

From: Randall, Leo
Sent: 05 May 2013 14:53
To: Watling, John
Subject: Nomansland

Dear John,

You will recall the discussions we had last year regarding the village of Nomansland. It is currently a Ward of Redlynch Parish Council and it is suggested that instead it be a ward of Landford Parish Council. There are a number of reasons why this change should be considered, and in no particular order here are some of these:

There were two schools, but now Landford and Nomansland schools have merged to become a single school on two sites, one in each village.

There are a range of clubs and societies that cover both villages, such as the Landford and Nomansland WI and the Nomansland and Landford football club.

From Nomansland it is about 5 miles to the start of the houses in the rest of the Parish and the route is indirect, this means that it is remote from the main part of the Parish and Councillors from each Ward do not know each other's Ward.

Nomansland is physically joined to Landford and so many residents already consider it to be a single community.

Many of the services are shared such as the single shop and single post office that serves both communities. Also Nomansland only has a reading room, so Nomansland residents use Landford village hall for social, sporting and recreational purposes.

I have had a joint meeting with the Chairs and deputies of Redlynch and Landford Parish Councils to discuss the possibility of this move and all could see the sense in the move.

Currently Redlynch PC has 15 members, 12 from Redlynch and 3 from Nomansland, Landford has 7. If the change were to happen then Redlynch would have 12 members and Landford would have 10, this gives 2 good sized Councils in my view.

It is proving impossible to attract Parish Council members for the Nomansland ward on Redlynch Council. I am told that this is because the current Parish Council is seen as remote and not relevant to their village. There are 3 seats and only 1 candidate stood for election again this year. This councillor has retired once from the Parish Council and only stands now because when he retired then there was no representation on the Parish Council. A person has just offered himself for cooption onto the Nomansland ward, he is however already a member of Landford Parish Council and is standing only because he is concerned about the lack of representation.

The possibility of linking the two communities democratically as well as physically is not a new suggestion, in fact it has been discussed for very many years. The first reference that I can find that proposes such a union is from the Bishop of Salisbury in 1655. I think it has been talked about for long enough now and we really should get on with it. I included the proposal that this should happen in my election leaflet and this was delivered to every property in the village, I have had no adverse comment to the suggestion from Nomansland or anywhere else.

Please will you inform me if there is anything I should do to begin the process, or anything else I can do to progress the matter so we can get a decision at the earliest date.

Very best wishes,

Leo.