

Licensing & Regulatory Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 September 2014, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 3.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Illingworth (Chairman); Councillors Boad, Mrs Bunker, Doody, Mrs Gallagher, Gill, Mrs Goode, Guest, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Mrs Knight, MacKay, Wilkinson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Mellor and Pratt.

17. **Substitutes**

Councillor Boad substituted for Councillor Wreford-Bush.

18. **Declarations of Interest**

Minute Number 19 – Agenda Item 3 – Community Governance Review

All Members of the Committee declared an interest because the Community Governance Review affected many Wards of the District.

19. **Community Governance Review**

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Executive which sought authority to make the formal orders that would conclude the Community Governance Review. The review had taken place in Warwick District over the last year.

The Council agreed to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR) following the conclusion of the review of the District Warding arrangements in the first half of 2013. The terms of reference for the CGR (see Appendix 1) were agreed in July 2013 and submissions were invited by October 2013.

Additional and more specific consultations were undertaken in November 2013. Draft recommendations were agreed for consultation in late January 2014 with the consultation period concluding in April 2014. The results of that consultation were reported and parish and town councils affected by the proposals, especially those in contention, were invited to a series of informal meetings of this Committee in July 2014. The notes and conclusions of the informal meetings were attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

Prior to consideration of the report, the Chief Executive informed Members that the Council had received some advice from the Local Government Boundary Commission, advising that the Council would be unable to alter either District ward boundaries or put forward any of the proposals for parish warding arrangements prior to the election in May 2015. In addition, the County Council proposals recommended different parish warding arrangements for Kenilworth, Leamington and Warwick to those put forward for the District in 2013.

Officers had been informed that they could enter into informal discussions with the Boundary Commission but Members needed to treat the outcome of the meeting's discussions as draft recommendations at this stage.

The Chief Executive assured Members that he hoped to be meeting with the Boundary Commission as soon as possible.

Members were directed to Appendix 3 of the report which outlined the proposed changes under the Community Governance Review. These had been based on the Terms of Reference originally set out in July 2013 but had also evolved from the long and involved process of consultation and discussion.

The report also informed Members of the use of the Chief Executive's emergency powers under CE4 of the Council's Constitution to agree to the change to the northern boundary of Barford Parish/south east boundary of Warwick Town and western and part southern boundary of Bishop's Tachbrook parish. This had occurred because if the proposed changes had not been enacted, then Barford Parish Council in pursuance of its proposed Neighbourhood Plan, would have lost its government funding because it would not be able to formally designate its Neighbourhood Plan area, as this would be at odds with the proposals in the CGR.

Members discussed recommendations one to 20, as laid out in Appendix 3 to the report and voted on them individually.

Councillor MacKay raised concerns about the proposals affecting Whitnash and felt that the town could end up with no growth possibilities. He did not feel that Whitnash town should be considered on the same merits as Sydenham which was a Ward of Leamington. Councillor Brookes addressed Members in his capacity as Ward Councillor for Bishop's Tachbrook and outlined the Parish Council's objection to recommendation 20.

Having considered the report and having listened to all the representations, the Committee

Resolved that

- (1) the recommendations set out in Appendix 3 to the report, and maps at Appendix 4 to the report are agreed and that formal orders to this effect are made accordingly;
- (2) the use of the Chief Executive's emergency powers, in consultation with Group Leaders, under CE4 of the Council's Constitution to agree to the change to the northern boundary of Barford Parish/south east boundary of Warwick Town and western and part southern boundary of Bishop's Tachbrook parish, is noted; and
- (3) authority is delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, to assess the recently advised County Council warding arrangements; to make any non-material alterations to the CGR proposals; and/or, to call an emergency meeting of this Committee to consider any material issues arising for the CGR proposals.

(The meeting ended at 5.10 pm)