

## South Gloucestershire

### Personal Details:

**Name:** David Kearns

**E-mail:** 

**Postcode:** 

**Organisation Name:** South Gloucestershire Council

### Comment text:

Dear Sir/Madam, As the district councillor for Emersons Green ward, I am writing to respond to your draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for South Gloucestershire Council. First, I welcome your proposals for a 3 member Emersons Green ward which would be coterminous with the Emersons Green Town Council boundary. I agree, as you say, with a ward that contains the entire parish as it would provide for good adherence to the statutory criteria, following strong boundaries and encompassing an established community area. It will also enable a focus on integrating the new Lyde Green development with the existing Emersons Green community, which was a key reason for creating Emersons Green Town Council in 2015. Second, I would wish to object to your proposals for our close neighbours in Mangotsfield to be joined with Staple Hill in a new 3 member ward. As an Emersons Green district councillor, I can say with some certainty that Mangotsfield really doesn't have that much in common with Staple Hill. I see Mangotsfield as part of our extended community and there are various reasons for this:

- Prior to the creation of Emersons Green Town Council in 2015, the previous parish was called Mangotsfield Rural Parish Council reflecting the historic ties of the area and the fact that new development at Emersons Green had occurred to the north and east of the former Mangotsfield parish;
- New development at Emersons Green, particularly the large retail units in the Town Centre, such as Lidl and Sainsbury's, has provided the nearest big supermarkets for Mangotsfield shoppers to use just as much as Emersons Green residents;
- Emersons Green residents pay their respects for Remembrance at the War Memorial in Mangotsfield. In their website The Residents' Handbook - Everything you need to know about Emersons Green it shows how this year's Remembrance Service 2017 in Mangotsfield is publicised once again within the Emersons Green community. Staple Hill has its own such Remembrance service, which doesn't involve Mangotsfield residents;
- Mangotsfield Secondary School is located just within the Emersons Green ward/parish boundary, but serves both Mangotsfield and Emersons Green children. In contrast, Staple Hill children tend to go to Downend Secondary School.
- Mangotsfield Primary School is located within Emersons Green ward/parish and is a significant feeder school into Mangotsfield Secondary School, along with Barley Close Primary School in Mangotsfield;
- Mangotsfield Village Festival is held at Cleve Rugby Club, which along with the Pomphrey Hill playing fields, are located in Emersons Green ward/parish, but are very much used by both Mangotsfield and Emersons Green residents;
- Emersons Green residents living at the southern end of the ward/parish (in roads such as Wadham Grove, Colliers Break, Bissex Mead etc) use the post office, shops, pubs and services in Mangotsfield's village centre as it's closer for them than Emersons Green Town Centre;

In summary, we are supportive of your proposals for Emersons Green. We are, however, concerned about your proposals for Mangotsfield and the lack of appreciation of the fact that Mangotsfield 'looks east' given its shared history with Emersons Green. This is evidenced, amongst other things, by the fact that various facilities carry the name 'Mangotsfield', but are in fact located within Emersons Green ward/parish eg schools and annual community festival. We believe that a one member Mangotsfield ward would reflect the statutory criteria, avoid the need for any major knock-on implications for other wards and better respect Mangotsfield community identity far more so than combining it with Staple Hill in a 3 member ward. Kind regards, Cllr

Colin Hunt Cllr Rachael Hunt Cllr Dave Kearns South Gloucestershire Councillors for Emersons Green

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded