

Worcestershire

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Dear Review Team,
I have two comments on the current consultation on wards in Worcestershire:

Kidderminster Town Council wards

I object to the proposed changes to Kidderminster wards. The current system of 3 candidates for each of the 6 council wards that ties in with the District council wards works well and helps to minimise confusion in what is an already potentially confusing situation with the different responsibilities of different councillors - town vs district vs county, and the different catchment of the county council wards compared with the district wards. The proposed changes to Kidderminster town from 6 wards to 10 wards are unnecessary and would only add significantly to voter confusion when we all surely want to reduce that and make it as easy as possible for people to understand and connect with Local Government effectively.

Worcestershire County Council ward names in Kidderminster

The majority of the UK population no longer defines itself as Christian - see the 2021 Census for details. I am at a loss as to why the Kidderminster County Council wards have proposed names relating to churches which in many cases have zero recognition or awareness among the local community. These churches are certainly not the focus of communities grouped into these wards and are not even located in places that help make geographic sense of the wards.

I have alternative name suggestions for these that would make them both more understandable to local residents and remove the extraordinary focus on religion in ward names in the town which is only likely to cause a disconnect between many residents and the electoral process in

Kidderminster.

Your proposed name My proposed alternative

St Barnabas Kidderminster North West

St Chads Kidderminster East

St Georges Kidderminster North East

St Johns Kidderminster West

St Peters Kidderminster South

Surely these suggestions are an improvement in terms of clarity - any name that needs explanation as to where it actually refers - as the church related names do - is not a useful name anyway.

I trust you will take these comments into account in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Attached Documents:

None attached