

CHANGES IN BOUNDARIES OF GODSHILL PARISH WITH FORDINGBRIDGE AND BREAMORE

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR MAKING REORGANISATION ORDER

Background

1. At the request of Godshill Parish Council, New Forest District Council has undertaken a Community Governance Review of the area of Godshill Parish. The terms of reference for the review were:–
 - (a) To review the boundary of the parish with Fordingbridge, with a view to establishing whether the development known as Crystal Hollow should more appropriately be located in Godshill rather than Fordingbridge;
 - (b) To review the boundary of the parish with Breamore, with a view to establishing whether the triangular piece of land to the west of the River Avon and the property known as “Armsley” should transfer to Breamore;
 - (c) That the review be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and any statutory guidance.

First Steps and Initial Submissions

2. The review was published on the Council’s website on 13 May 2010. Details of the review were sent in writing to all households in Godshill and those residents of Fordingbridge along the B3078 Southampton Road between the boundary with Godshill and Avonside Farm (including Crystal Hollow). The town and parish councils affected, the National Park Authority, Hampshire County Council and others considered to have an interest in the matter were also consulted. 12 written expressions of support, including 8 of the 10 Crystal Hollow households, were received from local residents. There was one objection, which was subsequently withdrawn. Breamore Parish Council supported the proposals insofar as land to be transferred to their parish was concerned. Fordingbridge Town Council, the New Forest National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council raised no objection.
3. Having considered the representations, New Forest District Council is satisfied that Crystal Hollow residents’ community identity lies more with Godshill than with Fordingbridge. It also considers that effective and convenient local government would be achieved by Crystal Hollow falling within Godshill. With regard to the boundary with Breamore, New Forest District Council is satisfied that the existing boundary is a historic anomaly, and considers that the boundary should follow the River Avon. The land that will transfer to Breamore Parish is pasture land with no dwellings or buildings, and the Council is satisfied that there will be no adverse effect on local governance or community identity issues.

Draft Proposals

4. The following draft proposals were published on 18 June 2010 and affected persons/bodies were again informed in writing:
 - (a) To amend the boundary of Godshill with Fordingbridge so that the settlement known as Crystal Hollow falls within Godshill Parish;
 - (b) To amend the boundary of Godshill with Breamore at the property known as "Armsley" so that the boundary follows the River Avon. This means that the triangular piece of land to the west of "Armsley" will fall within Breamore Parish.
5. One letter of support, from a Godshill resident, was received.

Final Proposals

6. New Forest District Council is satisfied that the changes set out in its draft proposals will –
 - Reflect the identities and interests of the community and will result in improved community cohesion;
 - Ensure that community governance in the area is effective and convenient
 - Accord with Government guidance with regard to the physical boundaries between parishes.
7. The Council has therefore confirmed as its final proposals and recommendations set out in paragraph 4 above. These are shown on the maps marked "A" and "B". In addition, the Council has agreed that the three affected parishes continue to have councils, with no changes in the sizes of the councils.
8. Following compliance with the requirements relating to publication of the final proposals and recommendations, the Council has authorised the making of a Reorganisation Order to give effect to its final recommendations.
9. The proposals will affect the boundaries of the Forest North West, Fordingbridge and Downlands & Forest District Wards. New Forest District Council will request the Boundary Committee for England to make these changes as consequential amendments to the making of the Reorganisation Order.