

Ward System for North Luffenham Parish Council.

The Parish Council has mused for some time the idea of a 'ward system' for the village. I think it is a good idea and have listed some of the possible benefits. I also think that it would not be difficult to introduce and my reason for introducing it as an agenda item is to ascertain whether the Parish Council thinks it is a reasonable idea and that it should be implemented.

- Residents may be more likely to relate to a parish councillor rather than the council as a whole thus enhancing communication and feedback.
- Systematises the identification of people moving into the village enabling efficient distribution of information, particularly the 'Welcome Pack'.
- Identification of problems that residents may have and liaison with groups such as the Good Neighbour Scheme and Village Trust.
- Identification of issues such as verges not being mowed, street lighting not working.

I accept that the benefits are somewhat speculative, as I know of no evidence that such a system is beneficial. There may be downsides in that it will require more time and effort on behalf of each councillor and that a councillor may find him or herself having to deal with a difficult resident or group of residents.

If it is agreed for a ward system to go ahead then I'm sure the village can be divided up equitably and the ward that each councillor has would also be the 'distribution list'.