

West Tisbury Parish Council
c/o Post Office House, High St, Tisbury, SP3 6LD

8 March 2014

John Watling
Wiltshire Council

Dear Mr Watling

GOVERNANCE & BOUNDARY REVIEWS

Thank you for letting W Tisbury Parish Council have sight of Cllr Tonge's paper on Parish & Town Council Grant Options. The Councillors have asked me to respond as follows:

We note that suggestions were invited on boundaries and potential amalgamations.

It could be argued that superficially, there is a case to amalgamate this council with that of Tisbury; clearly the village of Tisbury, based around the use of its railway station, does act as a centre of gravity for this whole area of SW Wiltshire. This certainly also encompasses Hindon, the Fonthills, Chilmark, Fovant, Chicksgrove, Ansty, Swallowcliffe, Wardour, the Donheads, Semley and E Knoyle and, arguably, the Teffonts and Dinton. The attraction is clear. Tisbury, with its varied range of retail businesses, including a busy Post Office, medical and dental facilities and social, educational and religious entities, provides by far the largest centre within that area, limited only by its relatively poor road links and parking. It is also highly likely that the attractiveness of the village to residents of surrounding parishes will only grow with the completion of Tisbury Community Campus. The majority of residents in these surrounding areas will have an interest in maintaining the viability of Tisbury.

The converse, however, is not necessarily true. Tisbury dwarfs the other parishes and its demographic make-up is very different from that of its hinterland. Tisbury parish is predominantly semi-urban in its character given the relatively high density of population in the community. Other than the part of W Tisbury (Monmouth Road and Tuckingmill) that is contiguous with Tisbury, the remainder of the area is a mix of individual dwellings, hamlets and agricultural premises. The needs and wishes of the two populations diverge in many ways. For these reasons, therefore, West Tisbury would not wish to become a part of 'Greater Tisbury'.

Yours sincerely

Sent by email

Janet Amos
Clerk to the Council