

## Mansfield, Simon

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 February 2022 13:06  
**To:** reviews  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
**Attachments:** Boundary Letter Attachment 001.jpg; Boundary Letter Attachment 002.jpg; Boundary Letter Attachment 003.jpg; Boundary Changes Review 001.jpg; Boundary Changes Review 002.jpg  
  
**Categories:** Submissions, Simon

Dear Sirs,

### **Re:- Parish and District Boundary Changes**

Please find the attached letter from the Parish Council for Hampton Lovett & Westwood identifying their views on the above and a copy of the report from Doverdale Park Residents' Assoc. Hampton Lovett.

These two documents represent the views of the Hampton Lovett and Westwood Parishioners in the Boundary review documents that have been sent to us from the local government boundary commission for England.

We trust these documents make our views clear and that you can make the necessary adjustments to comply with these views

Your sincerely

G D Crow  
Chairman Hampton Lovett and Westwood Parish Council

***HAMPTON LOVETT AND WESTWOOD PARISH COUNCIL  
WORCESTERSHIRE***

13/02/2022  
Review Officer (Wychavon)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
PO Box 133  
Blyth  
NE24 9FE  
[reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Windsor House  
50 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0TL

Dear Sirs

**Re :- Parish and District Boundary Changes**

Hampton Lovett & Westwood Parish Council have recently received the review of the Parish and District polling areas showing the Boundary changes within Wychavon District Council which we understand are to theoretically even up the Electoral Roll numbers to be represented by each Parish and District Councillor

The Parish Council find it hard to understand why Doverdale Park Homes would be moved from Hampton Lovett to Droitwich West transferring 156 voters to Droitwich West and so devoid the Parish Council of two Councillors and leaving the Doverdale Park residents to be represented on the Town Council by less Councillors giving them a much poorer access to the District and County Councillors who attend our parish Council Meetings

We understand that the boundary Commission should be "A" political Body which is difficult to understand when most pages and many of the paragraphs state clearly that they are following the guidance put forward by Liberal Councillors who are a very small number within the overall councillors within Wychavon. It also appears that some of these changes are to ease planning administration rather than the original terms of reference to reduce the number of District Councillors by 2 and to provide those left with an similar number of electors.

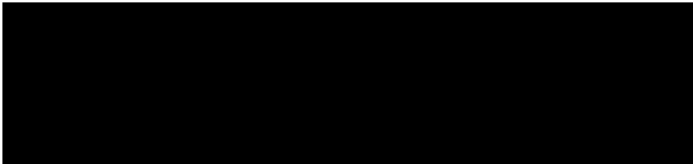
If we move into the detail of the report on page 13 paragraphs 51 and 52 you have specially requested evidence from the Residence on how the changes reflect their views on the Community where they live. This request has been discussed between the Parish Council and the Park Residence Association who will be replying to you separately. They are crystal clear that they wish to remain part of the Rural Parish of Hampton Lovett and this is where they see their identity in the community

If we move to page 30 you identify the area of the Parish of Hampton Lovett and Westwood Ward. Under the new proposal this shows a reduction of two Councillors from 7 to 5 but with an area identified as Wassage which is not on any Electoral Roll and as far as the Parish Council can identify does not have any residents.

The reason for identifying these strange anomalies illustrates that the due diligence within the document has much doubt cast upon it. The current residents all see themselves and their communities reflected within the community of Hampton Lovett & Westwood Parish . (This also includes the trading estates at Stonebridge Cross and Hampton Lovett, the companies of which are building relationships with the Parish Council in keeping the area tidy as well as looking at improving the amenities)

It is assumed by the Parish Council that under the new proposal linking us to Ombersley and Doverdale with our District Councillor support will be on the same basis as our current link to North Claines. The present system, is working well within the Ward.

Yours faithfully



G D Crow  
Chairman Hampton & Westwood Parish Council

Attachment Doverdale Park Residents Assoc Report

## **Wychavon Electoral Boundary Proposals 2022**

### Report from Doverdale Park Residents' Association, Hampton Lovett:

We are an officially qualifying residents' association representing 86 out of the 102 homes (of which 5 are currently vacant), thus 89% of the total on Doverdale Park homes and accounting for 135 individuals eligible for voting.

The proposed changes to the electoral boundaries in Wychavon were brought to our attention by our Parish Council, with whom we have a good working relationship. In your report paragraph 52, it states that, *"We would be particularly interested in further evidence from residents of Doverdale Park, as to whether our proposal is indeed an accurate reflection of their community identity"*. Herewith the considered response following an official ballot of our membership to the three main criteria cited in your report. It should be noted that the ballot gave a 100% consensus, there being no objections or abstentions for this response.

#### **1. Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.**

We have no information that would be relevant to your review. However, within your report we note that there are different proposals from political parties, so we realise that there are other options available regarding boundaries.

#### **2. Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.**

We believe that the outcome of the proposal would curtail access to the main council. We would have only 2 councillors representing the whole proposed ward of Droitwich West, thus giving us 2 voices in a sea of 26. Droitwich West proposes to put us with the urban area of the Westlands estate, a very different population to ours, which is an over 55yrs semi-retirement park. This does not chime easily with the mixed age range of Westlands, which has its own issues and would not identify with the likely issues facing our residents.

In terms of retaining our current parish council, let us start by saying we are the epitome of the term "parochial". Our parish council fought for our bus route from the park (although the route to the town of Kidderminster was cancelled and its service to Droitwich is inadequate

being typical of a rural area in the UK) and has just received permission for traffic calming measures on the main road outside our park.

The parish council influence all of our issues, speed cameras, bus stops, village hall and our control of these facilities would be drastically reduced.

We are advised that our representation would drop to about 7% from a current 27% (Wychavon). In addition, our current enjoyment of direct access to district and county council through our parish council would be lost. The proposed shift would make our ward political, whereas the parish council is non-political, thereby providing harmony within a small and isolated community.

### **3. Community identity/Groups/Interest/Boundaries**

We enjoy a different style of home and live in what both we and visitors regard as a holiday atmosphere. This being one of the main reasons for its residents to be here. Our area is a highly evolved, neighbour-driven environment possessing powerful community spirit and a strong sense of identity and belonging. We are a unique and independent environment, living on private land within a discreet and partisan society. Doverdale Park was once a park and not characteristic of the landscape of Droitwich. Its identity is most definitely rural being surrounded by pasture, fields and woods.

In your report you have mistakenly assumed that residents on Doverdale would identify with Droitwich due to amenities. But this is simply not the case. We value the rural area in which we live and identify with rather than the urban area of Westlands and Droitwich. We think it important to keep the green belt divide between Hampton Lovett and Droitwich as did the planning officers when the proposed housing estate was refused in 2017. We are indeed identified as the strategic gap between rural and urban in the planning report.

We feel we have a strong separation from Droitwich as our parish includes woodland, a church (which is attended by members) and village hall, where all of our local interest groups and our own functions are staged. We believe access to this would be marred by the proposed boundary change. We enjoy unspoilt views being surrounded by pasture land. We moved here to live "in the country". Undoubtedly, we do visit Droitwich, but any rural community has to use its local town for primary facilities such as health centres. This should not identify us as town dwellers rather than the victims of Hobson's choice. Also, many residents prefer to shop in other towns such as Bromsgrove and Kidderminster. Upon leaving our site, our

preference is to turn right (away from Droitwich) to our considered rural centres of Hampton Lovett and Cutnall Green (Post Office and farm shop).

Also, there are natural boundaries (such as the brook) as well as the train line and major road that separates us from Westlands. The only other buildings are industrial units, from which we enjoy arboreal screening. This gives us a strong sense of separation from town living.

### **Conclusion**

You state that your task is to best balance these three considerations when making your recommendation and we would propose that the information we have now given you in two out of three of these areas should influence your final decision. Please be aware that **all** our members vehemently object to the proposal that we are moved into **Droitwich West**, preferring to retain our rural identity as part of Hampton Lovett.

For and on behalf of Doverdale Park Residents' Association.

Paul Speechley  
Chairperson

Kenneth Jacques  
Secretary



[DoverdalePRA@outlook.com](mailto:DoverdalePRA@outlook.com)