

Briefing Note

Community Governance Review March 2020

1.0 Background

1.1 Cornwall Council is currently supporting a Community Governance Review which gives parish councils the opportunity to make changes to their size (number of councillors), their name and their boundaries. Previous Briefing Notes have given the background and explained this council's progress in assessing any need for change.

1.2 At its public meeting on 21 March 2019, councillors agreed to set up a Working Group 'to to examine the proposals and agree a response those proposals from Liskeard Town Council that changes should be made to our adjacent boundaries.' The Group has discussed its final submission that will be made to Electoral Review Panel in response to the public consultation which closes on 24 March 2020.

2.0 Working Group Recommendations

The Group maintains its current position on boundary changes, and is reinforced in this belief by discussions with residents and representations it has received from across the parish. It believes that the Parish Council provides effective and convenient local government in three ways:

2.1 Electoral Equality

Moving the boundary so as to take the proposed housing development at Tencreek Farm from Menheniot into Liskeard will weaken electoral equality and diminish the quality of governance for those residents.

2.2 Reflecting community identity

Existing arrangements that respond to the needs of our electors and residents in terms of parish council management and delivery of services are highly thought of by our people. Our *We are Menheniot* survey showed the levels of satisfaction, management, value for money, trust and service delivery exceed those from the national surveys in every respect.

2.3 Financial Viability

The future impact of any changes will affect the parish council's ability to maintain delivery of its current support for the VCSE. Maintaining the current boundary will have a beneficial effect with an additional income stream arising out of Tencreek residents into Menheniot. Without this future revenue, the alternative would be to downgrade the council's support for community groups and enterprises (organisations) as they are currently delivered. This will impact on all our residents (individuals), including those from outside of the parish who use our facilities.

3.0 Electoral Review Panel

The Working Group has examined the conclusions and methodology of the ERP and have concerns about the application of its core principles and methodology. These concerns, which potentially work against the best interests of Menheniot residents will be included in our final submission document.

4.0 Conclusions & Recommendations

The Working Group recommends that all current boundaries remain in place, but suggest that it would be open to a reappraisal of boundaries at Tencreek Farm being determined by those future residents of Tencreek at a future review.

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