

Worcestershire

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Comment text:

Related subject: Aldington

Via the Badsey and Aldington Parish Council Facebook Site, as a resident of Aldington, I have become aware that the draft proposals indicate that Badsey is to be moved to the Broadway Ward to which Alistair Adams and the Parish Council have themselves declared as a ludicrous situation. I have lived in Aldington since 2003 and have also been a Committee Member of our local village Residents Association for many years as well as a Police led organisation which I cannot name for identification purposes. My view is that to split this Parish would be disastrous for numerous reasons. Only one field separates the village of Badsey from Aldington and the two villages are historically entwined in a number of ways. The Badsey Society incorporates Aldington, the Conservation Area Appraisal of Aldington which became legal in 2021 contains a sentence "New development has gradually brought the boundary of the town closer to the village." Consequently, the two villages are "joined at the hip" so as to speak. Aldington children attend the primary school in Badsey, and all clubs/societies etc. are run for the benefit of both villages.

I am unsure why the proposed "dog leg" in Aldington (shown on the map) is to be retained either. The area is purely fields and has no population that would affect electoral purposes. Additionally, the draft Electoral Arrangements in March 2022 stated "We are maintaining our proposed Badsey & Aldington ward as part of our further draft recommendations." The House of Commons, ODPM Housing, Planning, Local Government and the Regions Committee relating to Ward Boundaries states "every ward of a civil parish having a parish council, whether separate or common, shall lie wholly within a single electoral division (i.e. no ward of a parish or town council should be divided by an electoral division boundary)". I think this statement says it all and as a consequence, I agree with the views of the Badsey and Aldington Parish Council together with our County Councillor that the current proposal is indeed ludicrous and will split the existing community. Aldington has no church, no village hall, no meeting centre and no bus route. Neither does the Aldington Residents Association have any legal powers of its own. Frankly Aldington is

totally dependent on its long-held association with Badsey. I trust this will continue.

Attached Documents:

None attached