

Worcester City Council

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Comment text:

Change of Boundary: Warndon Wards South and North. It is requested that consideration is given to the following: 1. Troshill Lane (East and West) is of historic and environmental importance. The natural and easily recognised boundary between two Wards should be maintained. 2. To provide clarity and to avoid confusion the names of the wards should be changed. It is suggested that they become: • Warndon Parish North Ward – St Nicholas' Ward • Warndon Parish South Ward – Aconbury Orchard Ward – or Aconbury Farm Ward • Warndon Parish Division – St Nicholas' and Aconbury Orchard/Farm Division • Warndon Parish – no change, leaving it with its distinct identity and boundary The changes proposed are for local government administrative areas only. There is no suggestion of changes to geographical names or postal addresses, though it is recognised that the colloquial name 'Warndon Villages' has become well-used and helpful. Much of the background for these submissions has come from, 'Trotshill Conservation Area' (undated) Worcester City Council. <http://committee.worcester.gov.uk/documents/s40725/Appendix%201%20-%20Trotshill%20Conservation%20Area.pdf> Trotshill Lane as a Boundary Prior to the 20th century and development of what is referred to colloquially as Warndon Villages, Trotshill formed part of a historic group of dispersed farming settlements which included Warndon to the north, and Lyppard Grange to the South. The name Trotshill derives from Wielle meaning well, and the personal name Trott. There was a medieval settlement at Trotshill, recorded as Trotteswell in 1086 and at various points throughout the medieval period. Documentary evidence indicates that Saxon settlers established farmsteads at Great Tolladine, with Trotshill Lane forming the Northern boundary to the Manor. The hollow way and hedge mentioned in the charter is on the alignment of or very close to the present Trotshill Lane, and it is likely that the Lane has been a continuous manorial and ecclesiastical boundary for over a thousand years. The Boundary Commission suggestion is that Warndon Parish North and South Wards would 'benefit from balancing elector numbers to achieve electoral equality...and this can be done by amending the boundary between the two [City Council] * wards, moving 54 properties (102 electors) into Warndon Parish North.' This would mean the ward boundary would no longer be Trotshill Lane. The properties in Turbary Avenue and Quisters would shift from Warndon Parish South to the Warndon Parish North Ward. My contention is that it is inappropriate to move away from the significant natural boundary for such a marginal bureaucratic benefit. Names of Wards The residents of Worcester are confused by the names of the Warndon Parish North Ward and even more so by Warndon Parish South Ward. This is understandable and leads to distressing situations when those needing representation must be redirected to the right 'Warndon'. Confusion is understandable as 'Warndon' is a neighbouring but separate Ward, Warndon and Gorsehill is a neighbouring County Division, and the boundaries of Warndon Parish are different from the Ward of Warndon Parish South and the Warndon Parish County Division. Historically it may have been a mistake to give the original neighbouring settlement the name 'Warndon'. The colloquial Warndon Villages name has arisen as a result, but it is unlikely that the residents of Swinesherd, Aconbury and (more recently) Stableford and Broadheath Meadows identify with the name. Though the time for changing geographical names and postal addresses has past (and the motive for doing so would be misconstrued) there is no need for such confusion over local government domains. The changes recommended would give the Wards and Division a better identity, which would provide a clearer at election time and avoid confusion about where responsibilities lie. St Nicholas St Nicholas Church is situated on the northeast edge of the City of Worcester, sitting at the edge of the housing development and business parks. It is nevertheless in a rural setting, next to restored farm buildings and the 17th century Warndon Court. The nave and chancel are Norman from the 13th century, though it is thought that there has been a church here since the 8th century. The church was almost untouched for many years until there was a major restoration during the 1990's. This cemented its links with the major development of houses and businesses which were being developed at that time. Aconbury Orchard Aconbury Orchard is an area

named on the definitive map (unlike Warndon Villages). It runs south/north over about a half of Warndon Parish South Ward's length and is roughly at the midpoint of the Wards east/west boundaries. The historic 'orchard' is only part of the area in the ownership of the City Council, and was once part of the former Aconbury Farm. Its replanting has been done by a local environmental group and has involved the community and schools. The remainder of the 'orchard' area comprises wildflowers meadows, established hedges and a coppice, which is bordered by an ancient bridleway. Being at a high point and being open to the public it encapsulates the openness of the Ward and the community's feelings for the natural environment. Aconbury Farm might be considered a more descriptive name as this covered a greater area. *Not Parish Council Wards as written in the proposition. Councillor Andy Roberts Warndon Parish South Ward and Warndon Parish Division.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded