

# Gweek Parish Council

Miss RK Nicholas, Clerk to the Council  
Higher Gweek Farm, Gweek, Helston, Cornwall, TR12 7AE  
Telephone: 01326 221205

The Review Manager  
Cornwall Unitary Authority Electoral Review  
The Boundary Committee for England  
Trevelyan House  
Great Peter Street  
London  
SW1P 2HW

RECEIVED  
2 MAR 2008

Our Ref: G/1

19<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Dear Sir

## **Electoral review for the new Cornwall Unitary Authority**

Gweek Parish Council wishes to express in the strongest possible terms the view locally that the parish of Gweek should be included in the Helston and The Lizard division of the new Cornwall Unitary Authority.

Members of the Parish Council were pleased to learn that the review will take into account the identities and interests of local communities in the area. Gweek Parish Council believes that the importance of preserving community identities and interests and providing effective and convenient local government for electors greatly outweighs the desire for electoral equality. It is sincerely hoped that the identity, interests and needs of the local, rural community will not be sacrificed to achieve a numerical balance in the number of electors represented by each Councillor.

Gweek has very strong ties with Helston and forms part of the Lizard Peninsula. Gweek has deep community links and much in common with other parishes on the Lizard Peninsula. Like the other parishes on The Lizard, Gweek is rural and faces similar difficulties and issues and shares the same interests and concerns.

Helston is Gweek's market town and historically, Gweek was the port for Helston. The primary school feeds the secondary school in Helston and many residents access vital services and facilities in Helston.

Gweek parish is currently in the Kerrier District and is rightly involved by the District Council in all matters affecting South Kerrier, which includes Helston and The Lizard. Gweek is a part of this area and should maintain its right to speak on and influence decisions made which will affect it. Issues that affect Helston and The Lizard affect Gweek. If Gweek is erroneously not considered to be a part of The Lizard by the new Cornwall Unitary Authority, it will be detrimental to this community.

There is concern that Gweek will be aligned with Falmouth and Penryn. Gweek is a small, rural parish and has little in common with this urban area. The public transport in Gweek is inadequate and Helston is considerably closer and easier to access than Falmouth and Penryn. There is a belief that the needs of this parish will be overlooked and not understood if it is included in this division, with which it has so little in

common. The parish of Gweek will be better served on all levels if it is included in the Helston and The Lizard division of the new Cornwall Unitary Authority.

Local people consider it unthinkable and completely absurd that Gweek would not be included in the Helston and The Lizard division. It shares a great deal of history, tradition and industry and removing this parish would threaten its identity, which cannot be justified. At a time when so much threatens the fabric of rural life and communities, excluding Gweek from the Helston and The Lizard division would only serve to isolate this rural parish and add to the difficulties faced by those living in rural areas.

The identity and interests of the local, rural community are of the utmost importance and should take priority over a numerical argument. Therefore, my Council trusts that the Boundary Committee will take local circumstances into account and put the interests and needs of this community first and include Gweek in the Helston and The Lizard division of the new Cornwall Unitary Authority.

I would be grateful to receive your confirmation of receipt of this letter and that the comments made will be considered during the review.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Clerk to the Council.