

# Verwood Town Council Tuesday 24 July 2018

## *District Councillor Report – Cllr. Spencer Flower*

### **Community Governance Review – Three Legged Cross [Parish Boundaries of Verwood/Horton/Holt/West Moors]**

The Cabinet will be debating at its meeting on Wednesday 25 July a series of recommendations regarding the changes parish boundaries following the recent review. The draft recommendations were that:-

- the boundary of the existing parish of Verwood be redrawn to the west where it adjoins the parish of Horton to transfer the properties currently in the parish of Horton to the parish ward of Verwood (Three Cross);
- no other changes be made to the area or electoral arrangements for the parishes of Horton and Verwood;
- East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2019 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2019.

There is no significant impact on the electoral equality variances of the respective electoral areas.

The Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee will be considering the recommendations on Tuesday 24 July with any comments reported verbally to the Cabinet on the 25 July 2018.

By way of background this area was included within this review to consider anomalies identified during the later stages of the community governance review undertaken in 2014, with the boundaries between the parishes of Verwood, Horton, Holt and West Moors; and in particular with regards to land and property at the northern end of West Moors Road, Village Hall Lane and Sandy Lane.

The Council received representations from Knowlton Parish Council stating no objection to the draft recommendations. Verwood Town Council stating support for the recommendations.

Each property affected by this proposal was written to and invited to comment on the recommendations. No responses were received.

The Task and Finish Group were satisfied that the proposed boundary changes would better reflect the identities and interests of the community in the area affected, and would bring about improved opportunities for community engagement, better local democracy and efficient, more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

It should be noted that altering the alignment of the parish boundary, would require a related alteration to both the District Ward and County Division boundaries.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is also currently undertaking an electoral review of boundaries for the new Dorset Council. The consultation period for this review closes on the 27 August,

**Potential Community Asset Transfers** – The Cabinet Committee set up to review the potential for some asset transfers prior to the creation of the new Dorset Unitary Council continues to review options and has now met three times. The Chairman of the Committee has had meetings with a number of Town and Parish Councils to discuss the process and the criteria. Given the limited time now available prior to ‘vesting day’ on the 1 April 2018 Members and Officers involved are working at pace to ensure deadlines are met.