
Moreton, Bobbingworth & The Lavers Parish Council

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19th ^{May} January 2009

Our Ref. CNT. 1297

Mr. Ian Willett
Returning Officer
Epping Forest District Council
Civic Offices
Epping, Essex
CM16 4BZ

Rec 19/5/09

Dear Ian,

Community Governance Review

Further to your presentation to the Parish Council on 9th March 2009 the Council debated the issue at their 12th May meeting. The culmination of the debate was a resolution to initiate the Community Governance Review and I have been asked to write to you to start this process, which you kindly offered to assist us with, when you attended the March Parish Council meeting.

The key issues agreed were: -

1. The desire to amalgamate the three electoral wards – High Laver – Magdalen Laver and Little Laver into one electoral ward.
2. The desire to maintain the current eight seats within the combined wards.
3. The continued practice of recognising each individual Parish Identity in all other council business.
4. To retain the current name of the Parish Council i.e.
Moreton, Bobbingworth and the Lavers Parish Council
5. To retain the current practice of having a planning sub-committee for each Parish in the council.
6. Not to seek any parish boundary changes, in particular with Matching Parish Council.
7. That apart from the Parish Council election process, residents would be unaware of any real change in the day to day activities of the council.

The issue has been notified in the local parish magazine and Council meeting agenda and no public opposition has been displayed to date.

In general terms, the local community has a recognised concept of three divisions within the district comprising of: - Moreton - Bobbingworth - and the Lavers as a grouped entity and community activities are very much associated with these divisions. In many ways this is lead by the Parochial Church boundaries, where the three Lavers are grouped with Matching and Moreton and Bobbingworth are grouped with Fyfield.

On a separate issue I would like to warn you that there is a probability the St. Edmunds Hall in Matching will not be available for a polling station for the district next year, possibly for the General Election. Currently Matching Primary School is having a new assembly hall built, due to be finished this summer and the school will no longer use the old hall. At some time in the near future ECC will not support the cost of St. Edmunds Hall, which has an outstanding planning permission to be replaced by a house on the site and will inevitably be sold. Clearly I am not party to the exact time scale but it may be prudent for you to explore your options for an alternative polling station at an early stage, bearing in mind the possibility of a general election sooner rather than later.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Thompson

Clerk to the Parish Council