

# Gloucestershire

## Personal Details:

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**Organisation Name:** (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Uley and Owlpen

Dear Sirs,

I am writing as a resident of the village of Uley to object to the proposal to move the small village of Owlpen from Dursley Division to Wotton-under-Edge division.

Owlpen is currently logically placed in the Dursley Division along with the immediately neighbouring larger village of Uley. The villages of Uley and Owlpen are situated in extremely close proximity and there are extremely close community ties and should remain in the same Division as the interests of the residents of the two villages are inexorably linked.

Owlpen and Uley both sit within sight of each other in the Ewelme Valley, a short walk apart separated by just a few fields and the river Ewelme. The roads into Owlpen start in Uley. Owlpen has no amenities of its own except for a small church and the residents of Owlpen use the amenities in Uley such as the village shop, post office, Junior school, playground, doctors' surgery, church, pub and Village Hall. They can catch a bus in Uley to the nearby towns of Dursley and Stroud. The town of Dursley, at the end of Ewelme Valley is just some 3 miles Owlpen travelling along the B4066 from Uley following a historical and natural route. Residents of Owlpen would normally travel into Dursley for services not available at village level such as shops, supermarkets, secondary school and minor injuries hospital. The churches of Owlpen, Uley and Dursley are combined into one "Ewelme Benefice." By virtue of the geographical proximity and community links, matters affecting Dursley and Uley also therefore have a significant impact on Owlpen.

Owlpen has no community links with the town of Wotton-under-Edge which lies over the hill some 6 miles away and can only be reached after a 20-minute car journey. There is only a short length of shared boundary between Owlpen and Wotton-under-Edge. There is nothing of common interest, no public transport links and no community services in Wotton-under-Edge of benefit to Owlpen residents. Whilst matters of local interest to residents in Owlpen, Uley and Dursley are inextricably interlinked, it is hard to see what relevance matters in Owlpen could have for Wotton-under-Edge and indeed what relevance matters in Wotton-under-Edge could have for Owlpen.

One only needs to study the Ordnance Survey map of the local area to see how Owlpen would naturally associate with Dursley as opposed to Wotton-under-Edge. Owlpen has natural road links to Uley and Dursley but no historical natural road link to Wotton-under-Edge. It also shows that Wotton-under-Edge at the bottom of the image is the other side of a significant hill up and onto the Cotswold Plateau and then down again into Wotton-under-Edge.

With Uley and Owlpen so closely linked geographically, by community ties and by common interests the democratic interests of Owlpen residents are arguably best served by the current arrangement with Owlpen combining its voice with the larger Parish of Uley in the Dursley Division. Taking Owlpen out the Dursley Division in which it has so many geographical, historic, community ties and shared facilities is neither logical nor serves the needs of the Owlpen residents. Given that there are only some 35 adult residents in Owlpen it is hard to see how much attention will be given to their needs and requirements when local government is considering issues of importance to the many residents of Wotton-under-Edge.

Uley and Owlpen are effectively one united community with common interests. Owlpen is a natural and logical fit in the Dursley Division. I urge you to abandon the proposal to move Owlpen into the Wotton-under-Edge Division.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*