

Bishopdown Farm – Hampton Park Proposed consolidation

Further to our submission of additional evidence with respect to Salisbury City Council's proposal for the abolition of Laverstock and Ford Parish and its Council through a forced merger, I am writing with the latest thoughts from our Parish Councillors with respect to the less radical Boundary Review options being considered in the area of Hampton Park and Bishopdown Farm.

We believe the Country Park should be transferred to our Parish because of the tremendous amount of work with residents, WC for (who have always made it clear that we were their preferred nominee for the Country Park) and the developer to come up with the rural design which the former are eagerly waiting to see in place. We have spent much time to work with the developer to ameliorate the spoil that was deposited on the site of the Country Park rather than removed by the developer. As a result the new planning application recently submitted by the developer is the culmination of the enthusiasm and efforts of the L&F Cllrs and the continual dialogue over a sustained period with the developer. This is why we feel that it is only right and proper for our Parish to retain the Country Park together with Hampton Park and Riverdown Park. Therefore, it would also seem totally sensible to move our boundary to encapsulate all, rather than part, of the area set aside for the Country Park.

The joining of Hampton Park and the Bishopdown Farm is common sense. Traveling round both of these areas they look like one integrated development with interconnecting roads while this is not the case when comparing Bishopdown Farm and Bishopdown with their clearly different styles and only one single footpath to provide a connection between the two.

We already service Bishopdown Farm residents with our Newsletter, 6 times annually and keep them informed of what is happening in their community. They also use all our Hampton Park facilities – shops, school, doctor, dentist, community hall, village green etc. However, we restate here what we said to the Working Group at our meeting on 1 Dec 2014, we believe it would be sensible for Bishopdown Park to be transferred into L&F Parish but **only if the residents are in agreement**. On this basis the residents would be welcome but should this not occur they would of course still benefit from, and access to, all the facilities located in our Parish. **This reflects our philosophy for the whole of the Community Governance Review.**

Our aims are therefore:-

1. Restore the boundary along St Mark's Path, thus placing the Country Park correctly inside Laverstock & Ford Parish and enabling us to deploy our expertise in rural management to the benefit of residents in both Parishes.
2. Welcome Bishopdown Farm residents from the 334 properties wholeheartedly into Laverstock & Ford Parish, providing they have made it clear this is something they wish to happen.
3. Retain all of our remaining parish boundaries and independence if Bishopdown Farm is not to be transferred into our Parish.

David Burton

Laverstock and Ford Parish Council