

# Gloucestershire

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## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe

As a resident of Whiteshill, I strongly oppose the proposals to move the current RWR into a new County Division of Haresfield and Upton. In particular, I consider that the rationale for the new Division fails to meet two of the four criteria on which the LGBC is expected to base its decisions, namely, that they, "Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links, and that they are based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries." I have set out below why I feel the proposals fail to meet these criteria for the following reasons: It loses a natural link based on geography of Whiteshill on the ridge overlooking the Painswick valley and with roads leading to Painswick, and from there to the rest of the upper escarpment villages in the Division.

Whiteshill and Ruscombe are naturally hilly and rural, and 'look to Stroud' and the Valleys for local needs, whereas Haresfield and Upton are satellite towns of Gloucester.

I know well the parish of Upton, having lived there in the past, and I fully recognise that it is different in its make-up and character to the parishes of Whiteshill and Randwick, which are rural settlements, with their own character and issues.

Upton parish includes the large commuter housing of Cooper Edge, on the outskirts of Gloucester. As such, it has no natural affinity or link with the more rural parishes of W&R

Haresfield and Upton, both of which are flatter and with substantially better bus links, experience different issues to those experienced by W&R residents; there are no direct bus links between the parishes of W&R and either Haresfield or Upton.

A councillor living in one part of the division is unlikely to understand or relate to the concerns or issues faced in another part.

It breaks the link that currently exists, whereby the District Councillor and the County Councillor both cover the same parishes. Under this arrangement, we would have a District Councillor for W&R, who does not cover the whole of the County Division within their Ward.

I am certain that there will be zero overlap between any cultural, social or sports clubs in the two areas: no-one from W&R will go to Haresfield and Upton for any groups, clubs, societies or similar. This is because there are no current links or similarities between the two areas. Finally, why it will be named Haresfield & Upton? Haresfield is a small settlement with a population of less than 400 people, whereas Whiteshill is about three times the size! If it's going ahead, at least give us the decency of calling it Whiteshill & Upton. To me, it seems to suggest that the Commissioners haven't taken any time to look at what exists on the ground, and therefore have shoved W&R into a totally artificial Division simply to make up the numbers elsewhere. [This is especially the case where they're suggesting that Stroud Trinity leaves Stroud and goes into a new hybrid along with Bisley and Brimscombe!]

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*