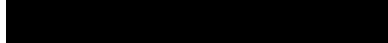


Wychavon District Council

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Comment text:

Please see attached document for the Liberal Democrat response.

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1647849670_response+to+boundary+changes.docx).

Liberal Democrat response to Wychavon Boundary Review

Proposed boundaries

We are broadly supportive of the proposed changes and welcome the retention of existing boundaries where possible. We are also very grateful to the work of the first review where we can clearly see that consideration of our geography, communities and identities was taken into account. While a few boundaries may not appear obvious from a geographical map, they are very distinct on the ground. We welcome the recognition of this fact. We completely recognise the need to address the issues in the south of the district but the proposed 2 member ward of Bredon was too large and we wholeheartedly support the proposed changes from Wychavon District Council. We also support the suggestion of Wychavon District Council to split the proposed Hartlebury & Dodderhill, with the current proposals bringing together very distinct communities that can be split into two wards.

We also wish to express our support for ward sizes and member numbers that reflect the communities, rather than ideological or philosophical debate. Three member wards suit some areas, such as Pershore where there is not obvious location to divide the settlement, however single member wards suit areas more rural and disparate, such as Fladbury or Pinvin.

In terms of individual wards we would like to express the following:

1. Badsey and Aldington: 1 member ward (Total residents 2674)

Fully support proposed boundary. An area orbiting the east of Evesham with some recent housing development. Acts as a buffer to the town of Evesham, but has a rural identity that would see residents see their place as different to the town. The area accesses the town for amenities but would consider itself separate.

3. Bowbrook: 1 member ward

Fully support boundary proposal. Bounded by the M5 to the west, Bowbrook ward includes the grouped parishes of Saleway, as well as Tibberton and Crowle, an area that is influenced by Droitwich to the north and Worcester to the southwest. The ward maintains a strong sense of identity despite this proximity, and the parishes have worked closely for many years and share many key values including a shared church magazine for the Bowbrook Group of Parishes.

5. Honeybourne and Bretforton: 1 member ward

We support this proposal. This area has seen some development and is more distinctly away from the town of Evesham. The role of the train station in Honeybourne has meant that there is a clear commuter feel to the area and this has continued to develop. As a result this ward would have a clear identity.

4 and 6: Bredon and Broadway/Wickhamford Wards: 4, 1 member wards

We support the proposed changes suggested by Wychavon District Council. While slightly different from our original boundary proposal, this does take into account the issues we raised in the initial consultation and allows distinct communities to be represented by single ward members.

7. Drakes Broughton: 1 member

Fully support proposed changes. This ward keeps the parish of Drakes Broughton, Pirton and Wadborough together (which are one parish), adding Peopleton from Upton Snodsbury. This new ward has seen some development and borders both the B4804 and A44. The role of Pershore in these villages is apparent, with most residents accessing the services of the town. These are rural villages with clear identities, and a member would have distinct villages but with similar activities and concerns. Further consultation with local parishes (and the current member for Drakes Broughton) has shown that Peopleton and Drakes Broughton do work together on occasion.

12. Eckington: 1 member

Fully support proposed boundary.

15. Fladbury: 1 member

Support proposed boundary. While slightly different from our proposal, the boundaries do mostly recognise existing community divisions. All villages are accessible of the B4084 but this is a series of villages that look in different directions for services and amenities so we feel our original suggestion was more cohesive. But given this area has a series of villages with strong identities and clear communities, a member will have a similar experience across the area.

16. Hartlebury and Dodderhill

We support the alternative proposals set out by Wychavon District Council

17. Norton and Harvington 1 member

Broadly support this boundary. We added Charlton to this ward as it is more in the sphere of influence of Evesham than Pershore. We still think that is a better option but recognise this boundary does exist already and distinct communities exist.

18. Inkberrow

Support this boundary proposal

19. North Claines and Salwarpe; 2 members

Support proposed boundary: An area that has been urbanised over time, with commuters from Worcester, Droitwich and the West Midlands. The A38 connects the area well, which has led to these two areas becoming very similar in demographics and profile. Would suit a 2 member ward for the residents as they have very similar identities as a result of this urban change.

20. Norton and Stoulton: 1 member

Fully Support proposed boundary. As proposed in our original submission this is an area about to experience considerable development and will start to become the new town in the area. The impact of the extension from Worcester will be felt in this area, with the connected to the M5 and B4084, allowing commuters to reach Worcester and connections as needed. The new Parkway Station also add a sense of centrality to this ward as it develops.

21. Ombersley (1 members: 2481 voters)

Support proposed changes. The A449 down the centre of the ward also acts a spine for this area that does have significant numbers of commuters, both to Worcester, Kidderminster and the West Midlands.

22. Pershore Ward: Remain a 3 member ward with existing parishes (Total 7284 voters)

Fully support proposed boundary: The town is small compared to the other two in the district but has a distinct identity and sense of place. The two parishes are not clearly identifiable as two places with different identities, and so the need to take Pershore as a whole is essential. Adding any additional parishes to this ward would also be problematic as the size of the town, and the strong voices within Pershore would overwhelm any smaller parish. We support the views of the town council that this should remain a three member ward and we would urge not to add any smaller parishes to this town as the surrounding villages have different identities and not the same issues as the town.

23. Pinvin Ward: 1 member ward with existing parishes (Total 2557 voters)

Fully support proposed boundary. Parishes have a distinct identity, centred around the airfield and landfill operations. All parishes send representatives to the liaison group for the waste management operations at Hill and Moor and work together on issues from the development plan operations on the industrial estate at Throckmorton. We support the views of the parish councils that they should remain together.

25. The Littletons; 2 member ward

Support this proposed change. We gave two options in the original consultation as we recognised there are several factors to consider. The Littletons is an area that many feel has a distinct character and feel, but it does not have the numbers of residents to justify one member. This area as a whole is influenced by it's position next to Warwickshire and along the A46, and so commuters have moved into the area (they can also access the train stations at Evesham and Honeybourne). All of this area has a strong rural identity, which has shifted slightly as a result of more people moving in to experience the rural idyll. The chosen option keeps the Littletons together, which our second option could not do.

26. Whittington and Upton Snodsbury: 1 member ward

Fully support proposed changes. A ward that acts as a rural divide between Worcester, Pershore and Droitwich. Some new developments along the Worcester border increase the urbanisation but much of this area is very rural, with rural industries being at the heart of the communities. Villages have a very distinct identity but all have a common theme. Large farms in these areas but with significant numbers of commuters given the proximity to the M5, A44 and Birmingham.

Wards 2, 13, 14 and 24 Evesham town:

We broadly support the boundary changes in this area and do not oppose a 3 member ward. This area has undergone much change in recent years, with recent development welcoming a large number of residents. The use of the river as a boundary has been recognised which we strongly

support. We do not oppose any suggestions made by Wychavon District Council with regard to internal boundaries for the wards in the town.

Wards 8, 9, 10, 11 Droitwich town

We fully support the changes made in the town. There is a strong justification for disbanding Droitwich central ward: while the boundaries have the appearance of covering the central area of Droitwich, this is actually not accurate. The town centre and High Street are in the ward of Droitwich East, where many of the amenities of the town are. While there is some centralisation around the train station, the railway line acts more as a distinctive boundary between areas of different periods and design, rather than a central hub and therefore the recommendations use this human-made boundary as a key aspect of the changes suggested.

The proposals take into account our original submission and we believe that these boundaries take into account local identity, geography and historical factors.