

Holbeton Parish Council

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RECEIVED

15 JUN 2008

DEVON VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2003

The Review Manager (Devon)
The Boundary Committee for England
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London
ES1P 2HW

13th June 2008

Dear Sir

On behalf of Holbeton Parish Council I am writing to express our concerns over the proposed Boundary change affecting the South Hams of which this Parish is a part. We understand that there are proposals being considered which will directly affect this area.

We are concerned that the Unitary Authority of Plymouth and Torbay will enlarge their boundaries to include part if not all the South Hams. This proposal is the one which fills us with alarm.

Plymouth as you know is the largest city on the South West coast and the largest city west of Bristol. Whilst its history and employment has historically been military; even with the 'Peace Dividend' Devonport Dockyard is still the one of the largest employers in the South West. The local University and Hospital are the next largest employers, with the remaining employment coming from small manufacturing businesses and the Service industry.

The South Hams is predominantly agricultural and tourism based with many small and medium family businesses. In other words there is nothing in common between the 'big' city and the South Hams. We are very concerned that Holbeton will be 'swamped' by our big neighbour and the concerns of the small villages like Holbeton will be lost. We are also concerned that we will lose many of our local amenities and services because they will be controlled by the big city authority who will want to reduce the rural services to save money. The South Hams residents will then have to travel miles to the city to obtain these amenities and services and will be unable to fight against it because their local voice will be outweighed by the city.

We request that you look favourably on the creation of a new Unitary Authority based on the South Hams, Teignbridge, West Devon and South Dartmoor.

The creation of a new unitary authority based on the rural areas of South Devon does make economic sense both in terms of employment sector and population. This new Unitary Authority would have a large enough population to create the income to provide and control the services within it, as well as, having the economies of scale to provide the rural amenities and services to the small towns and villages.

We hope that you will take note of our concerns because we are only a small community and we want our voice heard.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

 Mr Chris Flower
Chairman