

Wychavon District Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I would like to register my strong objection to the proposed boundary changes specifically relating to the Drakes Broughton ward which would include Peopleton. There are very significant differences between Peopleton and Drakes Broughton. Drakes Broughton village has a population of almost 1400 people which is increasing rapidly with the new developments while Peopleton has a stable 590 residents. This poses the issue that there is likely to be a disproportionate workload for the local ward councillor between the two parishes, hence Peopleton with fewer issues and variety of aspects is highly likely to become of less significance when dealing with local matters. The current Upton Snodsbury ward is made up of small rural communities that work closely together and share a similar history, culture, outlook and many religious and social activities. Similar problems and issues are shared throughout the ward and it currently benefits from working them through together and sharing local knowledge and solutions through their joint District Councillor. In the existing ward boundaries the villages with which we are grouped share very similar issues and challenges, particularly in relation to subjects such as transport links, community groups, facilities (shops, medical services, and leisure facilities), land use, flooding, farmland access, listed building planning, rural crime etc. It is extremely important to note that the Local Government Boundary Commission is required to consider common interests and identifiable boundaries, few of which seem to have been considered in this instance. Drakes Broughton ward will include southern end of Parkway development which will wholly detract from Peopleton specific issues, plus significantly increase the ward size in the future. The demographics of Peopleton show a large percentage of 60 to 84 year olds which is similar to the rest of the Upton Snodsbury ward. Drakes Broughton have a much younger wider demographic with many young families and first time buyers. There is also a much higher amount of social housing and a higher crime rate. This makes for very different social and economic cultures. Alternatively, Upton Snodsbury parish is much more rural, and though not unaffected by the new Garden Town development, they are likely to remain that way. This parish looks towards Pershore for the provision of services not available within the parish, and is not directly affected by the M5 motorway or the new Worcestershire Parkway. In summary, I consider that the current planned pairing with Drakes Broughton parish is ill-conceived, and though it may satisfy the elector and Councillor requirement based purely on numbers, it falls short of addressing the Community Identity aspects.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded