



COLEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

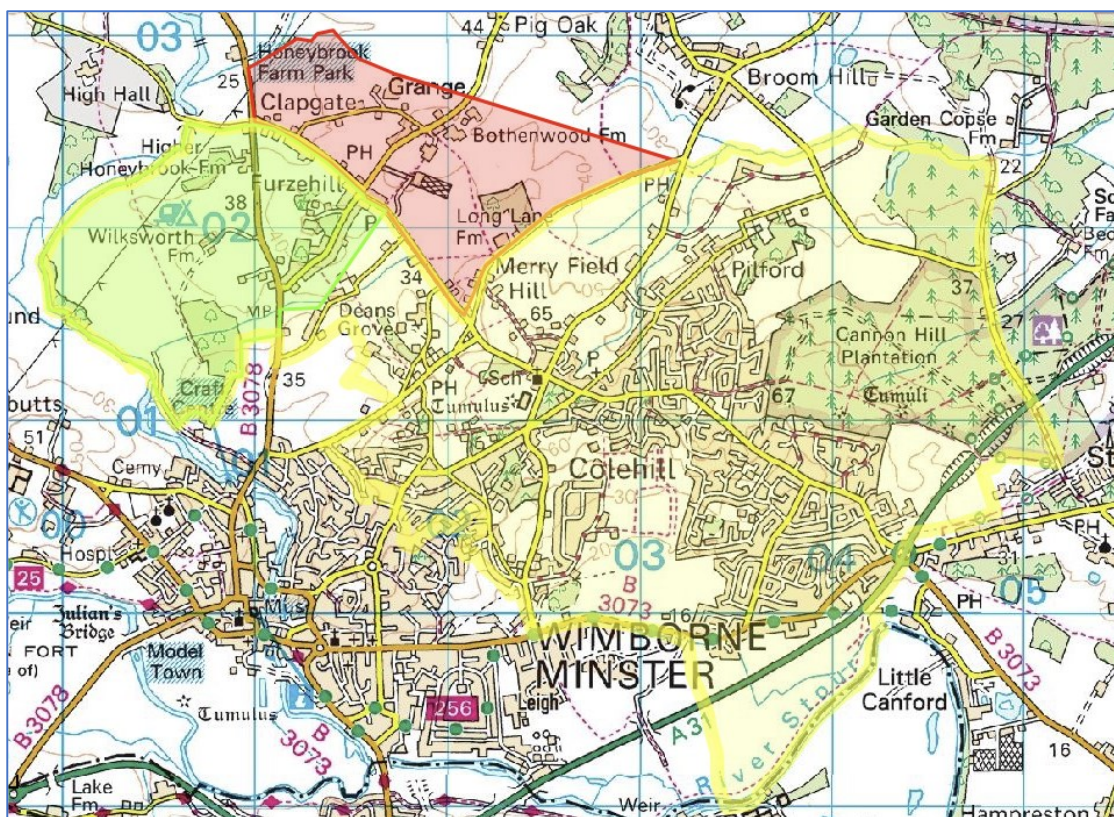
RESPONSE TO DORSET COUNCIL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OCTOBER 2021

Colehill Parish Council resolved on 30th September 2021 to submit the following two submissions to the Dorset Council Community Governance Review...

1 - To unify the hamlet of Furzehill by moving those parts currently within the parish of Holt to Colehill

The Current Position

- The hamlet of Furzehill is currently split between Colehill and Holt parishes, with the boundary dividing close neighbours. This is contrary to government guidance for CGR, para 80 of which says boundaries should reflect community identity, and para 83 that boundaries should as far as possible run along “no-man’s land between communities’.
- There are 57 residential properties in the area shaded below in red, the Holt part of Furzehill.
- Within Colehill there are 79 properties in the area shaded below in green, the existing Colehill parish being outlined in yellow.



Our Proposal

- In order to improve community identity for Furzehill it is suggested that the parish boundary for Colehill be adjusted to include the area shown in red.
- The [boundary commission proposals for 2023](#) are to move Colehill and Holt under the same parliamentary constituency, removing the need for a separate ward to be created.
- The Dorset ward boundaries would also need to be adjusted to move the section in red from the Stour & Allen Vale ward to the Colehill & Wimborne Minster East ward.

Supporting Evidence

- During July/August 21 we conducted a household survey, for the Colehill Neighbourhood Plan, with leaflets hand delivered to every house in the parish. We received 21 responses from residents in the Furzehill area, a higher than average response rate compare to the rest of the parish. The responses indicate that the majority of Furzehill residents associate with Colehill:
 - 17 gave reasons why they like living in Colehill.
 - 14 said they use existing facilities in Colehill including: the Colehill Memorial Hall, the Colehill Library, The Reef youth club, St Michaels's Church, Cannon Hill plantation for walking, ByTheWay SANG.
 - None of the 21 Furzehill respondents mentioned the parish boundary or any desire to move to Holt.
- Colehill Parish Council is well positioned financially to support the needs of Furzehill residents, with £205,000 in cash/savings, compared to £33,000 for Holt Parish Council (based on March 21 accounts).
 - We have recently been approached to support the restoration of a disused phone box situated in the part of Furzehill within Holt parish.
 - We are well placed to support financially the woodlands around the disused East Dorset Council offices in Furzehill.

2 - To combine the existing three Colehill wards as soon as the parliamentary constituencies allow

- Colehill currently has three parish wards, Colehill West, Colehill East & Colehill Hayes.
- The Colehill Hayes ward is currently a legal necessity as the area lies in a different parliamentary constituency to the rest of the parish.
- The [boundary commission proposals for 2023](#) are to move all of Colehill into a single constituency. If these proposals are implemented there will be no legal requirement to maintain wards.
- The three existing wards do not align with different community identities, and for all practical purposes, other than elections, we currently operate as if the wards didn't exist.
- It is suggested that the three wards be combined into one as soon as possible after the boundary changes, preferably prior to the parish council elections due in 2024.

