



Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

Incorporating Hampton Park & Old Sarum

Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Trowbridge

17 November 2015

Extraordinary Meeting, Council, Tuesday 24th November 2015
Question from David Burton, Chairman - Laverstock and Ford Parish Council

Question Re: Agenda item 7. Notice of Motion No.27 by Councillors Mary Douglas and Richard Clewer

I am pleased to see that Councillors Douglas and Clewer, in this Notice of Motion, have finally acknowledged that Laverstock and Ford Parish does indeed have a strong village spirit, worthy of protection.

Unfortunately SCC's proposed solution to retaining our community's integrity while merging us with the City, is very much too little too late.

Since 1894 the Parish Council of Laverstock and Ford has built a close-knit community spirit, which has enabled us to develop leading community services in the Parish. To name a few of these:

We have nurtured the River Bourne Community Farm on land previously abandoned by the City for over twenty years and helped it grow over five years into a self-funding facility which provides numerous social, educational and environmental services to the Parish residents AND thousands of residents from the neighbouring City.

We have developed a system of rural trails within the Parish, an approach that Wiltshire Council have run with in Southern Area and now plan to roll out across Wiltshire. Our new Old Sarum Youth Club has already won an award from Community First and is praised as an exemplar for youth services.

We have worked tirelessly with developers on a new Country Park within the Parish with hundreds of hours of voluntary input to bring it to Green Flag Standard - the first Green Flag Standard Country Park for Wiltshire.

We actively engage with the schools mentioned in the Motion to ensure cohesion between the school children and residents.

We also have an enviable track record of support for our work with residents who recently

voted decisively to remain in the Parish of Laverstock and Ford.

My question to Wiltshire Councillors is therefore how can it be equitable, when we are providing more than our fair share of services for both our own residents and many of those in the neighbouring City, that Salisbury City Council should be handed our Parish and the first rate services we have built to help pay for it's own inefficiencies?

I wish to make a 3-minute statement at the Council meeting on the 24th of November and would be grateful if this written question can be circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

Response

As Mr. Burton will have seen, the view of the Working Group is that the current boundary between the parishes of Salisbury and Laverstock & Ford in the Bishopsdown Farm area is no longer appropriate, as it cuts through the estate roads, dividing the estate between the two parishes in a way that is not felt to be sensible or convenient for the provision of effective local government. Having considered the submissions from both of the parish councils and the representations received from local residents, it is the recommendation of the Working Group, taking into account the statutory criteria and government guidance, that it would be more appropriate for this area to become part of Laversock & Ford Parish. In reaching that recommendation, the Working Group was aware of many of the points that Mr. Burton has set out in the preamble to his question. There are, of course, arguments in favour of Salisbury City Council's position that this area becomes part of the City and it is, therefore, a matter for the Council whether it accepts the recommendation of the Working Group, or whether it wishes either to approve the other option on which there has been consultation, or to ask the Working Group to consider and consult on other option for this area.