

AUST PARISH COUNCIL

From the Clerk of the Council

tel: [REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]

Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor
Millbank Tower
London SW1P 4QP

16 May 2017

Dear Sirs

Electoral Review of South Gloucestershire Council Ward Boundaries

I am writing to make submissions on behalf of Aust Parish Council on the review of Council Ward Boundaries in South Gloucestershire. Aust parish is part of Severn Ward and comprises three small villages, Aust, Elberton and Littleton-upon-Severn. It has an electorate of 421. The whole parish lies within the green belt and none of the villages within it has a settlement boundary (for planning purposes). It is entirely rural – there is not a single street light (save around the M48 motorway running through) or shop within it. The other parts of Severn Ward, and villages making them up, are similarly rural, and a significant proportion of it runs to the banks of the River Severn

Severn Ward has an electorate of 3,056, expected to increase to 3,083 by 2023. If the number of Councillors is reduced to 61, as proposed, the average ratio of electors to Councillors would be 3,773, so it would seem likely that Severn Ward would need to increase by about 700 electorate.

My council recognises the need to ensure that each councillor represents a more or less equal number of voters and that some adjustments are going to be necessary consequent on the alteration in the proposed number of councillors. It agrees with the principle that ward patterns should – as far as possible – reflect community interests and that boundaries should be identifiable. . Any councillor representing Aust's people on South Gloucestershire Council should be interested in and wish to represent their electors' interests as country dwellers and the similar interests that they have as residents, farmers and workers in the countryside. It would be very unfortunate if, in order to achieve an arbitrary number of electors, the ward should be so altered that, for example, parts of it should be incorporated with Thornbury or the Cribbs Causeway area, whose residents have different needs and interests.

My council looks forward to seeing and commenting on your proposals in due course.

Yours faithfully

Tim Pyper
Clerk