

Malvern Hills District Council

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Malvern Town

We are supportive of the draft boundaries around Malvern town itself as proposed by Malvern Town Council and its councillors. We are very supportive of the principle set out in Malvern Town Council's submission that argues for new boundaries that better reflect communities that are located around the town's various retail centres including Barnards Green, Link Top, Great Malvern and Malvern Link. We believe these proposals make wards that better reflect the various identities of the different areas within the town.

We support the name changes proposed by Malvern Town Council as well including the new ward names of 'Barnards Green' and 'Upper Howsell'. We would like to propose the additional name change of the 'Priory' ward to 'Great Malvern' to provide more consistency with other ward names in the town being named after local retail centres. This would also reflect the geography and local identity area covered by the proposed ward better than naming the ward after a landmark that could seem geographically distant to some parts of the ward.

The report associated with the proposed boundaries identifies instances where the Town Council's proposals have been slightly amended to create more easily defined boundaries, notably on the northern boundary of Barnards Green and the boundary between Link and Priory. We support these amendments.

Tenbury

We feel that the proposed two-member Tenbury ward is too expansive to represent the interests of the large range of rural and urban communities contained within it. The proposed ward contains the market town of Tenbury Wells in its north and a large rural area agricultural area containing farms and villages to the south and east of the town. The furthest south easterly extremity of the ward is a ten-mile drive away from the town centre of Tenbury, meaning that communities in much of the proposed ward are cut off from the main population centre of the ward. Many of the villages use different local services and transport links to the residents of Tenbury who live a good distance away and face very different local issues in their rural communities than those residents who live in Tenbury itself.

We are therefore proposing that this proposed ward is split into two sections to reflect the divergent interests of the communities currently proposed to be within the ward. The separation of Tenbury St Michael parish ward and all other parishes outside of Tenbury town would very nearly reach the electoral quota to obtain a single-member ward of its own and thus avoid the conflict of councillors seeking to represent a large range of distant communities. For the necessary numbers of voters to be reached for the 10% variance to be achieved we are proposing that rural areas around the Tenbury town ward be put into this new rural ward. A suitable name for this ward would be Teme Valley, reflecting the name of the existing ward covering part of this area.

Martley and Teme Valley

We also feel that this proposed ward suffers the same problem as the proposed Tenbury ward, it brings together too large a range of communities. This results in a ward that is



bigger than necessary in terms of geography and divergent community interests, in order to create a sufficiently large enough electorate for a two-member ward. The ward being separated into two sections, a northern segment including Clifton upon Teme and Abberley and a southern section centred on Martley and Knightwick, would solve these issues.

Bransford and Rushwick

We agree with the proposals for a new Bransford and Rushwick ward. These parishes are much more strongly facing towards Worcester and its built-up area. The proposed ward will continue to urbanise, in contrast with the villages parts of it are currently paired with, with ongoing and further housebuilding planned both in the current South Worcestershire Development Plan, as well as in the still to be adopted SWDP Review, being heavily focussed in this proposed ward. This will further integrate this ward with the built-up area of Worcester.

We feel that Bransford, being part of the Worcester built-up-area, is increasing divergent in nature to the current Alfrick and Leigh ward, which is of a much more strongly rural character. These villages are joined by rural transport links and services, which contrasts with Bransford's links with Worcester.

If given the option to split these two different community/economic links outlined into two separate single-member wards, or to create a two-member ward which has to take on these differences, we believe it's surely a better thing to opt for the former over the latter.

West Worcestershire Liberal Democrats