

# Gloucestershire

## Personal Details:

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

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Dursley Division

To Whom it May Concern,

We have lived in Owlpen for over 20 years and would like to express my total objection to the proposed boundary move from Dursley Division to Wotton-Under Edge Division.

I understand the 3 matters under consideration are:

1. Improving electoral balance by equalizing the number of electors that each Councillor represents.

I do not wish to be part of a parish with which I do not have any connection whatsoever in order that our small population of approximately 35 residents can 'make up the numbers'.

2. Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.

As residents of Owlpen I value the strong links with Uley on a daily basis.

The successful shop in Uley is a community shop which was made possible by a working party of people from both Owlpen and Uley and the

whole process of setting it up was chaired by me, [REDACTED]. Substantial financial investment was required to save the shop from closure and shares were issued to local residents from both Uley and Owlpen. The driving force behind managing the shop, who is also the Post Mistress, is a resident of Owlpen. The principal person responsible for the communication, to raise the funding to make the Community Shop happen is a resident of Owlpen. In addition the current shop committee is drawn from residents of both Uley and Owlpen and is a strong community asset drawing the whole community and its people together.

Holy Cross Church in Owlpen is in the Ewelme Benefice. The Ewelme Benefice includes St Giles Church Uley, Holy Cross Church Owlpen, St James' Church Dursley, and St Bartholomew's Church Nympsfield. The Parish of Uley with Owlpen and Nympsfield has a Parochial Church Council (PCC) with membership from Uley, Owlpen and Nympsfield and they frequently have combined meetings with Dursley. I am a member of the PCC and, as our previous Rector has retired, I now have responsibility on the combined benefice selection panel to find a new Rector.

My wife, [REDACTED], is a governor of Uley CofE Primary School where the catchment area for pupils is from Uley, Owlpen, Cam, Coaley and Dursley. As it is a Church of England school with strong links to the Ewelme Benefice.

The Uley Pavillion on the Sports Field, and Prema, the Uley Arts Centre, have both had recent significant investment. This was only possible by having the combined support of both the Uley and Owlpen parishes.

The Uley, Owlpen and Nympsfield Village News is published each month and is a valuable community resource sharing news about the church, the parishes, social events and local businesses. One recent event, the Uley Lantern Festival held on Saturday 4th November which was the most incredible event held across the Villages. There were over 1000 people from Owlpen, Dursley, Uley, Nympsfield and the local area who came together thanks to the hard work of a committee led by a resident of Owlpen.

### 3. Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

At our Annual Owlpen Parish Meeting a regular item on the agenda are the highways in particular Fiery Lane and Lampern Hill. Both these roads run through the parish of Owlpen to access Uley and both are on steep hills where cooperation between the 2 village Councils is needed.

Particularly in this matter, but in others too, we rely on the support of Uley Parish Council as well as the Gloucestershire County Council Councillor Wendy Thomas (Dursley Division) to help in our dealings with Gloucestershire County Council Highways. Having to refer to two different County Councillors to resolve such matters, should this boundary change proceed, would add complexity not simplicity.

In addition, at the Annual Owlpen Parish Meeting held on Monday 27th November, which I attended, there was a unanimous vote from the residents opposing the proposed boundary change. Everyone present felt very strongly that they, and Owlpen, are intrinsically part of Uley as part of the Dursley Division and have little in common with Wotton Under Edge.

## Attached Documents:

*None attached*