

## PLEASE BACK BETTER BOUNDARIES TO MATCH MODERN COMMUNITIES

You have recently received a letter from South Derbyshire District Council, SDDC. You may remember that it was very long and was headed Governance Review. It has gone to every home in Stenson Fields, Barrow-upon-Trent, Twyford and around the Stenson Bubble. It was so convoluted that no one can understand what it says. You may have binned it. But whether you've kept it or not doesn't matter – you can still respond until 4 September.

**WHAT IT IS ABOUT:** The boundaries of the 4 villages involved were set many years ago. Current and planned housing developments mean those boundaries are outdated. For example, new houses on the west of Stenson Road are not actually in Stenson Fields. Instead the new estate is linked to the hamlets of Twyford & Stenson! As things stand, new houses on the south side of Wragley Way wouldn't be in Stenson Fields either, but be part of Barrow-upon-Trent – which is several fields to the south.

**WHAT IT IS NOT ABOUT:** It is not about whether or where new houses go. Those issues are being dealt with separately by SDDC.

**WHAT IS PROPOSED:** There are 2 connected proposals. 1: to move the current boundary between Barrow-upon-Trent and Stenson Fields *southwards* to have the A50 as the new boundary. 2: to move the current boundary of Twyford & Stenson. At present this goes northward right to railway bridge on Stenson Road! The change would be to also move that south to the A50.

...AND WHY: 2 reasons. 1: Barrow-upon-Trent is a small village. It doesn't make sense for new houses far away to the north side of the A50 to be part of Barrow. 2: in a similar way, Twyford and Stenson are small hamlets. The new estate on the west side of Stenson Road is nearly

finished but it is naturally linked to the existing Stenson Fields. The changes are a 'win/win' for every affected community:

- Barrow, Twyford and Stenson retain their rural identity
- Stenson Fields is able to develop as a single, thriving community

**WHO PROPOSED THIS AND WHO SUPPORTS THIS?** Both Barrow-upon-Trent AND Stenson Fields Parish Councils JOINTLY proposed the changes. ALL the members of both local councils support the proposed boundary.

**IS ANY OFFICIAL BODY AGAINST?** No.

**IF THERE IS AGREEMENT, CAN'T IT JUST BE DONE?** No, it can't. SDDC say their legal advice is that every resident must be consulted. That is why you received that long letter. That letter was far too complex, and no one can understand what it says. HOWEVER if people don't respond the risk is that SDDC will say: 'No one is bothered, so we'll keep things as they are'. It could mean it would be another 10 or even 15 years before what makes sense right now could then happen.

**WHAT CAN I DO?** Please respond to SDDC. Whether you kept or binned the SDDC letter doesn't matter. Please write or e-mail to give your opinion, whatever that is. Our *recommended* response is to say:

'I agree with the proposals jointly put forward by the parish councils of Barrow-upon-Trent and Stenson Fields to change the boundaries of the 3 parishes as shown in the map.'

**Post letter to:** SDDC, Community Governance Review, Democratic Services, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE11 0AH

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