proposals to change in the boundaries of Godshill Parish, as shown on the map attached at Appendix 1, were published on the Council's website. The following were informed in writing of the draft proposals:

- all households in Godshill
- those residents of Fordingbridge along the B3078 Southampton Road between the boundary with Godshill and Avonside Farm
- the Godshill and Breamore Parish Councils and Fordingbridge Town Council
- the owners of the property known as “Armsley” (who also own the triangular piece of land shown on Appendix 1)
- local District and County Councillors
- Hampshire County Council
- New Forest National Park Authority
- Sandy Balls Estate

2.2 Only one response was received, from a local resident who supported the proposals.

2.3 The Committee will recall that, with the exception of one objection (which was subsequently withdrawn), all responses from residents to the initial consultation supported the proposals. Breamore Parish Council also supported the proposals insofar as they affected their boundary. The National Park Authority, Hampshire County Council, and Fordingbridge Town Council did not object.

3. FINAL PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS/NEXT STEPS

3.1 In the light of local support, it is recommended that a recommendation be made to the Council that the changes to Godshill’s boundaries with Breamore and Fordingbridge, as set out on the attached map, be agreed. It is the officers’ view that the proposed changes meet the criteria set out in paragraph 1.4 in respect of community identity and community governance.

3.2 The final proposals and recommendations, with reasons, must be published and steps must be taken to ensure that those who have an interest are informed of them. A “Reorganisation Order” must then be made.

3.3 The proposed changes to the boundaries will mean consequential changes to the Downlands & Forest, Fordingbridge, and Forest North West District Wards. These changes must be made by the Boundary Committee, and will be dealt with as “consequential amendments” arising from the making of the Reorganisation Order.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of publicising the Council’s recommendations in respect of the CGR will be met from within existing budgets.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITIES & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That it be recommended to the Council:

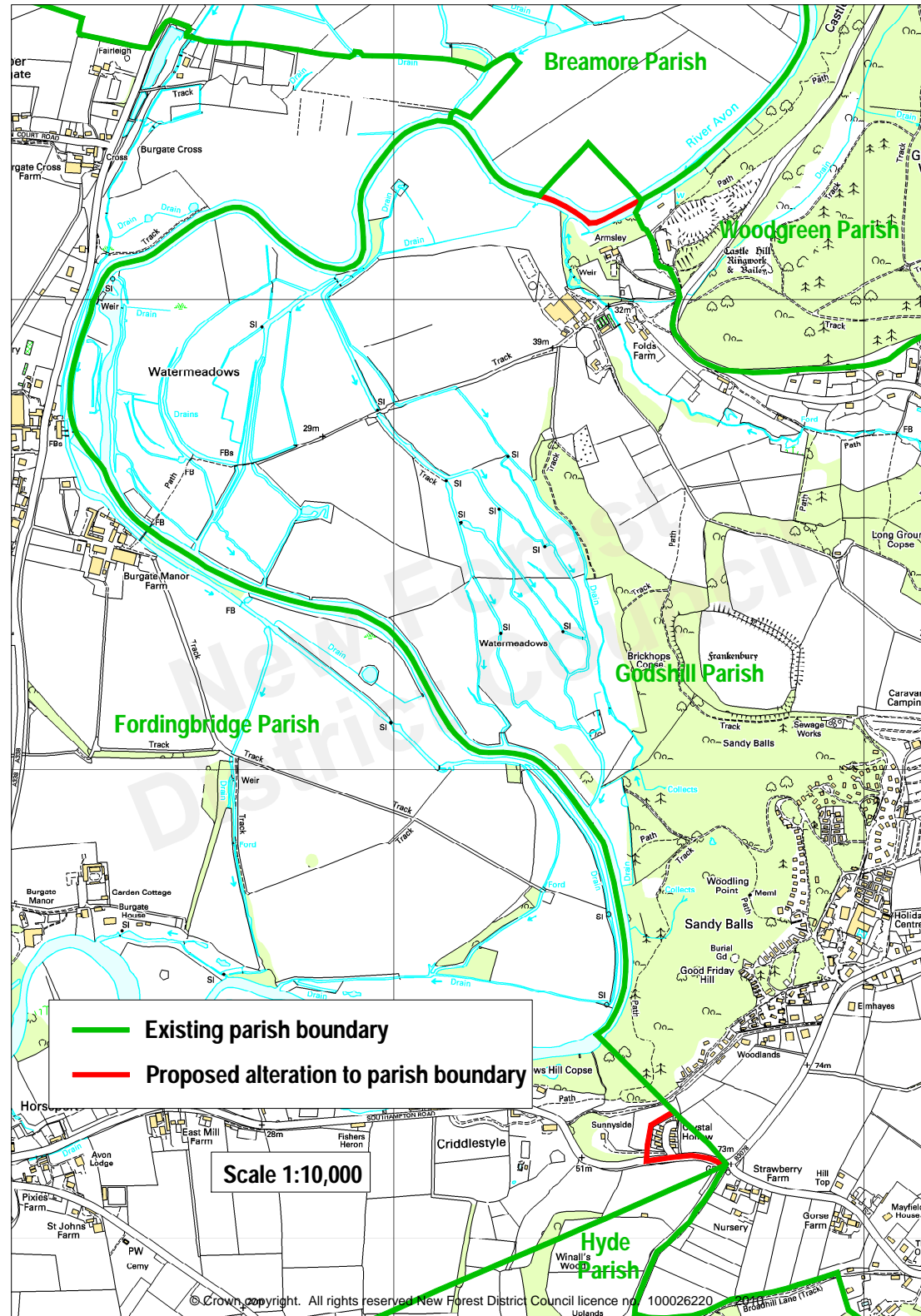
- 6.1 That, for the reasons set out in Appendix 2, final proposals and recommendations to change the boundaries of Godshill with Breamore and Fordingbridge, as set out in Appendix 1, be published and that steps be taken to ensure that those who may have an interest are informed of them;
- 6.2 That, following the steps in paragraph 3 above, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make a Reorganisation Order to give effect to the changes set out in paragraph 1.2 and as shown on Appendix 1 to this report.
- 6.3 That the Boundary Committee be requested to amend the boundaries of the Forest North West, Fordingbridge and Downlands & Forest District Wards to reflect the changes in the parish boundaries.

Further information:

Rosemary Rutins
Democratic Services Manager
Tel: (023) 8028 5381
E-mail: rosemary.rutins@nfdc.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Published documents



APPENDIX 2

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF BOUNDARIES OF GODSHILL PARISH WITH FORDINGBRIDGE AND BREAMORE

DRAFT STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR MAKING REORGANISATION ORDER

Background

1. At the request of Godshill Parish Council, New Forest District Council has undertaken a Community Governance Review of the area of Godshill Parish Council. The terms of reference for the review were:–
 - (a) To review the boundary of the parish with Fordingbridge, with a view to establishing whether the development known as Crystal Hollow should more appropriately be located in Godshill rather than Fordingbridge;
 - (b) To review the boundary of the parish with Breamore, with a view to establishing whether the triangular piece of land to the west of the River Avon and the property known as “Armsley” should transfer to Breamore;
 - (c) That the review be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and any statutory guidance.

First Steps and Initial Submissions

2. The review was published on the Council’s website on 13 May 2010. Details of the review were sent in writing to all households in Godshill and those residents of Fordingbridge along the B3078 Southampton Road between the boundary with Godshill and Avonside Farm (including Crystal Hollow). The town and parish councils affected, the National Park Authority, Hampshire County Council and others considered to have an interest in the matter were also consulted. 12 written expressions of support, including 8 of the 10 Crystal Hollow households, were received from local residents. There was one objection, which was subsequently withdrawn. Breamore Parish Council supported the proposals. Fordingbridge Town Council, the New Forest National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council raised no objection.
3. Having considered the representations, New Forest District Council is satisfied that Crystal Hollow residents’ community identity lies more with Godshill than with Fordingbridge. It also considers that effective and convenient local government would be achieved by Crystal Hollow falling within Godshill. With regard to the boundary with Breamore, New Forest District Council is satisfied that the existing boundary is a historic anomaly, and considers that the boundary should follow the River Avon. The land that will transfer to Breamore Parish is pasture land with no dwellings or buildings, and the Council is satisfied that there will be no adverse effect on local governance or community identity issues.

Draft Proposals

4. The following draft proposals were published on 18 June and affected persons/bodies were again informed in writing:
 - (a) To amend the boundary of Godshill with Fordingbridge so that the settlement known as Crystal Hollow falls within Godshill Parish;
 - (b) To amend the boundary of Godshill with Breamore at the property known as “Armsley” so that the boundary follows the River Avon. This means that the triangular piece of land to the west of “Armsley” will fall within Breamore Parish.
5. One letter of support, from a Godshill resident, was received.

Final Proposals

6. New Forest District Council is satisfied that the changes set out in its draft proposals will –
 - Reflect the identities and interests of the community and will result in improved community cohesion;
 - Ensure that community governance in the area is effective and convenient
 - Accord with Government guidance with regard to the physical boundaries between parishes.
7. The Council has therefore confirmed as its final proposals and recommendations the draft proposals set out in paragraph 4 above. These are shown on the attached maps marked “A” and “B”. Following compliance with the requirements relating to publication of the final proposals and recommendations, the Council has authorised the making of a Reorganisation Order to give effect to its final recommendations.
8. The proposals will affect the boundaries of the Forest North West, Fordingbridge and Downlands & Forest District Wards. New Forest District Council will request the Boundary Committee for England to make these changes as consequential amendments to the making of the Order.