

Worcestershire

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Related subject: Stourport -on Severn

The proposal to create two county council divisions in Stourport involves splitting an existing district council ward, which is at odds with a guiding principle of the commission. It also is likely to cause confusion for residents who are affected by these changes. It does appear that Lickhill district ward is being "sacrificed" to achieve two county divisions.

The proposed names for the two new divisions will not have resonance with the residents affected in Lickhill ---particularly those that would be bought into Stourport Areley Kings & Riverside.

If the split takes place as described in the review it would be better to ditch attempts to have names that relate to district divisions and go for something more neutral --like Stourport West (Stourport AK& R) and Stourport East (Stourport Mitton)

Whatever changes are made it is important that voters are not more confused than they already are about where and what they are voting for in elections.

In terms of the proposed changes to town/ parish wards it makes no sense to split Lickhill into two wards. Currently the parish ward is coterminous with the district ward, which will remain as it is, so why change it? It can not be to bring it into line with county division arrangements, that is irrelevant. It just makes everything extremely cumbersome and will not be helpful in the overall electoral process.

If the reason for the change is related to reducing the number of councillors in the ward from 3 to 2 then it would be straight forward enough to do this without splitting the ward. This seems to be what is proposed for Areley Kings East and Areley Kings West --just a straight swop. Although it needs to be said that there is no clear rationale given for that particular change.

The "spare" councillor from Lickhill could go to North ward, which is by far the biggest ward in Stourport. It actually seems a lost opportunity to

rationalise the boundaries for this ward.

In conclusion, the principle of having two county council divisions is reasonable albeit that the method of achieving it is confusing . The proposed division names are not appropriate.

Lickhill parish/town ward should not be split. Consideration should be given to keeping the number of councillors in Areley Kings East and Areley Kings West as they are given the differences in the need for proactive councillor activity in each ward.

Attached Documents:

None attached