

Dear John,

A working group of Parish Councillors met on the 23rd July to discuss the proposed consultation in relation to the boundary change that would move the village of Nomansland from Redlynch Parish to Landford Parish. There were 2 members from Landford and 4 from Redlynch, that is - 2 from Nomansland, 1 from Hamptworth and 1 from outside the affected area.

The group discussed in detail the proposed boundaries. It must be stressed that it was the unanimous view of the group that there should be 2 concurrent consultations and 2 boundaries to consider, one for each of Nomansland and Hamptworth. This supports the views of the previous joint Parish Council working groups. It would have to be made clear that Hamptworth could only move into Landford if Nomansland was also moved because Nomansland is only attached to Redlynch via Hamptworth. As well as providing boundaries for the villages, a couple of minor historic errors have been addressed, such as one property that is within Hamptworth but is included on Landford's electoral register.

Note that historically, the large majority of Nomansland was part of the old parish of Hamptworth, but Nomansland has grown and is now a larger, somewhat separate community.

The map of the proposed routes is in the process of production, and will be sent to you as soon as it is complete, in the next couple of days I hope. We considered many factors when deciding on the boundaries and all agreed that the final routes were logical and clear on the ground.

The Nomansland boundary.

The Lyburn Estate, that is Lyburn House along with the land associated with the house, is included within the proposed Nomansland boundary. The house is clearly within Nomansland so it would seem inappropriate for the land to be in a different parish. The proposed boundary therefore runs in part along the boundary between Lyburn Estate and the Hamptworth Estate. The other end of the boundary picks up those properties at Smallbrook that are close to Landford and are often assumed to be in Landford, and follows a footpath the the existing Landford boundary. The middle section runs along a fairly straight watercourse.

The Hamptworth boundary.

The hamlet of Hamptworth is closely associated with The Hamptworth Estate, and we agreed that it would be inappropriate for the hamlet to be split off from the estate. As the Estate is in the process of being sold it has been convenient to use the sale details as a guide to the proposed Hamptworth boundary. For nearly all of the route the group used rights of way as the boundary, indeed the land being sold is mainly bounded by footpaths or bridleways which simplified the task. The exception is the small section at the north end from the Hamptworth Road to the current Landford boundary, in this case it is proposed that the boundary follow the stream.

Consultation.

Members of the working group discussed the consultation arrangements and a number of points were made and questions asked.

- The Councillors from both Councils agreed to distribute the consultation literature to all dwellings affected.

- It was agreed that the intention of the Parish Councils was to inform and get views, not to persuade.
- They presumed that Wiltshire Council would produce the consultation document and print it.
- There was a preference that these should be in named and addressed envelopes for distribution.
- Councillors hoped that it would be possible to respond to the consultation via email or through a website as well as by more traditional means as this would probably improve the response numbers.
- Would it be possible for Wiltshire Council to produce an article for the parish magazines to advertise the consultation. The Parish Councils would ensure that this was published?
- Would it be acceptable for signs to be erected in the village saying "have you voted" (or other wording that Wiltshire Council finds acceptable), to encourage residents to respond to the consultation?

It is difficult to produce a rationale for the scheme without it sounding like I am advocating the change. From a personal perspective it makes little difference to me as both parishes are in my Division, but I would have thought that for the residents concerned it would be of advantage to have a local rather than remote Parish Council. A Parish Council that debates matters that related to them and their services rather than those of communities some miles away. Certainly I believe that residents deserve to be given the opportunity to have their view heard on this matter, and for an informed decision to be made. Both I and Parish Councillors have been approached by residents of Nomansland and Hamptworth asking for this change, some wonder how we ever got into this strange situation where we have effectively a single moderately sized community split in two with the smaller half being joined to a large Parish Council 5 miles away. As I mentioned before, it was the Bishop of Salisbury who first suggested that Hamptworth should be annexed to Landford Parish, this was in 1650 , I think it is time that we had a decision.

I hope that gives you all you need, please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Regards,

Leo.