

## Proposed Parish Boundary Change - Broughton Astley/Dunton Bassett

At its meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 Council agreed a recommendation to carry out further public consultation on a proposed change to the parish boundary between Broughton Astley and Dunton Bassett.

Subsequent to that meeting letters have been received from some residents of the properties subject to the change expressing concern at the proposal. Part of these concerns relate to the status of the adjacent fields and a desire not to see these developed (Broughton Astley Parish Council is currently carrying out consultation on a Neighbourhood Plan).

Guidance issued by the Boundary Commission for England states that “as far as parish boundaries are concerned, these should reflect the “no man’s land” between communities represented by areas of low population or barriers such as rivers, roads or railways” and “Over time communities can expand with new housing developments. This can often lead to existing parish boundaries becoming anomalous as new houses are built across them resulting in people being in different parishes from their neighbours”. The guidance goes on to state that “A review of parish boundaries is an opportunity to put in place strong boundaries, tied to firm ground detail, and remove anomalous parish boundaries”.

It is for these reasons that a proposal to amend the parish boundary between Broughton Astley and Dunton Bassett was recommended as the ‘no-man’s land’ between the settlements of Broughton Astley and Dunton Bassett is formed by the countryside in-between the settlements. All properties on Dunton Road share the same postal address and post code (Broughton Astley) and there is no clear geographical feature dividing these properties (Part of 67A is in the parish of Broughton Astley as the parish boundary cuts through the garden and 67B is in the parish of Dunton Bassett).

The adopted Harborough District Local Plan shows all the existing properties on Dunton Road as falling within the limits of development for Broughton Astley (including numbers 67B-101). This line is shown as option B on the plan appended to this report and would include the properties within Broughton Astley but leave the fields within Dunton Bassett.

The original proposal (as considered by Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> September) is shown as option A which included the field to the rear of the properties and a third proposal which includes the field opposite the properties is shown as option C.

Taking into account the advice from the Boundary Commission Members are asked to consider which option they consider should form part of the public consultation plan.