

Malvern Hills District Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: PARISH COUNCIL

Comment text:

I am writing on behalf of Holt Parish Council who are strongly opposed to the changes to the Ward boundaries. Holt Parish wish to remain in Baldwin Ward and do not agree with the proposed change which would place the Parish in Hallow Ward. Please find attached a letter which summarises the position of Holt Parish Council and the reasons for their decision.

Uploaded Documents:

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1646581473_MHDC+Ward+boundaries.docx

Holt Parish Council
1 Pool Cottages
Holt Heath
Worcester
WR6 6NA

21 February 2022

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing on behalf of Holt Parish Council with reference to ward boundary review in Malvern Hills District Council.

Holt Parish currently forms part of Baldwin ward within the District along with the parishes of Little Witley, Shrawley and Astley and Dunley. Under the new proposals the ward boundaries would be relocated so that Holt is incorporated into Hallow ward with Hallow and Grimley parishes. Holt Parish Council are strongly opposed to this proposal.

Currently Baldwin ward is made up of 4 rural parishes. The parishes are linked by the roads A443 and B4196 both of which pass through Holt Parish. All these parishes experience similar issues relating to rural communities, including but not limited to; development in the open countryside, traffic calming in rural locations, limited village facilities and public transport. The communities of each of these parishes support one another and have undertaken several joint initiatives in recent years. This has always been aided by having a common District Councillor who covers the ward and is aware of the relevant issues.

The proposal to join the Hallow ward would result in Holt Parish being in a ward with a much larger parish situated on the periphery of Worcester city which has a semi urban demographic. In recent years the Parish of Hallow has undergone extensive development and consequently this has led to an increased range of facilities in the village and a more urban feel. It is the opinion of Holt Parish Council that Hallow will continue to develop alongside the expansion of the Worcester City boundary. Parish Council consider that the issues faced by the parishes are very different and Holt Parish does not have a connection with the Parish of Hallow. Holt Parish Council have significant concerns that being placed in a ward with Hallow would result in the rural issues of Holt Parish being overlooked by the semi urban issues facing the much larger, densely populated and consequently dominant Hallow Parish.

It is for these reasons that Holt Parish Council therefore **object** to the proposed review of the ward boundaries and request that Holt Parish remains in the rural Baldwin ward alongside the 3 other rural parishes with which it shares a local connection.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me as detailed above.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Lightfoot
Clerk to Holt Parish Council