

Somerset

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Organisation Name: Luxborough Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: proposed changes to the boundaries within Dulverton and Exmoor District

See attached document

Attached Documents:

- local-government-boundary-commission-for-england-letter-17jan25.docx

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Dear Commissioners

I am writing to you on behalf of the Parish Council of Luxborough Parish within Exmoor National Park in Somerset.

It has been brought to our attention that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is planning to reassess the existing electoral boundaries throughout the country. We understand our parish is under review with the possibility that we may be removed from our existing group of parishes and reallocated to another group, possibly outside the current boundary of Exmoor National Park.

We are a small rural parish, historically rooted in a farming culture, and as such, we are very keen to remain grouped with other like-minded communities who share the same needs and face similar challenges. Up until a dozen years or so ago, our parish was grouped with the Dunster Division, to our north. Dunster, itself, has the distinction of being the best preserved medieval village in the country but as such, its a tourist magnet with everything that entails. Although not technically an urban community, its needs and challenges were not those of ours. Needless to say, our experience of being grouped with them was not a positive one and we are not interested in having history repeat itself. According to our local vicar, Luxborough and the neighbouring parish of Cutcombe have been twinned for over 900 years and, again, we are loathe to sever a boundary with a like-minded community that has existed for all these centuries.

Additionally, having been part of the Dulverton and Exmoor Division for a decade, we have developed positive, productive and mutually beneficial relationships with the other like-minded parishes. In fact, this division was chosen to run the pilot LCN scheme for Somerset County Council in the two year run-up to Somerset segueing over to a unitary authority. Our personal experience of being part of this pilot scheme with the other neighbouring, rural parishes was a very positive experience and considered a successful pilot by the county council.

We would urge you to maintain our current status within the Dulverton and Exmoor Division so that we may continue to be aligned with them and our centuries-old partnership with neighbouring Cutcombe. We would be unhappy to have this relationship severed.

Thank you for taking our views and concerns into consideration.