

Received 13/6/06 & ack sent

THORNBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices: (01454) 412103
Tourist Information Centre: (01454) 281638
Mundy Playing Fields: (01454) 413645
Fax: (01454) 281638



Town Hall
Old Police Station
High Street
Thornbury
Bristol BS35 2AR

Town Clerk: Judith M Payne

TC/FP/BR

The Secretary
The Electoral Commission
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London
SW1P 2HW

For the attention of Ann Devine

6th June 2006

Dear Ms. Devine,

Final Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangement for South Gloucestershire

At a recent meeting of my Council's Finance and Policy Committee, members had an opportunity to discuss, in detail, the above arrangements for Thornbury. After careful consideration it was agreed to make the following comments.

- Eastbury Close, Thornbury

Thornbury Town Council proposed at stage three of the consultation that Eastbury Close should be in the new North East Ward. In its final recommendations the Boundary Committee states that it is adopting the Town Council's proposals but then moves Eastbury Close from North East to Central Ward clearly departing from the Town Council's map of its proposals.

The better electoral equality of the Town Council's proposals was based on Eastbury Close being in North East Ward.

One of the main reasons for the Town Council's proposals for Central Ward was for stronger boundaries, using roads off Oakleaze Road and St. David's Road as part of that boundary. Eastbury Close is off Eastbury Road and, as such, is part of the 'Eastlands' area all of which have always been part of the North East Ward.

The residents of Eastbury Close, many of whom are elderly, have been used to voting in the North East's polling station just 50 yards away from St. Mary's Church Hall. If they go into Central Ward they would have a walk of over half a mile to that Ward's designated polling station.

- Number 2 Gloucester Road

At present the boundary between North East and North West town wards is down the middle of Gloucester Road with all even numbered houses in North East Ward. The map for the new wards shows No. 2 Gloucester Road in Central Ward and all of the remaining even numbered houses in North East.

Although 2 Gloucester Road is next door to 6 The Plain, which is and has always been in Central Ward, to include just one house in Gloucester Road in Central Ward would be confusing to all concerned. There might be an argument for including houses 2-30 Gloucester Road in Central Ward, but not just No.2. The Town Council would propose leaving No. 2 in North East Ward which will require a slight change in the map.

My members hope that the Commission will find their comments constructive.

Yours sincerely,



Judith Payne
Town Clerk

cc. Stuart Hook , Electoral Service Manager, South Gloucestershire Council