

Liberal Democrat response to Wychavon Boundary Review

Proposed boundaries

Pinvin Ward: Remain a 1 member ward with existing parishes (Total 2557 voters)

566 NBB, 598 NH, 710 NM, 161 NR, 522 NV

Rationale: Parishes have a distinct identity, centred around the airfield and landfill operations. Issues are linked to their geography and identities of the village have are therefore linked. All parishes send representatives to the liaison group for the waste management operations at Hill and Moor and work together on issues from the development plan operations on the industrial estate at Throckmorton. We support the views of the parish councils that they should remain together.

Pershore Ward: Remain a 3 member ward with existing parishes (Total 7284 voters)

3388 CU, 3896 CVA

Rationale: The town is small compared to the other two in the district but has a distinct identity and sense of place. The two parishes are not clearly identifiable as two places with different identities, and so the need to take Pershore as a whole is essential. Adding any additional parishes to this ward would also be problematic as the size of the town, and the strong voices within Pershore would overwhelm any smaller parish. We support the views of the town council that this should remain a three member ward and we would urge not to add any smaller parishes to this town as the surrounding villages have different identities and not the same issues as the town.

Elmley Castle and South Bredon: Become a 1 member ward based around the old South Bredon Hill ward but with loss of Westmancote and inclusion of Elmley Castle: 2443 residents

705 AA, 475 ACA, 56 ACB, 328 BO, 51 CRA, 166 CRB, 456 AZB, AZC 36

Maintains a rural Bredon identity with Elmley Castle added to the current South Bredon Hill ward. Westmancote removed as they share their parish with Bredon and it makes sense for the area to join the rest of the parish in the same ward to help a member reach all residents. The inclusion of Elmley Castle into the remaining ward makes sense from an identity perspective, with a large number of rural industries in the area, an influence from Gloucestershire (with some residents commuting to work in the county) and an older, retired population. This means the ward has a distinct sense of community and the member would find many of the similar challenges to tackle across the area.

Fladbury: 1 member: 2443 residents. Includes all of the current ward except Charlton, and now adds the villages of Great and Lower Comberton

385 DG, 751 BI, 583 AU, AZA 170, AS 270, AT 284

This change would bring together a series of villages that orbit the town of Pershore to the East and south, and all have very similar demographics and a clear rural industry. All villages are accessible of

the B4084 and look to Pershore for services and amenities (whereas Charlton tends to look towards Evesham). This area has a series of villages with strong identities and clear sense of community, which will give a member a similar experience across the area.

Bredon: 1 member: 2481 residents. Existing ward with Westmancote added

268 AHA, AH 1998, AI 215

This is the parish of Bredon, Bredon's Norton and Westmancote so all work together already. Sense of identity is clear and so makes sense for Westmancote to join this ward as they already work as a whole parish.

Eckington: 1 member: 2414 residents

490 AV, 1125 AX, 231 AE, 287 AF, DB 281

No change to ward as this is a ward that has worked well together and seen similar challenges.

Norton and Stoulton: 1 member: 2446 residents

403 NQ, 2043 NK

This area is seeing considerable development today and will start to see more as the new town is developed. The impact of the extension from Worcester will be felt in this area, with the connected to the M5 and B4084, allowing commuters to reach Worcester and connections as needed. The new Parkway Station also add a sense of centrality to this ward as it develops.

Drakes Broughton: 1 member: 2625 residents

1755 NEA, 192 NEB, 152 NN, 526 NL

This ward keeps the parish of Drakes Broughton, Pirton and Wadborough together (which are one parish), adding Peopleton from Upton Snodsbury. This new ward has seen some development and borders both the B4804 and A44. The role of Pershore in these villages is apparent, with most residents accessing the services of the town. These are rural villages with clear identities, and a member would have distinct villages but with similar activities and concerns.

Whittington and Upton Snodsbury: 1 member: 2747 residents

NU 1301, 21 NPA, 26 NPB, 61 NPC, 147 NSA, 123 NSB, 372 NSC, 187 NT, 282 NF, 120 NGA, 107 NGB

A ward that acts as a rural divide between Worcester, Pershore and Droitwich. Some new developments along the Worcester border increase the urbanisation but much of this area is very rural, with rural industries being at the heart of the communities. Villages have a very distinct identity but all have a common theme. Large farms in these areas but with significant numbers of commuters given the proximity to the M5, A44 and Birmingham.

Broadway: remain a 2 member ward but with slight alterations to the boundary (Total 4934 voters)

1520 AK, 1636 AL, 672 AQ, 205 CZA, 187 CZB, 714 CZC

These villages are all within the same county council division and border the Cotswolds to the southeast and Bredon to the southwest. There is a distinct geographical identity in this area with a distinctive contingent of residents often working in Gloucestershire or London, or having retired from the southeast. Residents often see the Cotswolds and their role as the gateway to this area of beauty as part of their identity, and, while many may access services in Evesham, they tend to have less affinity with the town. The villages of this area all have a distinct identity but face the same issues: pressures from development, maintaining green spaces and traditional rural pressures.

Evesham town:

The Hamptons: 3 member ward (Total 7635 voters)

BFC 1576, BB 577, BD 2583, BC 2899

This area has undergone much change in recent years, with recent development welcoming a large number of residents. This area of South west Evesham is more rural focused, on the south side of the river and representing the area as a three member ward would enable the area to continue to develop a sense of identity that has been developing in recent years. All boundaries are within the same county division and experience similar issues of traffic congestion and conflict between development and maintaining green spaces.

Evesham North: 2 member ward (Total 4990 voters)

BE 698, BEA 1984, BH 2308

The addition of BE into this ward is done as it is on the same side of the river as the current North Evesham. The old boundaries appear to be rather arbitrary to make the numbers fit, whereas this is using natural boundaries that are important to this part of Worcestershire. There is often a distinct identity of the residents on different sides of the rivers, but given the impacted our flooding rivers have on our day to day life, and the limited accessibility that can take place, it is fitting that this is taken into account.

Bengeworth: 2 member ward (Total 5014 voters)

BA 3346, BFA 1668

The removal of BE from this ward brings it in line with required numbers but also means all electoral divisions are now on one side of the river. This makes use of the geographical boundaries (the river Avon) as a natural boundary.

South Evesham and Wickhamford: An adjusted 2 member ward (Total 4760 voters)

BFB 1408 , BFD 1186, BG 1538, 628 DH

This ward is an adaptation of the existing south Evesham ward, which is on the outskirts of the town and includes areas of open space and farmland (including Longdon Hill and Porter's Plantation). It is

the least urban of the areas of the town, being cut by the A46, and bordered by the A44, which is the main road through Wickhamford. The village of Wickhamford is on the border of Evesham and residents access the services of the town. The line between rural and urban is slightly less clear in this area due to the position of the Vale Park South Industrial estate and the positioning of companies such as Walsh mushrooms (demonstrating that rural farming is moving into the more traditional urban industrial estates). This ward would therefore continue to act as a transition between more urban and rural landscapes while recognising the complexity of the area.

Badsey and Aldington: 1 member ward (Total residents 2674)

407 ABA, 2189 ABC, 78 ABD

An area orbiting the east of Evesham with some recent housing development. Acts as a buffer to the town of Evesham, but has a rural identity that would see residents see their place as different to the town. The area accesses the town for amenities but would consider itself separate.

Honeybourne and Bretforton: 1 member ward (Total 2776 residents)

1669 BN, 996 AJ, ABB 111

This area has seen some development and is more distinctly away from the town of Evesham. The role of the train station in Honeybourne has meant that there is a clear commuter feel to the area and this has continued to develop. As a result this ward would have a clear identity.

Area North of Honeybourne

Option 1:

Littletons, Pebworth and Offenham: 2 member ward (Total residents 5206)

1343 CQ, BQ 805, BR 1206, CS 1300, ARA 57, ARB 495

Option 2:

Offenham and South Littleton (1 member: 2549 residents) and Pebworth and North Littletons (1 member 2657 residents)

Two options are given for these wards as there are several factors to consider. The Littletons is an area that many feel has a distinct character and feel, but it does not have the numbers of residents to justify one member. This area as a whole is influenced by its position next to Warwickshire and along the A46, and so commuters have moved into the area (they can also access the train stations at Evesham and Honeybourne). All of this area has a strong rural identity, which has shifted slightly as a result of more people moving in to experience the rural idyll. Option 1 would keep the Littletons together but Option 2 would enable the area to distinguish between the proximity to Evesham and the pull factors of Warwickshire for Pebworth.

Norton and Harvington (1 member: 2735 residents)

839 CP, 1398 BM, AP 498

Charlton is added to this ward as it is more in the sphere of influence of Evesham than Pershore. This allows the parish to join with fellow rural areas close to Evesham, which are similarly distinctive in their identity.

Bowbrook: Remain a 1 member ward with existing parishes (Total 2501 voters)

552 RJ, 337 RKA, 175 RKB, 412 RLA, 80 RLB, 945 RM

Bounded by the M5 to the west, Bowbrook ward includes the grouped parishes of Saleway, as well as Tibberton and Crowle, an area that is influenced by Droitwich to the north and Worcester to the southwest. The ward maintains a strong sense of identity despite this proximity, and the parishes have worked closely for many years and share many key values including a shared church magazine for the Bowbrook Group of Parishes.

Hanbury and Inkberrow (2 member ward with 5519 residents)

710 RN, 86 ROA, 285 ROB, 265 NO, 1935 NIA, 639 NC, 1008 ND, 129 NA, 57 NBA, 71 NJA, 334 NJB

Existing ward but with small addition of NJA and NJB (joint parish of Kington and Dormston)

Dodderhill: 1 member ward (Total 2821 voters)

2113 RQ, 285 RR, 423 RSA

An area that looks towards the West Midlands and Bromsgrove for services but has a rural identity. Has become more commuter in nature but these villages have kept their distinct identities and have similar issues that a member would seek to resolve. Polling district RSA has been added from the former Lovett & North Claines ward.

North Claines and Salwarpe (2 members: 5299 voters)

1357 RU, 120 RFB, 227 RFC, 3595 RG

An area that has been urbanised over time, with commuters from Worcester, Droitwich and the West Midlands. The A38 connects the area well, which has led to these two areas becoming very similar in demographics and profile. Would suit a 2 member ward for the residents as they have very similar identities as a result of this urban change.

Ombersley (1 members: 2481 voters)

768 RDA, 48 RDB, 1315 RE, 292 RTA, 58 RTB

Current Ombersley ward with additions from North Claines. Becomes a rural ward, bounded by the River Severn to the West, a recreational amenity and tourism attraction (both locally and nationally).

The A449 down the centre of the ward also acts a spine for this area that does have significant numbers of commuters, both to Worcester, Kidderminster and the West Midlands.

Hartlebury and Elmley Lovett (1 member: residents 2693

275 RSB, 2449 RA

Elmley Lovett looks to Hartlebury for amenities public services, as well as being connected to each other by road. The trading estate connects the two places.

Droitwich: reduction from 9 to 8 councillors but keep within town council boundaries.

Justification for disbanding Droitwich central ward: while the boundaries have the appearance of covering the central area of Droitwich, this is actually not accurate. The town centre and High Street are in the ward of Droitwich East, where many of the amenities of the town are. While there is some centralisation around the train station, the railway line acts more as a distinctive boundary between areas of different periods and design, rather than a central hub and therefore the recommendations use this human-made boundary as a key aspect of the changes suggested.

Droitwich West: 2 member ward; residents 4520 projected

DBA 1577, DBB 1120, DBK 1269, DBEA 554

This area includes the Westlands estate and Chawson. The inclusion of DBEA from the current Droitwich Central ward within this boundary uses the train line as a boundary and links up Ledwyeh with the Chawson Valley area. This is an area where several blocks of flats have already been agreed (current estimate of residents in DBEA is 533 so a projected increase of 21 residents is a low estimate.). While a little under the 10% margin at this stage, we would argue this is unlikely to remain the same and therefore a ward of this number of residents reflects the actual expected population increase, rather than the current estimate, which lacks local knowledge and has not included locally agreed development.

Droitwich South West: 2 member ward; residents 5547

DBE 1481, DBF 973, DBG 1798, DBH 1295

This area now includes-the remaining section of the old Central ward. This merger is logical as the housing is part of the more traditional Droitwich, built post-war in the 1940's and 1950's as part of the national expansion at the time. This has created a very distinct identity in this part of the town as a more traditional residential area.

Droitwich South East: 2 member ward; residents 5337

DBJ 3247, DBN 2090

This is an area that has grown since the 1990's and continues to grow today. as part of the expansion around the A38 to Worcester, the M5 and A449. As a result, this area has a larger group of commuters and has developed a distinctive identity. The continued growth in this area has also

led to this distinctive residential character of the ward that is different from the neighbouring Droitwich South West, which contains older housing and Droitwich West which includes more industry, and Droitwich East, which is part of the older area of town (including the High Street).

Droitwich East: 2 member ward; 4712

DBD 1418, DBL 1836, DBM 1458

This ward includes the town centre and parks, including the more-historic part of the town (with the High Street) and some of the post-war expansion based around green spaces. This area is very distinct in character based around the parks themselves, that gives a very clear sense of place.

