

WEST TISBURY PARISH COUNCIL
c/o 18 Nightingale Drive, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3XY
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5th July 2014

Mr J Watling
Deputy Returning Officer and Head of Electoral Services
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

By email

Dear Mr Watling

Community Governance Review

I am writing in response to the information sent to the Parish Council regarding a proposal to merge Tisbury and West Tisbury Parish Councils. This issue was debated at a meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 3 July 2014.

Following discussion the Chairman and members resolved to reject the proposals for any merger with Tisbury Parish Council and to re-iterate the Council's response to the original proposal. I copy for you below the relevant extract from the draft minutes:

*d) Community Governance Review – information had been received from Wiltshire Council and circulated to members. The Clerk read out the parish council's previous response to the proposal that West Tisbury and Tisbury Parish Councils be amalgamated. Following debate it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Noyle, **SECONDED** by Cllr Little and:*

***RESOLVED:** That West Tisbury Parish Council rejects the proposal to merge West Tisbury and Tisbury Parish Councils and re-iterates its original response to Wiltshire Council.*

The original response to the proposal was quoted in your letter however, I copy it below for convenience:

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, Chicks Grove, 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'

The next meeting of the parish council is on Thursday 4th September 2014 and I would be pleased to pass on your response/comments to the members at that meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

Nicola Duke
Parish Clerk
For and on behalf of
West Tisbury Parish Council

cc Cllr Tony Deane (by email)