

**PC/16/17**

## **Boundary Commission Review of East Devon District.**

Having recognised the need to redraw boundaries to provide a 'fairer' distribution of councillors throughout the district and to accommodate the rapidly developing West End around Cranbrook, the following amendment to proposal 2 would seem to fit the two aims of providing numerical balance and more importantly reflects the sporting, cultural, historical and present day community interests.

*The suggestion is that Colaton Raleigh, 595; Otterton, 580; East Budleigh, 701, Bicton, 117; and Budleigh Salterton is joined **into one 3-member ward.***

The **total projected electorate is 6632 with 2210 electors per councillor.** If Colaton Raleigh, the parish with the less definable connection the total electorate would be 6037, i.e. 2009 per councillor.

The justification for this proposal is:

### **General Community Cohesion.**

The town of Budleigh and the parishes of East Budleigh and Otterton are the three parishes that comprise the Raleigh Mission the grouping of the 3 parish churches under the vicar of St Peter's Church, Budleigh Salterton.

The 3 primary schools in Budleigh, East Budleigh and Otterton are all Church of England schools with pastoral care managed from Budleigh. East Budleigh and Otterton Schools share a head teacher.

The residents of East Budleigh, Otterton and Bicton rely on the Budleigh medical centre for GP and district nurse services.

The residents all use the bank, post office and usual high street services provided by Budleigh Salterton.

Budleigh Salterton cricket club a major provider of sporting skills, team building and fitness is, by quirk of the route of a brook, actually in East Budleigh parish. The cricket club achieves a high involvement of boys and girls of all ages from Budleigh, East Budleigh and Otterton in their youth development programmes.

Bicton College students are registered with the Budleigh medical practice and the students use Budleigh Salterton for shopping and social purposes. Graduation ceremonies often take place in Budleigh and the bus service linking Bicton with Budleigh is used on a daily basis.

Budleigh, East Budleigh and Otterton have a combined Branch of the Royal British Legion.

## **Geographical**

Colaton Raleigh in the North and Budleigh Salterton in the south are all located on the B3178 and Otterton lies just to the east of the road which is the main route out for Otterton visitors and residents. Bicton and East Budleigh lie between Colaton Raleigh and Budleigh Salterton.

The River Otter flows through Colaton Raleigh, is the boundary between East Budleigh and Otterton and enters the sea at Budleigh Salterton. This is important as the river side paths are a well used recreational facility and Budleigh and Otterton have come together to provide benches along the river bank for walkers to rest but more importantly it is vital there is the closest possible link in order to deal with bathing water quality issues.

In the past few years Budleigh beach has been in danger of losing its bathing water quality status and was 'put in special measures' by the Environment Agency. By close cooperation with the local communities and land owners' measures were put in place with the result that the bathing water for 2016 was classed as excellent. Anything that might interfere in this cohesion could adversely affect our bathing water. This is of vital importance to the tourist businesses of Budleigh. Bringing Otterton and Colaton Raleigh 'into the fold' would benefit any efforts in this area as both have major agricultural activity on the river banks.

The road that runs along the eastern side of the River Otter from South Farm Road to Otterton has been subject to land slip and has been closed to traffic for some years and there are no plans to reopen it. This means that a significant part of Otterton parish, homes in South Farm Road and the farm shop and several businesses on South Farm are not accessible other than by driving through Budleigh and East Budleigh to get there. The residents of the Otterton part of South Farm Road and the businesses on South Farm consider themselves to be part of Budleigh Salterton.

The B3180 that runs to the west of the proposed new ward is a natural boundary. There has never been any community connection between Woodbury and Bicton and Colaton Raleigh.

## **Commercial**

Clinton Devon Estates is the major landowner in all of the parishes involved. Their interests, agriculture, industrial units and housing sit well, within the proposals and would allow for better cooperation and a more cohesive effort to meet the aims of EDDC.

One of the major tourist businesses is the Ladram Bay holiday park in Otterton. The business and visitors very much depend on the services provided by Budleigh Salterton.

## **Historical**

For centuries, prior to the Victorian age of seaside holidays Budleigh Salterton was in all ways subservient to East Budleigh. The painting 'The Boyhood of Raleigh' by Richard Everett Millais, a resident of Budleigh depicts a young Sir Walter Raleigh, a resident of East Budleigh on the beach at Budleigh Salterton. That's culture and history for you.

More recent history supports this proposal. In the review of Devon County Council divisions did initially propose the East Budleigh be split from Budleigh Salterton but that was reversed in recognition of the long-standing community ties between East Budleigh and Budleigh Salterton.

That status quo would not satisfy the 'numerical imperative' having only 1780 electors per councillor but this proposal satisfies the quantity issue but also satisfies the quality issue by recognising the strong community, geographical, cultural and commercial ties between the communities we serve.