

Vale of White Horse

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Western Valley Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: I am giving the view of the Parish Council as agreed in their latest Parish Council Meeting.

The Parish of Western Valley is set to grow significantly between 2023 and 2029. Already at the 2023 electors levels, the Harwell and Blewbury Ward has one of the highest ratios of electors per district councillor, and projected to be 4594 in 2029.

By 2029, Western Valley is also projected to be the 7th largest parish in Vale surpassed primarily by the large towns of Abingdon; Grove and Wantage. Long term, leaving us grouped with Blewbury & Harwell will be detrimental to our residents and over-stretch the District Councillors allocated. In reality, the best solution would be to add another district councillor somewhere. There are multiple options:

- 1) Leave Western Valley Parish with Blewbury & Harwell and increase the number of District Councillors to three.
- 2) Move Western Valley Parish to be grouped with Sutton Courtney and increase their number of District Councillors from one to two.
- 3) Create the New Western Valley Ward, much like the Drayton or the Wotton Ward with its own District Councillor.

Option 3 is the preference of this Council, as an additional Cllr is required in all 3 options to keep the overall number of electors per district councillor the same.

Whilst likely out of the scope of this consultation, this Council asks that the boundary between the South and Vale districts is revisited. The community of Great Western Park is currently split between two separate districts, with in places, next door neighbours living in separate districts. At this time this Council has no specific preference to be in either South Oxfordshire District Council or Vale of White Horse District Council, but we are passionate about the whole of our community being together in one parish, one district ward, and not partly in Didcot.

Attached Documents:

None attached