

Starkie, Emily

From: Tormarton Parish Council [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2017 15:41
To: reviews
Subject: South Gloucestershire Council Boundary Review

At the Tormarton Parish Council meeting on 17th October 2017, the proposed boundary changes were discussed for South Gloucestershire Council and Tormarton Parish Council would like to make the following response:

REVISION OF WARD BOUNDARY AFFECTING THE PARISH OF TORMARTON

One of the three main considerations of this electoral review is to reflect the *community identity* (10, P.3) and *community interests and identities* (32, P.7). In order to achieve these objectives Tormarton Parish Council requests the Commission not to place Tormarton in Boyd Valley Ward but instead to include it in the Sodbury Vale Ward along with the villages of Acton Turville, Badminton and Hawkesbury Upton, where they have shared interests and a common heritage.

Historically, functionally and culturally the parish of Tormarton identifies most closely with the other villages situated in the district generally known as the Cotswolds Edge. The parish of Tormarton is in the Cotswolds AONB and the Cotswold Way National Trail passes through the centre of Tormarton village.

Many Tormarton buildings and a large proportion of the surrounding land is owned by the Badminton Estate. The local farmers and their employees therefore have much in common with the other Estate tenants in West Littleton, Badminton and Acton Turville.

Also, many Tormarton children attend Trinity Primary School in Acton Turville, which was established when Tormarton village school was closed in the 1970s. A major proportion of Trinity's intake comprises children who live in the villages of Tormarton, Acton Turville and Badminton. With the current erosion of the Local Authority's role in education the local schools have formed a mutual support group called the Cotswold Alliance comprising the primary schools in Acton Turville, Hawkesbury Upton, Horton, Old Sodbury and Wickwar. Cllr Sue Hope, the S. Glos District Councillor for Cotswold Edge Ward, is closely involved with representing the interests of this Alliance. If Tormarton were to be moved into the Boyd Valley ward the interests of Tormarton children would no longer be properly represented at the Local Authority level.

For the reasons given above, Tormarton Parish Council strongly opposes the proposal to move the parish to the Boyd Valley Ward. This would group it with Wick & Abson and Pucklechurch with which they have little shared values or historical context.

Regards,

Gill Penberth
Tormarton Parish Council Clerk
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