

Worcestershire

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Parish or town councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Kidderminster Town Council

Dear Local Government Boundary Commission,

Please find my comments to your proposed ward boundary changes with regards to Kidderminster Town Council, in Worcestershire, attached.

Attached Documents:

- lgbce-submission-ktc-28.02.2024-d.hine_.docx

59 Dotterel Place
Kidderminster
DY10 4UD
27/02/2024

Dear Local Government Boundary Commission,

I would like to comment with regards to the draft ward and boundary changes proposed for Kidderminster Town Council. I am a serving councillor on Kidderminster Town Council for Aggborough and Spennells Ward.

I was surprised to hear of these proposals, as I understood that the authority needs to request a review.

At the full meeting of Kidderminster Town Council on December 18th, 2023, there was a unanimous vote to insist that representation of Kidderminster residents is best served by keeping Town ward boundaries in alignment with Wyre Forest District Council ward boundaries – no doubt you will have received this communication. Kidderminster Town Council has a diverse membership, with 4 national political parties represented, plus a good number of independents – so unanimous opposition represents a broad community and political consensus.

Furthermore, I feel strongly that the proposals for Kidderminster Town Council:

- Cut across community cohesiveness – for example, Spennells (including Mallard Avenue area), and Aggborough have strong historic and social links. A football club, a golf club, a railway station, several care homes and several pubs serve local people as well as others from further away. They have consistently been represented by a set of 3 councillors at Town and District level who have been able to work together for the betterment of the whole area;
- Will confuse voters with different wards boundaries and ward names at Town and District level;
- Will undermine the effectiveness of sets of 3 councillors representing a ward.

Thus, they will lead to poorer representation.

I am not aware of any calls in support of single-member wards in Kidderminster, and cannot see how they would bring any improvement to the representation to the areas they are proposed for.

Yours Sincerely,
Cllr Doug Hine,
Kidderminster Town Council,
Aggborough & Spennells Ward