



## **ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL**

Dear Parish Resident,

### COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

You may be aware that Test Valley Borough Council, (TVBC), is currently undertaking a Community Governance Review. The purpose of the Review will be to consider whether existing parish arrangements, including altering the boundaries of existing parishes, in any part of the borough of Test Valley should be changed in any way.

### BACKGROUND TO THIS COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

During 2017 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, (LGBCE), undertook an electoral review of TVBC. One of their final proposals was that Burghclere Down be moved into the "Andover Millway" TVBC Ward. If approved by Parliament this will take force from the next scheduled TVBC elections in 2019. As things stand, from that point Abbots Ann Parish would be split into two Parish Wards: Abbots Ann (with 4 parish councillors), and Burghclere Down (with 3 parish councillors).

Abbots Ann is not the only parish to be potentially split into wards – in total there are 8 parish councils in this situation within Test Valley. A community governance review provides an opportunity to consider whether changes should now be made to parish arrangements. Actually it is good practice to review community governance arrangements every 10-15 years. The last review took place in 2007, and TVBC now have a statutory duty to carry out a borough wide review.

### CONSULTATION

The first stage of this review is now taking place. This is in the form of a public consultation where TVBC is asking for proposals on changes to existing parish arrangements. This consultation will run until 29 January 2018.

### ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL, (AAPC), POSITION

On the 7<sup>th</sup> December AAPC met with Cllr Gates, a member of Andover Town Council, ATC, to consider what the possible options for Burghclere Down are. We felt there were three possibilities:

- A) Burghclere Down, (BD), remains as part of AAPC. BD would be ensured 3 councillors within AAPC, but the geographical separation of the BD estate from Abbots Ann village would remain.
- B) ATC is broken up and replaced with smaller parishes that mirror the TVBC wards. These new parish councils would be closer to the electorate enabling them to focus on parish issues in their individual areas. However Andover would not have a central voice. BD would move into a new parish covering the exiting TVBC "Millway" Ward.
- C) BD moves into a new enlarged ATC. This would be very large with over 38,000 electors. There would be no certainty that any councillors would be from BD.

We would be interested to know what your views on this matter are. Would you please complete the form below? Your completed forms can either be posted into the letter box at Burghclere Down Community Centre or delivered to Abbots Ann Village Shop. AAPC will hold a meeting at Burghclere Down Community Centre on Tuesday, 23rd January at 7pm to consider your responses and finalise our submission to this consultation exercise. This is NOT a formal vote but it does give you an opportunity to express your views on what governance arrangements you would like to see.

BURGHCLERE DOWN COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

PLEASE TICK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS

OPTION A: BURGHCLERE DOWN REMAINS AS PART OF ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL	
OPTION B: BURGHCLERE DOWN MOVES AND BECOMES PART OF A NEW MILLWAY PARISH COUNCIL	
OPTION C: BURGHCLERE DOWN MOVES AND BECOMES PART OF ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL	

COMMENTS: