

Submission from Mid Worcestershire & Vale Green Party to second LGBC review of Wychavon District Council wards.

South Eastern Wychavon

Bretforten & Offenham, Honeybourne & Pebworth and The Littletons

First Consultation Option

1 member ward - Bretforten & Honeybourne

2 member ward – Offenham, Pebworth and the Littletons

Second Consultation Option

1 member ward – Bretforten & Offenham

2 member ward - Honeybourne, Pebworth & The Littletons

We support the First consultation Option for the following reasons:-

Equality of Representation

We accept that both options give equality of representation within the parameters of the review.

Reflecting community interests and identity

1 The churches of Offenham, South Littleton Middle/North Littleton, and Cleeve Prior are all in the same benefice of East Vale and Avon, giving a strong community connection.

2 The 552 bus links Evesham to South Littleton routed through Offenham, another significant community link. ( Whilst the 553 links Evesham to Honeybourne routed through Bretforten).

3 With no public house in South or Middle Littleton residents use the Fish and Anchor pub, at the foot of Fish & Anchor Bank, Offenham by the River Avon, which is accessed by the 3 East to West footpaths over Cleeve Hill.

4 Footpaths are a good indication of historic links between villages.

In addition to the 3 East to West footpaths from South & Middle Littleton to Offenham, there is a riverside path linking Cleeve Prior to Offenham as well as a path passing through the village centres linking Cleeve Prior to, North, Middle and South Littleton.

However there is only 1 path linking South Littleton to Honeybourne but not directly, as it requires an approximately 2 mile walk along Shinehill Lane to HMP Long Lartin to join it up. (Conversely there are 3 footpaths linking Honeybourne and Bretforten)

5 Since 1852 the Oxford to Worcester railway line has created a physical barrier between South Littleton and Honeybourne with limited crossing places for safety reasons, another impediment to community links between these 2 villages.

6 Transport companies at Offenham (Bannisters) and Blackminster (Spiers and Hartwell) both have a merry go round operation, picking up/dropping off from

Kanes Foods, Middle Littleton (Wychavon's largest employer) and from the large growing businesses in Offenham.

Providing for effective and convenient local government

Cleeve Prior residents have accepted that the existing 1 member ward is called "The Littletons", with their village name not included, not least because the Worcestershire County division that encompasses all the villages in the South East review is called "Littleton" division.

However if, for whichever option is adopted, other villages are include in the ward name, Cleeve Prior would want their name included, which will make for an exceptionally long and cumbersome name for administration.

We would suggest a short descriptive name such as "Vale East" as the benefice or simply "Littleton ward," is adopted.

Footnote

The existing ward of Pebworth & Honeybourne exceeds the parameters for equality of representation in 2027 chiefly due to the building of the Langate Field development, on the extreme East of Pebworth parish, of 380 houses with an expected electorate of 491.

Langate Fields is an integral part of the new Meon Vale settlement of 1050 house being build on the ex Long Marston army camp and the larger adjacent Long Marston airfield Garden Village of 3000 houses both in Stratford Upon Avon DC, with the Langate Fields development including a multi user sports and community building which will be available for use by all Meon Vale residents.

As Langate Fields is physically separated from Pebworth by the freight only Honeybourne to Long Marston railway line, with Langate Fields being 2 miles as the crow flies from Pebworth and 4.2 miles by the shortest road route, community links will be minimal. Bus links are good towards Stratford Upon Avon but non existant to Pebworth.

The children of some residents may attend Pebworth First School but with Primary schools at Meon Vale (less than 1 mile) and Lower Quinton (1.2 miles) being much closer, in walking distance, it would seem more likely they will attend these Warwickshire schools particularly as the children are likely to move on to high school in Stratford.

Clearly to provide for effective and convenient local government Langate Fields should be transferred to Stratford Upon Avon DC but this is outside the scope of this review.

3/8/22