Agenda Item 5.4

Dear Parish Clerks and Councillors

You would have received notification of the current review being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission from the Parish newsletter and also in the press. The first part of this two part process has now finished and the LGBC are minded to put forward that Mid Devon District Council should have 42 Councillors which is the same as they presently do. The second part of the process is to look at ward boundaries and a projected increase in population of 6,000 up to 2025.

The reason for this is that over time some of the wards in Mid Devon have failed to meet the three legal criteria used by the LGBC which are:-

- To delivery electoral equality where each district councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the district.
- That the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities.
- That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

I have spoken to the LGBC on Friday last and taking into account the timescales have asked if they would accept a submission from us on the 7th November thus allowing a report to go to full Council (Mid Devon) on the 6th November. They have said that although the formal consultation process would finish on the 4th they would be minded to agree to receive a submission on the 7th. Whilst you are of course able to put in your own submission on ward boundaries in your area it would be useful if you could relay your thoughts either through your local ward Councillor or directly to the Mid Devon so your views can be taken into account.

I am going to be running two workshops with a cross party membership of Councillors in late September and early October so your thoughts prior to those meetings happening would be extremely useful. I am aware that this is short notice but these are the deadlines we have to work to unfortunately.

Your local knowledge and understanding of your communities will play a valuable part in helping the District Councillors to understand what matters to their area. Obviously if you are not able to participate then you can of course put in a submission directly to the LGBC.

For your information Mid Devon's elector per councillor ratio for 2025 will be 1,660 electors to each councillor (69,724 / 42 = 1,660. This will be an increase from the current ratio of 1,506, given the approximate 6,000 elector increase. I have attached the current figures so you can see where the variances are. Variance of plus or minus 10% from the desired ratio of electors per councillor is not acceptable to the LGBC (except under exceptional circumstances).

Please liaise with Carole Oliphant, Parish Liaison Officer with any information you might like to put forward.

Kind regards
Jill May