



## Submission on the Community Governance Review for Cornwall 2019

Please complete and return this form with any accompanying papers to Cornwall Council, by email or post, no later than noon 17 July 2019.

Email: [CGRs@Cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:CGRs@Cornwall.gov.uk)

Postal address: Community Governance Review, Cornwall Council, Room 3E.01, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY

1. Please state the area or Parish to which this submission relates:

St Mewan

2. Is this submission from:

- XX A Parish Council (City, Town, Parish or Community Council, or Parish meeting)
- A community organisation
- Any other body or organisation
- One or more individual resident(s)

3. Please indicate whether this submission relates to a change or no change:

- No Change – please continue to section 5
- XX Change – please continue to section 4

4. Submission proposal:

Please tick any that apply

- XX Change to Parish boundary
- Create a grouped Parish with at least one other Parish
- XX Creation of a new Parish
  - By separating part of a Parish
  - By aggregating parts of a Parish
  - XX By amalgamating Parishes
- Change to Parish name
- Create Parish wards
- XX Change the boundaries of existing Parish wards
- Abolish Parish wards
- XX Change the total number of Councillors (say how many you want in the future)
- XX Change the number of Councillors in each ward (say how many you want in the future)
- Other (please provide details below)

5. Details of proposal(s):

Please give details of any submissions that you are proposing or, if appropriate, reasons why you do not want change.

Please give sufficient evidence to support your submission, including any information that you may have already provided to Cornwall Council.

Please explain why you consider that the submission you are making will ensure that community governance within the area will reflect the identities and interests of the community and will be effective and convenient.

St Mewan Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to review community governance arrangements.

St Mewan Parish Council believes it is a pro-active community focused Parish Council which regularly delivers local initiatives and services (four playing fields, areas of open space, allotments, footpaths, community speed watch, speed reduction signs, newsletters, bus shelters, dog mess campaigns, recycling and verge cutting, use of social media and new website to mention key points).

St Mewan Parish employs a CiLCA qualified clerk and is in the process of obtaining the Local Council Foundation Award status which demonstrates to the community that the council want to continue to deliver effective and efficient governance when working, communicating and engaging with the local community endeavouring to meet parishioners needs with public money.

St Mewan Parish has adopted a Neighbourhood Development Plan and our experienced planning committee regularly use its policies during the planning process.

Much change and development has occurred since the CGR last review and we have taken a positive approach through working parties and local consultations to form our submission.

We initially identified some rounding off and tidying up of boundaries especially where housing and communities identify with a local village but are in a neighbouring parish. We then considered a more radical approach to enlarge the Parish considerably. This was driven by the opinion that some neighbouring parishes are in fact unsustainable and do not deliver services to the local communities. It is also more difficult for small parishes to afford regular meetings and clerk salaries account for a large proportion of budgets thereby spending a high proportion of total income on salaries and admin rather than delivering services.

Therefore this submission sets out a number of areas where we propose changes to parish boundaries which would also require changes to warding and councillor numbers.

We also would flag to Cornwall Council that we would be open to discuss changes to this submission to enlarge even more in order to ensure neighbouring areas receive the correct governance that perhaps current skills and experience cannot deliver or if nearby proposals from other councils leave areas where appropriate representation at a parish level could be improved. In this regard we particularly note that Pentewan Valley Parish area may be depleted by transfer of three areas of possible future development in the north; one to St Mewan as described in this proposal and two to St Austell Town Council.

**6. Evidence in support of submission:**

*If your proposals involve any changes to existing boundaries, please submit ordnance survey base maps showing clearly proposed new boundaries.*

*Please give detailed information on the number of dwellings and other significant buildings (shops, industrial premises etc.) affected by your proposed changes.*

*Please give details of any consultation that you may have carried out with affected residents, and the outcome.*

*If your proposals affect other parishes, please state what discussions you have had with other parish councils and the outcome.*

## **Boundary Review.**

### **Map 1 – Edgecumbe Green**

This area was identified on a desk top study as appearing to be more connected to St Austell than St Mewan. All residents were individually invited to our public consultation on 10<sup>th</sup> June but we received no attendance and no feedback. St Austell Town Council have submitted that they wish to transfer this small area (14 properties) to St Austell and we do not object to this proposal. We do however maintain that the green space between Trewoon and St Austell should remain with St Mewan and should be protected from development, during the St Mewan NDP consultations it was a clear message from the local community that the village of Trewoon should remain clearly separated from St Austell, the adopted NDP defines this “buffer zone” as an Open Area of Significance where development cannot be supported.

### **Map 2 – Area south of A 3058 near Burngullow.**

This area was identified as an anomaly where the current boundary kinks into St Mewan but could follow the road straight down which forms an equally firm boundary. Only 7 properties would be affected, all invited to our Public Consultation but no attendance or feedback.

### **Map 3– Area west of Hewaswater south of A390.**

Originally we considered including the corner on the far west of Grampound in Creed into the parish of St Mewan but following consultation with the residents and businesses ( the Merlin Centre and Pengelly Nursery) who both gave strong rationale for no change. As a result of this we will be making a very small change simply to include the whole of one business property which is currently divided by the boundary line. This information is included to demonstrate both a fair handed approach and understanding to local feedback.

### **Map 4– Area south of old A390 in Hewas Water and Lower Sticker.**

During the public consultation of the NDP we received feedback from residents that they felt more connected to Hewas Water and St Mewan than St Ewe. As such we originally considered moving this boundary south to encompass these properties. Representations to St Ewe Parish Council were not accepted positively, however at the St Mewan public consultation on 10<sup>th</sup> June local residents attended/sent in feedback and indicated 60% positive 28% neutral and only 12% against. Subsequently and following more feedback, meetings and discussion regarding the difficulties in locating a suitable new firm boundary without taking a large proportion of St Ewe that would reduce the viability as a stand alone Parish, we believe bringing St Ewe under the governance of St Mewan would be beneficial to St Ewe residents many of whom already visit Sticker for local services (shop, post office, pub) and recently refurbished playing fields.

St Ewe only has a low population density with an electorate of 435 vs St Mewan at 2663 and we believe we can offer the residents a more active and sustainable local parish council with improved governance and controls. There are currently 10 councillors in St Ewe with 2 vacancies and a part time clerk mainly covering bi-monthly meetings. There would also be advantages by reducing the proportion of budget spent on admin and clerk time enabling more services to be delivered to local communities. Preparation for incorporation of the area of St Ewe Parish into the St Mewan NDP (2016-2030) when it is reviewed ready for 2030 could be advanced.

The sustainability of both parishes will be improved, especially St Ewe. Interestingly the current Cornwall Council ward of “St Mewan” includes both the current parishes of St Mewan and St Ewe.

### **Map 5 – Area East of current Parish near Polgooth/Tregongeeves Lane**

This area identifies with Polgooth and St Mewan far more closely than Pentewan Valley and is very close to the Parish church of St Mewan and the local St Mewan School. As such we proposed that we would realign the boundary bringing some of this area into St Mewan from Pentewan Valley. This was supported by all residents who have responded.

We are also aware that St Austell Town Council have proposed to take the site known as High Trehiddle Farm which has planning permission for substantial development and we support this because it sits within the “bowl” of St Austell (a term well used in the St Austell Town Framework document). This also fits with our proposal the land beyond this moves into St Mewan especially since a stone could be thrown from St Mewan Church to this land and it clearly sits outside of the “bowl of St Austell”.

#### **Map 6 – Outline of enlarged Parish.**

The enlarged Parish will have an electorate of just over 3000 with 15 councillors resulting in a ratio of electorate to councillors of 205 which is very similar to the current St Mewan Parish and also the same as the current average across Cornwall.

#### **Warding in the enlarged Parish of St Mewan.**

It was always our intention to remove the current split warding from St Mewan Parish preferring to have one ward in the Parish, this gives greater flexibility with recruiting new councillors. We would however manage the appropriate representation across the parish with an internal policy. Given the changes outlined above we propose that the enlarged parish will have 2 wards – the original St Mewan and original St Ewe areas to ensure the appropriate representation to the whole area.

#### **Councillor Numbers.**

It was our intention to keep councillor numbers the same in St Mewan at 13. The parish currently has the same average number of electorate to councillors as the whole of Cornwall and this is proving successful. St Mewan currently has one vacancy for a councillor with three potential candidates.

Given the enlargement of the parish with the area from St Ewe we foresee an increase of 2 councillors representing the 465 electorate thereby keeping the average representation very similar for the enlarged new parish.

Future total councillors therefore of 15 for the two amalgamated parishes.

#### **7. List of attachments:**

- Map 1 – Change – Edgcumbe Green to St Austell**
- Map 2 – Change – Burngullow - Small area to St Mewan**
- Map 3 – Change – Very small change in with Grampound with Creed.**
- Map 4 (a) – Initial thoughts in Hewaswater and Lower Sticker from St Ewe**
- Map 4 (b) – Proposed enlarged parish including the whole of St Ewe**
- Map 5 – Change East of Polgooth with Pentewan Valley**
- Map 6 – Overview of proposed new boundaries for St Mewan Parish**

#### **8. Submitted by:**

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Signed:

Date:

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Organisation and position (if submitting on behalf of an organisation):

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Contact details:

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