

## Starkie, Emily

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**From:** Parish Clerk [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 November 2017 12:15  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Electoral Arrangements for South Gloucestershire Council (Parish Council Electoral Review Response)

The Parish Council believe strongly that Stoke Gifford Ward should remain a 3 member ward, as it is now, and therefore Little Stoke should not be extracted into a 1 member ward, as suggested within the LGBC proposal.

However, we do support the growth of this ward by including an area south of the main GWR Bristol to London rail line, currently within the Frenchay and Stoke Park Unitary Ward to ensure electoral parity.

All of Stoke Gifford is in the same civil and ecclesiastical parish with its own Parish Council. The Parish Council actually has its own HQ/ Offices in the Little Stoke part of the parish, where it holds its regular parish council meetings. The parish Church and Vicar of St Michael's covers all of Stoke Gifford Parish, including Little Stoke.

The St Michael's "Heart of the Community Centre (<http://www.stmichaelsbristol.org/wp-content/uploads/HOTC-Spring-update-2017-.pdf>) has expanded rapidly in recognition of all the new housing developments and is used by all residents of the parish, not just those on the south of Gypsy Patch Lane/Winterbourne Road. The Centre has meeting rooms, its own café and will soon hold the new Community Library that is been started and will serve all residents of the parish.

The Stoke Gifford Baptist Church is part of a Trinity partnership with Little Stoke and Amberley Road (Stoke Lodge) Baptist Churches ensuring that the congregation is drawn from across all part of the parish, not from one particular area.

The two youth clubs in the parish work closely together and each attracts young people from across the parish, not just in their immediate area. Currently two primary schools serve the whole area, St Michael's Ratcliffe Drive and Little Stoke Primary. St Michael's Primary is currently over-subscribed, necessitating the continuing use of temporary classrooms in addition to new purpose built replacement classrooms. The fluid catchment areas for both schools attracts pupils from the south of Gypsy Patch Lane/Winterbourne Road to attend Little Stoke School. In due course, the area will be served by two planned additional primary schools. The same fluidity occurs with the different play groups across the parish to suit parental working arrangements.

The many uniformed groups in the parish, not only scouts and guides, but also the Army Cadets, based at Ratcliffe Drive, are drawn from all parts of the parish, so Little Stoke cannot be treated as a separate entity on its own. The Remembrance Day Parade, held at the Cenotaph, North Road Stoke Gifford, recently the subject of a grant-aided refurbishment, managed by the Parish Council, attracts a huge number of members of uniformed groups, from across the whole Parish, increasing every year.

The two secondary schools in the area draw children from all parts of the Stoke Gifford Parish, so pupils from Little Stoke attend both and those living south of Gypsy Patch Lane/Winterbourne Road attend both schools.

In addition, the local Colleges, all based in New Road, to the south of the main railway line, the West of England Institute of Specialist Education (WISE), the City of Bristol College Advanced Engineering Centre and the Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy (University Technical College) in combination, provide a wide range of courses for 14-19 year olds on adjoining campuses.

The medical centre at Braydon Ave in Little Stoke attracts residents from right across the Parish Area. Little Stoke residents tend to use ASDA and Sainsbury stores (both south of the main railway line) for shopping as their bus services do not connect to the large Tesco Willow Brook Centre in Bradley Stoke.

There are many local Stoke Gifford organisations that attract membership both from Little Stoke and the rest of Stoke Gifford. These include several elderly persons group, often operating with the support of Parish Council grants and The Gardening Club.

The Parish allotments, managed by Stoke Gifford Parish Council, are sited south of the Gypsy Patch Lane/Winterbourne Road, but are used by residents from all parts of the parish including many who live in Little Stoke.

The three Parish Council managed playing fields are spread across the parish. Each field has a different thematic role and function. As a result residents from all part of the parish will potentially use all three of them depending on their varying needs. Mead Park is kept as a playing field with regularly cut grass, children’s play equipment and sand pits. Forty Acres ground is kept as a wild life haven and is managed as such, while Little Stoke Park is laid out as a Recreation Ground with various and different sport pitches such as rugby and football, a state of the art MUGA and the BMX track, both used by the whole community.

In similar fashion, the additional sports and recreational equipment provided by the Stoke Gifford Trust on North Road include the cricket pitch and tennis courts which serve the whole community. Meanwhile there is extensive public use of five-a-side football and other MUGA pitches at the WISE and Abbeywood Community School sites, outside of school hours by the wider community.

All parts of the parish receive the Stoke Gifford Journal and the Bradley Stoke Matters magazines.

In summary we believe that separating Little Stoke off from the rest of the Parish would be disadvantageous to close familial identity of the local community.

In addition to hive off Little Stoke into a single Member Ward would be impractical and would fail to provide the civil representation its residents have come to expect and enjoy over many years.

Little Stoke is, and has always been part of the Stoke Gifford Parish Council area! Members note that, elsewhere across South Gloucestershire, the Boundary Commission has majored on maintaining Parish boundaries, and making them coterminous with new Ward boundaries, wherever possible. In our opinion the Little Stoke one member Ward should be re-joined with the proposed two Member Stoke Gifford Ward to retain an efficient three Member Stoke Gifford Ward.

*Kind regards*

Steve Shield PSLCC  
**Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer**

Stoke Gifford Parish Council

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