

Malvern Hills District Council

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Comment text:

Parish Council of Knightwick and Doddenham Response to the Boundary Commission proposals (2022 Version 2) to revise the representation of these two parishes on the Malvern Hills District Council by linking them to the Martley Ward instead of their remaining as part of the Alfrick & Leigh Ward. Please see the attached document

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1658593832_K%26D+Response+to+Boundary+Commission+2.pdf\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1658593832_K%26D+Response+to+Boundary+Commission+2.pdf)

Parish Council of Knightwick and Doddenham

Response to the Boundary Commission proposals (2022 Version 2) to revise the representation of these two parishes on the Malvern Hills District Council by linking them to the Martley Ward instead of their remaining as part of the Alfrick & Leigh Ward.

Response

For nearly half a century the civil affairs of Knightwick and Doddenham Parish have been linked to the present Alfrick and Leigh Ward (which includes Suckley) ie southwards from the A44 via the two roads to Alfrick and to Suckley. The majority of the Martley Ward is remote, with the Martley population focussing eastwards along the B4204 towards Worcester not southwards towards Doddenham Parish.

The Parish Council considers that the current arrangement is socially, commercially and administratively preferable to the draft proposals. The joint parishes should not be split off to achieve a numerical balance which would have a damaging effect out of proportion considering the very small electorate involved.

Supporting Notes:

Geographical Situation

The two historical parishes are clustered along the River Teme and on the south side of the Ankerdine escarpment where the river turns eastward towards Worcester through a break in the Malvern Hills ridge. The A44 trunk road follows the river through the parishes. The Herefordshire border forms the western boundary of the parishes.

Social and Electoral – Doddenham Parish – 110 Dwellings, 213 electors

A cursory glance at a map shows the Doddenham Parish boundary with Martley Parish providing direct connections. But of the roads crossing this boundary, only the B4197 on the western edge is two-lane, others are single-track, all hazardous in poor conditions, and the natural boundary of the parish is the top of Ankerdine escarpment.

Considered in detail the focus of some 36 dwellings on the Ankerdine escarpment is southerly, downhill towards the A44 road linking westward to the Knightsford Bridge on to Bromyard or eastwards to Worcester.

At Knightsford Bridge at the western parish boundary some 74 dwellings are located on the south slope of Ankerdine Hill and around the A44 again focused westward to Bromyard or eastwards to Worcester.

There is a substantial hotel and restaurant, a thriving butchers shop and an NHS surgery, attracting visitors and providing employment for local residents.

Social and Electoral – Knightwick Parish – 41 Dwellings, 87 electors

This parish is on the opposite bank of the River Teme and across the A44 road. The A44 / Suckley Road junction is the only link to Doddenham Parish. The 41 dwellings are scattered along the Suckley Road over a distance of some two miles or so southwards from the A44. These residents have no direct link to Martley Parish and generally focus on Suckley (Church, shop and school) and onwards to Malvern and Worcester.

G M Brewin

Clerk to the Council 20/7/22