



**CASTLE MORPETH BOROUGH COUNCIL
ELECTIONS OFFICE**
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5 July 2000

Dear Occupier

ABOLITION OF THE PARISH WARDS OF BELSAY PARISH

Representation has been made by the Parish of Belsay to abolish Wards 1,2 and 3 within the parish. Due to increasing election costs, and that the village of Belsay is now the main community centre for education, shopping and community activities; it is felt that the smaller communities represented by the warding arrangements are no longer required.

The Borough Council supports this request. At present, each ward is represented by two Councillors. Confusion arises as to which Councillors represent which Wards. At the re-election of the full Parish, costs are increased due to 3 separate elections being held to re-elect members to each ward. Abolishing the wards would result in one election being held for the whole of the parish and election costs would be reduced.

This request was put to the Policy and Resources meeting of the Council on Tuesday 20 June 2000 with a recommendation to:

1. Inform the electorate of Belsay Parish of its recommendations to abolish the warding arrangements and invite comments;
2. Following such consultation, make an Order under Section 17(3) of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, abolishing Wards 1,2 and 3 of Belsay parish, to take effect for the ordinary election of parish councillors in May 2003;
3. That the number of councillors to be elected remains at 6.

Any comments should be in writing to the Elections Office at the above address, **no later than Monday 31 July 2000.**

ARTHUR YELLOWLEY

Acting Electoral Registration Officer