

BROUGHTON GIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Mary Jarvis B.A.Hons. (Local Policy)

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Office hours: Tues & Wed 2.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. Fri 9.30 – 1.00 p.m.

5th October 2015

Mr John Watling,
Head of Electoral Services and Deputy Returning Officer
Wiltshire Council
County Hall Bythesea Road,
TROWBRIDGE, Wilts. BA14 8JN

Dear Mr Watling

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – MELKSHAM WITHOUT AND BROUGHTON GIFFORD LCP

Thank you for your letter of 3rd September.

Broughton Gifford Parish Council OBJECTS to the proposal to give the lands common to the two parishes of Broughton Gifford and Melksham Without, to the Melksham Without parish for the following reasons:

1. These lands are a unique part of our parish and have been common to both parishes for many years without causing any problems to either party.
2. There are many other parish boundaries in Wiltshire that are not defined by a firm natural feature. The obsession with making everything uniform works against the individual characteristics and historical formation of the parishes.
3. Melksham Without is already the largest rural parish in Wiltshire and does not need these lands for any particular purpose.
4. No prior consultation took place with Broughton Gifford Parish Council as it did with Melksham Without and Melksham Town Councils. We found out about the proposal from Melksham Without initially, rather than Wiltshire Council as the Electoral Service for the area. As a Council we feel that the formulation of this proposal has therefore been biased in favour of one view. No reply was received to our letter of initial objection.
5. We understand that there is also a proposal being considered to make Melksham Town and Melksham Without one parish. Should this happen, the lands common to both parishes could change overnight from a very rural riverside meadow to part of the urban area of the Melksham Town parish

6. We understand that this area up to the river will in future be part of the overall planning site for the planned Wilts and Berks Canal development. Broughton parish would like to be involved in plans for this area, with a view to possibly benefitting in future by having a cycle bridge over the river to join up with a towpath/cycle path into Melksham Town. Having these lands common provides a good platform to work together for the benefit of both parishes.

Thank you for consulting with Broughton Gifford Parish Council.

Please would you let my Council know of any progress or outcomes in the Community Governance Review

Kind regards

Yours sincerely,

Mary Jarvis

Clerk

