

## **A MESSAGE FOR NETLEY MARSH RESIDENTS FROM NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **DISCONTINUING THE TWO WARDS OF NETLEY MARSH PARISH COUNCIL**

In the spring edition of "The Outlook", New Forest District Council asked Netley Marsh residents for their views on the Parish Council's request to discontinue the two wards (Netley Marsh North and Netley Marsh South) of the Parish Council. The two wards are shown overleaf. The Parish Council considers the two wards unnecessary - combining them into a single parish-wide area for electoral purposes would avoid confusion about representation and also save money at election time.

The District Council received no responses from residents, and has decided to proceed with the legal process to remove the two wards. The law requires the District Council to seek further views from residents before a final decision is taken and this article requests those views.

Under the current arrangements, electors in the Netley Marsh North Ward elect one Parish Councillor to represent them, while electors in Netley Marsh South elect six Parish Councillors. The two wards are approximately the same size geographically, but Netley Marsh North has just 324 electors, while Netley Marsh South has 1,384. If the two wards are discontinued, all electors in the parish will vote for seven parish councillors. The seven elected councillors will represent the whole of the parish.

Although no responses were received to the first consultation, District Councillors were encouraged that there had been no objections. The District Council has now formally published draft proposals to discontinue the two wards with effect from the elections in May 2019.

If you have any views you would like the District Council to take into account before a final decision on the matter is taken, please send them, **to arrive by not later than Friday 20 July 2018**, to:

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