

Send to: john.watling@wiltshire.gov.uk

John Watling
Head of Electoral Services
Wiltshire Council

Dear Mr Watling

Electoral Boundaries & Seats Laverstock & Ford and Neighbouring Parishes

As you know, Laverstock & Ford have a longstanding request lodged with Wiltshire Council to review our Wiltshire Councillor and Parish Councillor seat representation.

We understand that at the last Full Council meeting of Wiltshire Council, parishes were asked to write in and clarify any needs they may have. We also understand that our request had been translated into a review of Salisbury's boundary with its neighbours, before this was amended to reinstate our own request as Laverstock & Ford.

For clarity, we would emphasise that this is a longstanding request by Laverstock & Ford Parish Council for our own review, owing to the large increase in housing within our parish.

A number of events have led to this parish boundary review. In the 1990's housing was granted at Bishopdown Farm, within our parish. Our council was advised that as the new housing would upset the electoral arrangements and were positioned nearer Bishopdown (in Salisbury) than Ford, that it would be best to move the parish boundary and let the new houses be in the city. This seemed logical at the time.

When more housing at Hampton Park, Old Sarum and Laverstock resulted in a number crunching exercise, Hampton Park whilst remaining in the parish was warded to a City District Council Ward whilst the remainder of the parish continued to be served by two District Councillors. With the creation of Wiltshire Council the Hampton Park community became part of a City seat and the remainder of the parish represented by one Wiltshire Councillor.

Whilst further development continues our Parish Plan (Adopted March 2009) clearly states that all our communities wish to remain within our parish and retain their individuality rather than become part of the city. The new developments now also offer us an exciting opportunity to have two Wiltshire Councillors exclusively representing our parish and to fully embrace Bishopdown Farm residents, should they wish to accept a return to the original parish boundary. We do accept that Bishopdown farm residents must take a view on any possible change.

This two exclusive WC seats representation is our enthusiastic wish.

The number of seats on the parish council also needs to be reviewed as the 13 existing seats were originally for about 1500 dwellings, rather than possibly 4500 dwellings! We have not considered the detail of this particular change as yet but wish to log the need for review.

We are not a small parish and despite our size, we manage to retain a non political parish representation and a fair split of councillors representing each community. This is something our local residents think is important to them.

Finally, on a geography front, the creation of Salisbury City parish in 2009 saw the northern boundary follow a wrong line. This was ratified by the Electoral Boundaries body, as WC did the work. However, for some years thereafter, the WC parish map of Laverstock & Ford and the Parish Map of Salisbury overlapped, on the WC website!. More recently, the new Salisbury line has been imposed on our map and a chunk lost, through this error. As part of the changes, we would wish to see our historic boundary reinstated. This follows the line of St Mark's Path from Old Sarum, which separated what was all Bishopdown farm and the city, without any means of accessing our parish (farm) from that path. This is why it is clearly the correct boundary and not the slip of a pen version, as currently listed.

For these reasons and several more, we ask for two Wiltshire Councillors exclusively for our parish a physical boundary reinstatement and parish seating review for Laverstock & Ford Parish.

Yours Sincerely

Christopher Burnell
Chairman
Laverstock & Ford Parish Council