

Wychavon District Council

Personal Details:

Name: Lisa Cope
E-mail: stoultonparishcouncil@gmail.com
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: Stoulton Parish Council

Comment text:

Stoulton Parish Council wish to remain in the Upton Snodsbury ward- please see attached reasons why

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1647597533_Stoulton+Boundary+review+response.pdf\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1647597533_Stoulton+Boundary+review+response.pdf)

Stoulton Comments on the draft recommendations for new ward boundaries across Wychavon 2022.

March 2022.

On behalf of the Parish Council of Stoulton we wish to submit alternative recommendations to the draft new ward boundaries in Wychavon: 1) Whittington and Upton Snodsbury, 2) Drakes Broughton and Peopleton, 3) Norton and Stoulton.

We would propose:

- a) To enlarge the rural ward of Upton Snodsbury to include the villages of Broughton Hackett, White Ladies Aston, Spetchley, Churchill, Stoulton and Peopleton.
- b) To create a more urban ward that includes Whittington and Norton, both expanding residential areas on the edge of the City of Worcester.
- c) To have Drakes Broughton as a separate ward

1. Rural / urban identity

The current wards clearly distinguish between rural and urban wards with their distinct interests, concerns and community identity. However, the proposed revised wards create three wards with mixed rural and urban identity. The villages of Upton Snodsbury, Broughton Hackett, White Ladies Aston, Spetchley, Churchill, Stoulton and Peopleton are small villages with predominantly rural and agricultural interests. Drakes Broughton is a large and growing village with many characteristics and issues of a small town while Whittington and Norton are areas of residential growth on the edge of the growing city of Worcester. Therefore the interests of the communities are very different. The proposed juxtaposed wards of Bowbrook and Inkberrow, though spatially large, are purely rural

2. Religious identity. The Bowland Benefice covers the rural parishes of Upton Snodsbury, Broughton Hackett, White Ladies Aston, Spetchley, Churchill and Peopleton.

3. Cultural identity. Broughton Hackett, White Ladies Aston, Spetchley and Churchill were awarded the title of "Wychavon Village of Culture" in 2020 and were strongly linked with Peopleton and Stoulton as villagers from all these areas were involved in a range of activities. The extensive programme of activities undertaken in the very difficult time of Covid-19 (2020 – 2022) were recorded widely in the Pershore Times and the Worcester News. The events included rural traditions such as "Beating the Bound" and "Wassailing", cultural activities eg. art and crafts, photography, pottery and wreath making, an archaeological dig and a Civil War encampment.

4. Educational identity. Children from Broughton Hackett, White Ladies Aston, Spetchley Churchill and Upton Snodsbury feed into Upton Snodsbury First School, whereas Whittington, Norton and Drakes Broughton schools attract pupils from their own area.

Conclusion.

Urban and rural wards have different issues and it is much more efficient if a parish council is dealing with one or other of these sets of issues.