

Worcestershire

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Comment text:

Related subject: Harvington

Please view attached document.

Attached Documents:

- Parliamentary Boundary Comments HPC.docx

2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies.

Harvington Parish Council wishes to submit the following observations and concerns for consideration in regard to the proposal to move the Harvington & Norton Ward out of the Mid-Worcestershire Parliamentary Constituency into the revised Redditch Constituency.

A. The Parish Council is aware of the guidance that maintaining County, District, and Ward boundaries takes a higher priority than social justifications. In this proposal, the Council accepts that by adding Dodderhill Ward in the north and Norton & Harvington Ward in the south does increase numbers from 56,507 to 69,921 [Just over 2100 from Harvington & Norton] to meet the required minimum number of constituents.

An existing alternative to moving Harvington & Norton ward, which the Council would ask to be considered, would be by moving the complete Lovett and North Claines ward (which stretches from the north of Worcester to the edge of Hanbury) into the revised Redditch constituency, which would also comply with the constituent numbers.

B. As regards social concerns:

1. The ward of Harvington and Norton is highly rural, which fits well into the mainly-rural existing Mid-Worcestershire constituency, having very little in common with the more metropolitan areas of Redditch, Droitwich and Bromsgrove and the area bounding Birmingham.
2. The Harvington & Norton Ward has strong cultural, historic and commercial links resulting in a very close relationship with Evesham which lies within 4 miles of this ward. Redditch is situated over 13 miles away, and has little or no ties whatsoever to Harvington & Norton.
3. For work, social interactions, schools, healthcare, council services etc. Harvington looks mainly to Evesham, Worcester, Pershore and (in Warwickshire) Bidford and Stratford on Avon.
4. The major concern around Evesham, which strongly affects this Parish, is centred on the traffic flow bottleneck problems on the A44/A46 bypass junction to the north of Evesham which has a contributory affect on traffic flows to and through Evesham.
5. Due to the existing main population demographic centred in the north of the Redditch constituency, any MP would be more likely, due to such pressure, have less dealing with this then-outlying ward in the farthest rural south of the constituency. This is of great concern to the Council, as there are good relations with the existing MP across the District, and constituents also have easy access to his nearby constituency office.

Currently, the County & District Councils have consultations mainly involving a single MP, Nigel Huddleston, related to the above concerns. Altering the boundary would mean involvement of a second MP, which would further complicate discussions and decision-making, as part of the A46 (which passes through this ward) would now be in the revised Redditch constituency.