

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 July 2021 09:40
To: reviews
Subject: South Staffordshire District Council Review.

Categories: Submissions, [REDACTED]

South Staffordshire District Council (SSDC). Boundary Review.

Brewood and Coven Parish.

I am a resident in the village of Brewood in Brewood and Coven Parish. I wish to propose that Brewood and Coven Parish should be represented in South Staffordshire District Council by a single three-member district ward co-terminus with the boundaries of the parish.

This would be consistent with the objectives of the LGBCE of seeking to achieve electoral equality, together with maintaining community identity and convenient local government.

Electoral Equality.

If I have interpreted the figures provided by SSDC correctly the estimated total electorate for the four polling district areas that make up Brewood and Coven Parish is 6201 in 2027. This gives 2067 electors for each councillor in a three-member ward. The average number of electors per councillor in the district is expected to be 2133. This gives a good level of electoral equality with a negative variance of only 3%.

Reflecting the interests and Identity of local communities.

There are two small hamlets, Bishop's Wood and Coven Heath, and two villages, Brewood and Coven in the parish. They are well connected by road. Coven Heath is joined to Coven by a short stretch of the A449. From Coven there is a good road link to Brewood and from Brewood the road continues, through Kiddemore Green to Bishop's Wood. The bus routes 877 and 878 provides a service from Wolverhampton and Stafford along this route linking all major parts of the parish.

Staffordshire operates a three-tier school system with first, middle and upper schools. There are first schools in Bishop's Wood, Brewood and Coven. The children from these first schools progress to Brewood Middle School.

The health centre (Brewood Surgery) is located at the western end of Brewood and serves the population of the parish.

There are no shops in either Bishop's Wood or Coven Heath. Residents in these hamlets need to access shops in either Brewood or Coven. The only fish and chip shop is in Coven. There is an Indian takeaway/restaurant in Brewood.

The only public library is run by volunteers and located in Newport Street, Brewood. It serves, Bishop's Wood, Coven and Coven Heath and is supported by South Staffordshire and Shropshire HNS Foundation Trust. Volunteers from across the parish work in the library.

There are playing fields in Bishop's Wood, Brewood, and Coven. The main sporting activities are in Brewood where the two junior football pitches can be found in Engleton Lane. There is a high-quality county level cricket ground on the adjacent field next to Four Ashes Road. This serves the parish and wider area.

Effective and Convenient Local Government.

As South Staffordshire District Council holds all-out elections every four years and already has a mixed pattern of one, two and three member wards there is no reason why a three-member ward should not be a good solution for Brewood and Coven Parish.

The Brewood and Coven Parish has locally well-known historic parish boundaries and if a three-member district ward was co-terminus with the parish boundary it would assist electors in understanding the areas for which their councillors were responsible. The name of the new district ward should be "Brewood and Coven District Ward".

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