

Community Governance Review - Buckshaw

These are the views of County Councillor Mike France, County Councillor for Leyland Central Division:

I do have several comments to make on this subject. The following comments are merely my own opinion of the situation and should be taken in that context. I do not live in the Village and I have only been involved since my election as a County Councillor in 2009

I feel that in the long term it would make sense to move the Boundary and make the whole of Buckshaw come under one Borough – I am slightly biased so I hope it is South Ribble!

However this is unlikely to happen for some considerable time because: -

- 1) Buckshaw is still a development and will be for quite a number of years, this in my opinion will prevent or reduce the chances of moving or changing the Borough Boundaries until the development is nearer to completion date. In other words, until most of the houses are built, I don't think that changes will be made.
- 2) Because both of the two Borough Councils receive or will receive large amounts of Council Tax and Business rates and possibly other financial benefits, neither Borough in my opinion would be likely to give away land without some form of land swop to compensate for potential income loss – this could be another reason why no changes will be made.

In the meantime I feel that the area of Buckshaw that falls under the two Parishes should be unparished for the following reasons: -

- 1) Most or all of the amenity issues/provision/maintenance lies with the developer and will remain so for quite some time. Therefore residents who pay a precept to the Parish Councils on the Chorley side perhaps should ask themselves – "What do I get for my payment"? Residents on the South Ribble appear to get all the same provision and pay nothing extra.
- 2) There are no Parishes on the South Ribble side of Buckshaw – Bearing in mind that the developer is responsible for most of the area anyway – any issues that are actual Council issues are in my opinion readily dealt with by the local Borough Councillors and myself the County Councillor – is it necessary to add another layer of Councillor or paperwork or payment?
- 3) Unparishing the Chorley side will put all residents on a level playing field and make it fair.

Making a new Parish Council on the Chorley side just for Buckshaw is not necessary because: -

- 1) The BVCA appear to do an excellent job in representing the community and appear to represent all of the village not just part of it – a

parish Council would probably be a duplication of what the BVCA already do – why duplicate? – and why be forced to pay for it?

2) The BVCA appears to be well supported and is run by residents of Buckshaw for residents – Would a Parish Council be as well supported?

3) A New Parish Council would only be on the Chorley side because of the Borough Boundaries – what's the point of that - the whole of the village wouldn't be represented – is this fair?

This consultation will allow the residents of Buckshaw to decide what they want, I hope my comments are useful and go towards helping them make informed decisions.

Cllr Mike France

Lead Member for Communities and Partnerships

Leyland Central Division - Lancashire County Council