

# Gloucestershire

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mrs Shani Baker  
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**Organisation Name:** Uley Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Owlpen / Uley/ Woton- Under- Edge

Uley Parish Council would like to object most strongly to the proposal to move Owlpen from Dursley Division to Wotton-under-Edge Division. The current adult population of Owlpen is 35. The transfer of such a small group of voters will not make any significant difference to electoral equality. Owlpen Uley and Dursley are close neighbours situated within the Ewelme Valley. Immediate local services for Owlpen are provided by Uley i.e. shop, pub, primary school and doctors' surgery. The residents of Owlpen and Uley work closely together across a wide spectrum of community activities. Owlpen has no local services independent of Uley. Dursley provides the nearest large supermarket, leisure centre. secondary schools, hospital and associated health services such as opticians, chiropodists, and physiotherapists. Not surprisingly there is a regular bus service along the B4066.

The churches in the valley are combined as the Ewelme Benefice reflecting this natural neighbourhood. Thus, the majority of interests and concerns of these communities are linked.

The representation of a single County Councillor gives effective and convenient local government. The proposal would necessitate the duplication of issues with two Councillors and would be impractical and unnecessarily time consuming. Local government is important, but it only works where it supports and accurately represents local populations. Moving Owlpen to Wotton-under Edge Division would remove it from the Division which best represents its interests and location.

A proper understanding of the local geography would show the Commission why these three settlements have grown to be so interlinked and conversely why Wotton-u-Edge (six miles away in another valley) has no links with them whatsoever. The only thing Owlpen has in common with Wotton is their boundary along a small stretch of the A4315 and across a few fields.

Uley Parish Council request that you reconsider this proposal and give full consideration to the strong links Owlpen has within the Ewelme Valley.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*