

POSSIBLE PARISH BOUNDARY CHANGES

Hampton in Arden Parish Council has agreed to a request from Catherine de Barnes Residents Association to initiate a process called a Community Governance (Boundary) Review to consider incorporating the unparished area of Catherine de Barnes into the Hampton Parish.

At present, the village of Catherine de Barnes is split between the Hampton in Arden Parish Council area (polling district BH06) and the unparished area to the west of the Grand Union Canal (polling district BH07). See map overleaf.

To promote better community cohesion and more effective local government, we are asking for a redrawing of the boundary so that the whole of the village of Catherine de Barnes is within the parish of Hampton in Arden.

Why is this important?

The current parish boundaries were drawn up long before the settlement of Catherine de Barnes grew into the village we now know. The separation between the parish of Hampton in Arden and the unparished area is now outdated, and no longer reflects the community. It means that some residents living in the village do not have a say on Hampton in Arden Parish Council because they live outside the area. In other words, the current community governance arrangements hinder effective local government.

The proposal will unify the village and its representation through Hampton in Arden Parish Council. The Parish Council is a Statutory Consultee on all planning and development matters with the Local Authority. Parish Councils are funded by a precept charge which currently amounts to just over 60p per week for a Band D property. The residents of Hampton in Arden will largely be unaffected by these proposals but there would be an increase in activity for the Parish Council. We anticipate an increase of one additional Councillor and revenues to support the increase in the size of the parish.

The increased devolution of powers and responsibilities for some local services falls to Parish Councils and this is reflected in the recently adopted Hampton-in-Arden Neighbourhood Plan, within which only part of Catherine de Barnes is included. The proposal seeks to rectify this. A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) enables the local community to have a significant input as to how that Community develops. Local Authorities are required to take a NP into account when considering any development in the area.

In the event that our proposal is successful there would an Addendum to the Hampton NP to incorporate the newly parished area into the Plan.

If adopted, we would like to see the new parish warded and one additional Parish Councillor elected to represent a new Catherine de Barnes ward.

To sum up, the current community governance arrangements hinder community cohesion and effective local government by artificially splitting the village of Catherine de Barnes into two parts.

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Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

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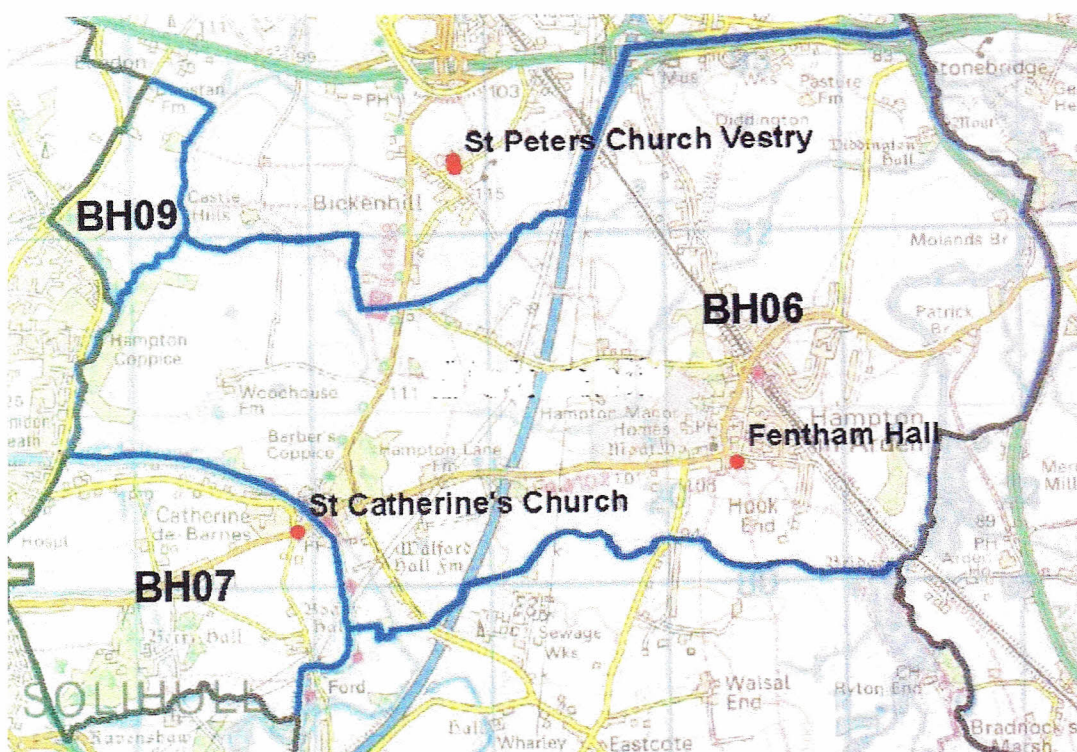
The above recommendation will:

- improve community engagement
- bring communities closer together
- create better local democracy
- result in more efficient delivery of local service

We are, therefore, asking Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council to undertake a community governance review to ensure that community governance arrangements reflect local identities and facilitate effective local government.

This requires a **Petition signed by electors to trigger a Review under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007**. Should we be successful SMBC will consult the residents of both wards as to their views and come to a decision as to whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

We will be holding an Extraordinary Meeting on the evening of the 19th September at 7.30 pm in the C de B Village Hall which will be open to **ALL** households (C de B and Hampton) as an opportunity of discussing this initiative. We will be seeking signatories to the petition during September.



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