

Gloucestershire

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

To whom it may concern.

As residents of Uley living close to Owlpen and not far from the proposed division line on Lamper Hill, we would like to object most strongly to the proposal to move Owlpen from Dursley Division to Wotton-under-Edge Division. The current adult population of Owlpen is 35 and it is hard to believe that the transfer of such a small group of voters will make any significant difference to electoral equality. It would however seriously disenfranchise Owlpen if it were to become a satellite of a distant Division with which it has nothing in common. Owlpen is such an integral part of Uley, we are seen as one.

Owlpen, Uley and Dursley are close neighbours situated within the Ewelme Valley and have been for centuries. Immediate local services and amenities for Owlpen are provided by Uley i.e. shop, pub, primary school and doctors' surgery, village hall, Prema Arts Centre, The Pavilion sports ground and the village Millennium Green.

The residents of Owlpen and Uley work closely together across a wide spectrum of community activities including an annual lantern festival and other community events. We also share a large network of footpaths, lanes and the main river Ewelme runs through the two areas with many riparian owners from both Uley and Owlpen who work together to ensure river safety and flood defences. There are also some who farm or graze land over the two areas.

Dursley provides the nearest large supermarket, leisure centre, gym, secondary schools, hospital and associated health services such as

opticians, dentists, chiropodists, and physiotherapists. Not surprisingly there is a regular bus service along the B4066.

In 2018 the churches in the valley were combined as the Ewelme Benefice reflecting this natural neighbourhood. Thus, the majority of interests and concerns of these communities are linked and the involvement of a single County Councillor gives us effective and convenient local government.

The proposal would necessitate the duplication of issues with two Councillors and would be wholly impractical and unnecessarily time consuming.

A proper understanding of the local geography would show the Commission why these three settlements have grown to be so interlinked and conversely why Wotton-u-Edge (six miles away in another valley) has no links with them whatsoever. The only thing Owlpen has in common with Wotton is their boundary along a small stretch of the A4315 and across a few fields.

We sincerely hope that you will reconsider the proposal and give full credence to the strong links Owlpen has within the Ewelme Valley and the strong local rejection of this proposal. Local government is important but it only works where it supports and accurately represents local populations.

Moving Owlpen to Wotton-under-Edge Division would remove it from the Division which best represents its interests and location.

Please accept our individual and strongest objections to this proposal.

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature block]

Attached Documents:

None attached