

Petition for Bluxit! Or petition for Remain. (You know what happened in the other one!)

With reference to the Community Governance review suggesting that the Parish is split at the A419, we have been doing some calculations...

The statements in the petition raised by Swindon Borough Councillors Vera Tomlinson and Mary Friend say the following

'1. There is no commonality between Blunsdon (small village) and St Andrew's Ward (new build west of 419).'

This is true, however in terms of what we and the Parish Clerk **do** at Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council, does not reflect that statement, in fact things are very much the same.

We consider planning applications, and rely on the local knowledge of our elected Parish Councillors to help make decisions across the whole Parish, fewer in the Village than St Andrew's Ward.

We arrange for the Play Areas to be kept litter free, safe and in good working order in both areas.

We arrange for the dog bins to be emptied in both areas.

We run a Village Hall and a Community Centre the same way

We support local residents associations, all schools, help provide services for youth, and for the aged.

'2. The Precept raised is currently managed by Blunsdon (St Andrew) Parish Council. The majority of the Precept is collected from the St Andrew's ward residents, but most of that Precept is spent in Blunsdon Village.'

It is true that we manage the Precept as do all Parish Councils, however we manage it so well that it is the lowest Precept in the Borough (£18.43 per band D). As the majority of the houses in the Parish are west of the A419, overall we do collect more from that area. **It is not true that most of the Precept is spent in Blunsdon Village**, we spend more money and time in the larger area comprising Redhouse, St Andrew's Ridge, Abbey Meads, Ash Brake, Groundwell West and Tadpole Garden Village.

'3. The Precept from the St Andrew's Ward is needed for our Ward and should be managed by our own Parish Council. For example, on road crossings, grass cutting, dog bins, children's play parks and running our own Community Centre.'

As you can see from the breakdown of the end of year accounts, we do manage the Precept well and spend the majority of it in the area west of the A419 on dog bins, play areas and setting up the Community Centre which, like the Village Hall, contribute to their own running costs. Road crossings and grass cuttings are currently paid for in your Council Tax.

If after reading this you believe the Parish should be split think on this. If it does split your Precept contribution in both areas will increase! The cost of setting up and running a new Parish along with taking over the services that you already pay for as discussed will cost you more. Please take this into consideration and sign our counter-petition. Or let your local Parish Councillor know if you want your name removed. They are **Mike Compton, Derek Ricketts and Ian Jankinson** (St Andrew's Ridge), **Andrew James, Colleen Bennett, John Kilby and Stewart Herron** (Redhouse).

Alex Marasco (Tadpole Garden Village) Thank you – Ian Jankinson