

## Starkie, Emily

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**From:** Brian Hopkinson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 November 2017 16:26  
**To:** reviews  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Boundary Review South Glos Council

Dear Sir/ Madam,

We are writing as the two long serving Cllrs for Bradley Stoke Central and Stoke Lodge Ward on South Gloucestershire Council.

We believe that Stoke Lodge and The Common Parish should remain in one South Gloucestershire Council ward, an approach the Commission has taken towards the majority of other parishes in the Authority. Stoke Lodge and The Common is a small parish that was only created a few years ago and should be kept all together in the same SGC ward to help preserve its identity.

The parish was created when South Gloucestershire Council wrote to all the residents in the area asking for their views on setting up a new parish council. The feedback that came back strongly supported the creation of Stoke Lodge and The Common Parish. A total of 894 consultation leaflets were issued to Stoke Lodge households and an 80% response rate came back **and more than 87% of those wanted this new parish council created**, indicating that the overwhelming majority of residents supported the proposal. In other areas, such as Emersons Green, the Commission have used the parish boundary as a strong boundary for the ward, and we would request that the Commission consider doing likewise for Stoke Lodge and the Common.

There is strong local opinion that the new parish council is working well and making a big difference to strengthening the community and its identity. The current proposals undermine the strong community identity we have all strived to foster as they divide the parish and strangely puts Stoke Lodge Primary School into the Little Stoke ward. The residents of Stoke Lodge and The Common voted overwhelmingly for their own Parish. The change in boundaries and the new Parish took three years to legally complete. Local people and ourselves do not want in any way to allow their Parish to be split up . We were amazed to find that our home purchased way back in 1982 and having represented local residents for some 10.5 years now on previous Town and now Parish plus District Ward was to be dragged out of Stoke Lodge and repositioned in Little Stoke.

We are and have been the District Cllrs for 10.5 years and hopefully due to our efforts and achievements in our area will continue to be. If the suggested changes to split up our Parish are made it is unlikely that a Cllr sitting in another Parish would be contacted and this would lead to much confusion. Residents will ask us to help them, then what are we supposed to do. Technically we would have to pass them onto somebody from Little Stoke? The boundary changes to Bradley Stoke are not so problematic as Central Bradley Stoke to the most part is amalgamating with North Bradley Stoke. To be frank with one of us having been Mayor on the Town and both of us having made some great improvements to the Town we will be very much accepted as indeed we receive queries from all over Bradley

Stoke. Stoke Lodge and The Common is a different place quite distinct from Little Stoke and hopefully you will decide to leave it intact as it currently is.

We would really appreciate that this small but important adjustment is made to the current plan so that the whole of Stoke Lodge and The Common be linked with Bradley Stoke North.

We would also ask that the name of Bradley Stoke North be changed to Bradley Stoke North and Stoke Lodge. This makes the point that the ward is made up of part of Bradley Stoke and all of the Parish of Stoke Lodge and The Common.

We would further support a 3-member Stoke Gifford Ward, instead of a 1-member Little Stoke Ward and a 2-member Stoke Gifford ward as Little Stoke is an important and integrated part of the Stoke Gifford Parish, indeed the Parish offices for Stoke Gifford are sited in Little Stoke.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Faithfully,

CLlr Sarah Pomfret and CLlr Brian Hopkinson

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