Boundary Change Process: Seeking the Views of Parishioners

We Would Like Your Opinion

At a future meeting, Rockbeare Parish Council will consider whether it should pursue a formal complaint to the appropriate Ombudsman regarding East Devon District Council's handling of the recent boundary change process.

This is not simply a question of whether residents agree or disagree with the boundary change itself. Rather, questions have been raised regarding the way in which the process was conducted and whether all aspects of the review were carried out in a sufficiently transparent, accountable and responsive manner.

Before deciding whether to pursue this matter further, the Parish Council wishes to establish whether there is sufficient support within the community for such action.

Why Are We Asking?

A significant number of questions relating to the boundary change process have been put to East Devon District Council by the Parish Council. To date, many of these queries have either not been answered or have not received responses that adequately address the concerns raised. As a result, uncertainty remains regarding several important aspects of the process and the basis on which decisions were made.

Residents have also raised questions regarding the transparency of the process, the effectiveness of the consultation, the communication of information, and the extent to which local views were taken into account during the review and decision-making process.

The purpose of this consultation is not to determine whether the boundary change itself was right or wrong, nor to reach any conclusion as to whether fault occurred in the process. Rather, the Parish Council wishes to establish whether parishioners believe there are sufficient unanswered questions and concerns to justify exploring the possibility of referring the matter to the appropriate Ombudsman for independent consideration.

Before deciding whether to commit Parish Council time and resources to pursuing this matter further, the Council wishes to understand the level of support within the community. The purpose of this consultation is therefore to gauge public opinion and determine whether there is a clear mandate from residents for the Parish Council to take any further action on their behalf.

Have Your Say

The Parish Council would welcome your response to the following question:

Do you support the Parish Council exploring a formal complaint to the appropriate Ombudsman regarding East Devon District Council's handling of the boundary change process?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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☐ Undecided

Additional Comments

Please provide any comments, observations or concerns that you would like the Parish Council to consider. In particular, residents may wish to identify aspects of the process which they believe warrant further investigation.

How to Respond

Responses should be submitted by email only to:

Clerk@rockbeareparishcouncil.gov.uk

To assist the Parish Council in verifying responses, please include:

- Your full name;
- Your address within the parish;
- Your response (Yes, No or Undecided); and
- Any additional comments you wish to make.

Please note that personal details will be used solely for the purpose of validating responses and will not be published.

Closing Date

Please submit your response by **1 December 2026**.

What Happens Next?

All responses received by the closing date will be considered by the Parish Council.

A summary of the results will be reported to a future Parish Council meeting and published on the Parish Council website. The results will assist councillors in determining whether there is sufficient public support to investigate the possibility of making a formal complaint to the appropriate Ombudsman.

No decision has yet been made regarding whether such a complaint should be pursued. The purpose of this exercise is solely to establish the views of parishioners before any decision is taken.

Thank You

Rockbeare Parish Council is committed to representing the interests and views of parishioners. Your response will help ensure that any future action reflects the wishes of the community and assists the Council in deciding how best to proceed.