

West Northamptonshire Council

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Comment text:

West Northamptonshire Council, Boundary Review Ward A and B Proposals Yelvertoft Parish Council would like to object in the strongest possible terms to the Boundary Commission's November 2022 draught proposals. In the foreword to the WNC document, it states that "the proposed boundaries will improve electoral equality while reflecting community interests and identities and help us to deliver convenient and effective local government". While the proposed boundaries may improve electoral equality, the proposed change to Yelvertoft's ward (3.7) makes little or no sense in terms of community and identity and effective local government. We would add here that, while this is a response from Yelvertoft Parish Council, we believe that the same could be said for Lilbourne, Elkington and Clay Coton. While Crick and Kilsby (3.9) remain as a single ward, the exclusion of Yelvertoft, and potentially other nearby villages, from this new ward completely ignores history, geography, shared interests and facilities as well as other areas of common interest. We have highlighted some of these areas below.

- Shared services – Yelvertoft has very little if any connection or shared services with the proposed Welford and Naseby Ward. Our connections and shared services with Crick, Kilsby, Lilbourne, Clay Coton and Elkington are strong in all aspects. Additionally, the proposed change of Ward makes little sense historically or geographically
- DIRFT – the proximity of DIRFT unites Yelvertoft with Crick, Kilsby and Lilbourne affects our communities enormously in terms of day-to-day businesses and perhaps and especially with its proposed expansion. At present, we are working closely with our neighbours to protect our villages against the unnecessary expansion and industrial developments of junction 18 of the M1. Moving to a Ward with no understanding of these issues would be detrimental to the future of Yelvertoft and Crick, Kilsby, Lilbourne and other affected villages.
- Facilities - Yelvertoft residents at present use Crick facilities on a daily basis as their 'local' to access shops, doctor's surgeries, pharmacy, leisure facilities etc.
- Church - the Reverend Graham Anderson is the Rector for Crick, Yelvertoft with Clay Coton and Lilbourne which is an important tie between our villages.
- Schools - The proposal states reasons to move to the Welford Ward includes our students attendance at Guilsborough School. Only a proportion of Yelvertoft students attend Guilsborough School with many being bussed into Rugby schools. Once again the proposal does not reflect the actual ties we have at present. The Parish Council strongly believes that Yelvertoft should remain within the Crick Ward in order to maintain our close association.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded