

Gloucestershire

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

My family and I have lived in Owlpen for over 20 years and I would like to express my objection to the proposed boundary move from Dursley Division to Wotton-Under-Edge Division.

I understand the 3 matters being considered are:

1. Improving electoral equality by equalizing the number of electors that each Councillor represents.

I do not wish to be part of a parish that I do not have any connection with whatsoever in order that our small population of approximately 35 residents can 'make up the numbers'.

2. Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.

As a resident of Owlpen I value the strong links with Uley on a daily basis.

The successful shop in Uley is a community shop which was made possible by a working party of people from both Uley and Owlpen and chaired by my husband [REDACTED]. Financial investment was required to save the shop from closure and shares were issued to local residents from both Uley and Owlpen. The current shop committee is drawn from residents of both Uley and Owlpen and is a strong community asset drawing people together.

Holy Cross Church in Owlpen is in the Ewelme Benefice which includes St James' Church Dursley, St Giles Church Uley and St Bartholomew's Church Nympsfield . The Parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield has a Parochial Church Council (PCC)with membership from Uley, Owlpen and Nympsfield and they frequently have combined meetings with Dursley. My husband Peter is a member of the PCC and is on the combined benefice selection panel to find a new rector.

I am a governor of Uley CofE Primary School where the catchment area for pupils is from Uley, Owlpen, Cam, Coaley and Dursley. As it is a Church of England school there are strong links to the Ewelme Benefice.

The Uley Pavillion and Prema ,the Uley Arts Centre, have both had recent investment which was only possible by having the combined support of both the Uley and Owlpen parishes.

The Uley, Owlpen and Nympsfield Village News is published each month and is a valuable community resource sharing news about the church, the parishes, social events and local businesses. One recent event was The Uley Lantern Festival on Saturday 4th November which was the most incredible event where over 1000 people from Dursley, Uley, Nympsfield and Owlpen came together thanks to the hard work of a committee led by a resident of Owlpen.

3. Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government

At our Annual Owlpen Parish Meeting a regular item on the agenda are the highways in particular Fiery Lane and Lampern Hill . Both these roads run through the parish of Owlpen to access Uley and both are on steep , narrow hills where co-operation between the 2 parishes is essential. Particularly on this matter , but in others too, we rely on the support of Uley Parish Council as well as the Gloucestershire County Council Councillor ,Wendy Thomas, (Dursley Division) to help in our dealings with Gloucestershire County Council Highways. Having to refer to two different County Councillors to resolve such matters, should this boundary change proceed , would add complexity not simplicity.

At the Annual Owlpen Parish meeting held on Monday 27th November, which I attended ,there was a unanimous vote from the residents representing 67% of the parish opposing the proposed boundary change. Everyone present felt very strongly that they, and Owlpen are intrinsically part of Uley as part of the Dursley Division and have little in common with Wotton-Under-Edge.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

Owlpen
Dursley

GL11 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attached Documents:

None attached