

Worcestershire

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Comment text:

Related subject: Kidderminster and Stourport

Please see attached file

Attached Documents:

- boundary-review-worcs-and-kidderminster-town.docx

Wyre Forest Liberal Democrats
Liberal Democrat Advice Centre
Burcher Green, Comberton
Kidderminster DY10 3AY

To the Local Government Boundary Commission

Your ref – Worcs CC Review

Subject – Worcestershire County and Kidderminster Town (Parish) Reviews

Introduction

Wyre Forest Liberal Democrats are an active political force in Wyre Forest, with members who are currently elected Councillors at District and Town (Parish) level. It also has councillors with recent County Council experience. The party is active across the district and has an intimate knowledge of the area and an understanding of the changes that are likely to be forthcoming in the near and medium term. It is because of this depth of local knowledge that we feel we must question some of the proposals that you are making for boundary changes in our area.

We will deal with the County and Town (Parish) issues separately.

Worcestershire County Council Ward Boundaries

Kidderminster

You propose to transfer the following roads from the current St Chad's Ward to St Peter's – Farfield and roads off, Pelham Lodge, Chester Road South, Hillgrove Crescent, and roads off, Oldnall Road and roads off, Barnett's Lane, Barnett's Grove, Barnett's Close, Burlington Close, Bernie Crossland Walk, Spennells Valley Road, The Firs Close, Comberton Rd, Viaduct Close, Mallard Avenue, Little Grebe Road, Mandarin Close and Osprey Park Drive.

We strongly object to this proposal for several reasons

- This area shares primary and secondary schools (Comberton Primary and King Charles 1st Secondary) with your proposed St Chads Division and in which it is currently located in the current St Chads Division. The local Church of England Church serving this community is St Chads Church on Burcher Green, Comberton. It uses the Burcher Green Shopping Centre and Post Office and is served by the Diamond Bus Number 10 bus service. Their children attend the Scout and Guide Groups within St Chads on the Comberton and Offmore estates.
- This area contains some of the most affluent parts of Kidderminster which it shares with the other side of Comberton Rd from the A449 down to the Spennells Island. It has absolutely nothing in common with the Birchen Coppice, Rifle Range and Foley Park estates which are within St Peter's.

- The physical distance between the far end of this area (Little Grebe Rd) and the Birchen Coppice Estate is more than two miles which is a huge distance in a town the size of Kidderminster. Residents of this part of Kidderminster would never have reason to visit the area of the proposed St Peter's as it is not even on their shortest route to Stourport which would be along Wilden Lane.
- The addition of the small area off Hoo Road, purely the side between Comberton Hill and the end of the Aggborough Football Stadium including Ray Mercer Way and roads off plus Comberton Terrace into your proposed St Chads Division is completely nonsensical. Both sides of Hoo Road from its junction with Comberton Hill to its junction with Chester Road South are a single community. They share a bus service, their local Church is St Cecilia's on Hoo Road, they all share the problems caused by parking at the football stadium and should all be in the St. Peter's Division.
- We are concerned that your figures for 2029 do not take into consideration the 1,450 home development (Woven Oaks) which is designated in the Wyre Forest Local Plan and currently subject of a Planning Application due to be decided in summer 2024. It is reasonable to assume that this will create over 1,500 new voters in St Chads by 2029.
- Given that you propose to move all properties between Offmore Road and Birmingham Road, currently in St George's and St Oswald's Division into St Chads we are seriously concerned about the accuracy of your figures for your proposed St Chad's Division. We believe that it would be more appropriate to keep this area in St George's.

Stourport on Severn

We support your proposal to divide the current two-member County ward into two single member wards. We feel this change is long overdue and will be welcomed by many local people.

Kidderminster Town (Parish) Review

We are appalled at the discourtesy of a Parish Review being carried out without the courtesy of the Town (Parish) Council being informed or consulted.

We believe that the current arrangements whereby the Town Council consists of six wards, coterminous with the Wyre Forest District Council wards in Kidderminster are the ideal arrangement which should not be altered in any way.

In particular, we strongly object to the existing Offmore Comberton Ward being divided into a two Member Offmore Comberton Ward and a one Member Greenhill Ward. There are some 4,700 households in the existing Offmore Comberton Ward of which less than 700 are in the area which we presume you are calling Greenhill and which would be bounded by Chester Road North, Birmingham Road, Hurcott Road

and rear gardens of Baldwin Road. (The area of Kidderminster described as Greenhill was actually on the other side of Hurcott Rd.)

We also fundamentally object to the splitting of Aggborough Spennells Ward into three single member wards as is common on many larger urban parishes. The three District Councillors for this Kidderminster Town Council Ward are also District Councillors for the same ward. This representation of a single area by a councillor on both town and district councils can and does happen elsewhere, this unnecessary subdivision of certain Town Council Wards will serve only to muddle the electorate who think about their area as a whole.

Cllr Tim Schmeising-Barnes
Chair of Wyre Forest Liberal Democrats

Adrian Beavis
Vice Chair Wyre Forest Liberal Democrats

Alan Totty
Vice Chair of Wyre Forest Liberal Democrats and former District Councillor for Offmore Comberton

Clare Cassidy
Constituency Membership Officer

Oliver Walker
Constituency Executive Member

Cllr Shazu Miah
Wyre Forest District and Kidderminster
Town Councillor for Offmore Comberton and Prospective Parliamentary Candidate

Cllr Fran Oborski
Wyre Forest District and Kidderminster Town Councillor for Offmore Comberton and
County Councillor for St Chads from 2008 to 2020 and local government election
agent

Christopher Harvey
Constituency Secretary

Please direct any questions to Cllr Fran Oborski [REDACTED]
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