

Hanham Abbots

PARISH COUNCIL

South Gloucestershire

Clerk: Claire Dolman



Electoral Review 2017

Comments on draft recommendations from Hanham Abbots Parish Council

On behalf of Hanham Abbots Parish Council, I wish to submit the following comments.

Objections to extending northern boundary of existing Hanham Ward

Having noted the recommendation to extend the northern border of Hanham Ward to include an area of Woodstock and keep it as a 3 member ward, my council is of the opinion that this would not serve to benefit local people due to the separate identities and lack of cohesion between Hanham and Woodstock. For example, Woodstock residents naturally tend to use facilities in Kingswood such as shops, libraries, healthcare etc. Woodstock is a Priority Neighbourhood (an area of deprivation) with high unemployment, crime rates and low educational standards. As such it attracts additional funding. If Woodstock residents were transferred to the Hanham Ward this help and funding would be lost.

Woodstock is unparished, unlike Hanham, and would not be eligible for services provided by the parish council. This would create inequality of service provision within the Hanham Ward thus creating a community of 'have and have nots'.

Extending Hanham Ward to include the East Ward of Hanham Abbots Parish

A large extent of the existing Hanham Ward already has close ties with the East Ward of Hanham Abbots parish due to the fact that they are administered by the same parish council. Residents from Longwell Green tend to come to Hanham to shop, use the libraries, pubs, doctors' surgeries and dental practices. Extending the Hanham Ward to incorporate the East Ward of Hanham Abbots would therefore create a more coherent community.

Proposals

Taking into account the above comments, my council proposes that the northern boundary of Hanham Ward remains as is, but that the ward is extended to incorporate the East Ward of Hanham Abbots parish and that this new Hanham Ward, covering a larger geographical area, will have 3 ward members. This would meet the electors to elected Member ratio projected by 2023 as set out by the Boundary Commission.

Claire Dolman

Clerk

4th October 2017

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