

Stratford on Avon District Council

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Comment text:

This response is submitted on behalf of Fenny Compton Parish Council and focuses on the impact of these proposals on our Parish area. While we are not opposed to the principle of multi-member wards, we believe the application of this to the proposed ward of 'Bishop's Itchington, Fenny Compton & Napton' poses substantial practical problems that are detrimental to local representation in our community. We place a strong value on the close link to a single councillor who has a good knowledge of our community and its issues. It is hard to envisage how this can be maintained in a ward which has the proposed geographical reach and number of parish councils to represent. The proposed ward is so large that it can not be argued that it groups parishes with common issues and concerns. Inevitably, we believe, both members and parishes will seek to allocate primary responsibility for each parish to one or other of the members, in order to reduce travel and workload pressures on members and maximise the effectiveness of local representation. We believe that the proposals place too much weight on a desire to achieve a target number of voters, and this has been achieved at considerable detriment to community interests and the effectiveness of local government. Even more so given that the voter numbers used do not seem to account for the proposed development of 100 residential properties in the Fenny Compton Parish area. We understand that the district and county councillors of all parties have worked together to propose a new set of single member wards that better represent local interests. We support these proposals, as they are closely aligned to our own proposals. Having considered the existing administrative boundaries aligned to school and GP catchment areas, as well as the natural relationships and common interests that exist with neighbouring parishes, we had independently identified the following ward definition based on parish council boundaries: Fenny Compton, Burton Dassett, Avon Dassett, Farnborough, Warmington, Shotteswell, Wormleighton. We trust that the Local Government Boundary Commission will take account of these views and revise their proposals accordingly.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded