

North West Leicestershire

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Organisation Name: North West Leicestershire Constituency Labour Party (Political groups)

Comment text:

Related subject: The whole of the district

The NWL Constituency Labour Party believes that the review of District Council Boundaries in North West Leicestershire, whilst aiming to achieve greater accountability to residents, also needs to recognise that there are distinct communities within the district. Four out of five residents in North West Leicestershire live within a parish. The CLP believes that Parishes are the fundamental building blocks of our communities. We have been mindful of this, as well as the statutory criteria, whilst making our response.

The NWL Constituency Labour Party has based its response on the Warding Submission proposed by North West Leicestershire District Council which was agreed at its meeting on the 7th May 2024.

At an earlier meeting the District Council expressed a preference for single member wards. This has led to some communities being split, sometimes dividing wards across parishes. It has led to sustainable urban extension (Hugglescote St Johns) being split along lines that will only make sense if the houses are actually built. It has also led to the odd anomaly of one three-member ward. We believe that many of the problems with the District Council's submission could be resolved if a more flexible approach were taken to this issue.

In our filed submission we comment first on those areas where a more flexible approach to single- and multi-member wards could be helpful. We then make further comments on four specific areas, these being Ashby de la Zouch; Appleby and the Forest; Whitwick and Thringstone; Coalville.

Attached Documents:

- [nwl-constituency-labour-party-response-to-district-council-boundary-review.pdf](#)
- [boundary-report-_07052024.pdf](#)

North West Leicestershire Constituency Labour Party

Response to Initial Consultation on Ward Boundaries for North West Leicestershire

1 Introduction

The NWL Constituency Labour Party has based its response on the Warding Submission proposed by North West Leicestershire District Council which was agreed at its meeting on the 7th May 2024.

NWL CLP believes that the review of District Council Boundaries in North West Leicestershire, whilst aiming to achieve greater accountability to residents, also needs to recognise that there are distinct communities within the district. Four out of five residents in North West Leicestershire live within a parish. The CLP believes that Parishes are the fundamental building blocks of our communities. We have been mindful of this, as well as the statutory criteria, whilst making our response.

At an earlier meeting the District Council expressed a preference for single member wards. This has led to some communities being split, sometimes dividing wards across parishes. It has led to sustainable urban extension (Hugglescote St Johns) being split along lines that will only make sense if the houses are actually built. It has also led to the odd anomaly of one three-member ward. We believe that many of the problems with the District Council's submission could be resolved if a more flexible approach were taken to this issue.

We will comment first on those areas where a more flexible approach to single- and multi-member wards could be helpful. We then make further comments on four specific areas, these being Ashby de la Zouch; Appleby and the Forest, Whitwick and Thringstone; Coalville.

2 Multi-Member Wards

The approach to single member wards adopted by the District Council has not been supported by any evidence. As far the CLP is aware, there were no significant problems with the previous arrangement multi-member wards. Neither is there any evidence that a consistent one-member ward approach since 2015 has been beneficial. Some single member wards in their submission cut through defined communities and parishes. The anomalous proposal for a three-member ward is clearly inappropriate.

The approach we have taken to size of ward is to consider whether ward boundaries divide communities, whether the boundary is clearly identifiable and whether creating a multi-member ward would link communities that have no natural links. We have resisted the temptation to use three-member wards.

Applying this approach, we have, in cooperation with our Labour District Councillors, analysed what we consider to be potential candidates for multi-member wards and come to the following conclusions:

Area	Analysis of District Council Proposals	Recommendation
Ashby de la Zouch ³	The proposed six ward configuration is co-terminus with the parish boundary, with the small exception of Boothorpe. As it groups communities served by key roads well, we do not see any compelling reason to propose any multi-member wards here.	Six single member wards

Area	Analysis of District Council Proposals	Recommendation
Castle Donington	The three wards are coterminous with the parish boundary. The boundary between Castle ward and the other two wards is clearly identifiable. The boundary between Central and Park is less clear but probably more identifiable than the current boundary.	Three single member wards or one single member ward and one two-member ward.
Kegworth	Two wards which do split the village of Kegworth, but the boundary is generally well understood (A6) and each ward is linked to significant villages which do not have any natural connections.	Two single member wards.
Measham	Two wards, coterminous with the parish boundaries and no natural boundary between the two wards.	One two-member ward.
Coalville Town Centre ⁶	The Coalville Town Centre area is split into three single member wards: Coalville has largely clear natural boundaries between the A511 and railway line, the two Snibston wards much less so with Snibston North 'wrapping around' Snibston South. The Avenue Road estate should remain in one ward, being one community of tenants and residents.	One single member ward and one two-member ward.
Coalville Warren Hills	We have included four proposed wards in this analysis – Bardon, Broom Leys, Castle Rock and Greenhill. Few of the boundaries between the four wards follow significant natural boundaries, the least clear are between Broom Leys and Bardon, and between Castle Rock and Greenhill. Two two member wards would be an option.	Retain as four single member wards or two two-member wards.
Ibstock & Ellistown	The two Ellistown wards divide the village in half without any natural boundary and seem like a strong candidate for a two-member ward. Similarly, the two Ibstock wards divide Ibstock without utilising a natural boundary. Again, a strong candidate for a two-member ward.	Two two-member wards.
Whitwick & Thringstone ⁵	As discussed above, we have made use of a clear natural boundary between the proposed Whitwick North and Whitwick South wards. Consequently, we would not propose any multi-member wards in this area.	Four single member wards.
Appleby & Forest ⁴	As discussed above, there is a strong case for a two-member ward to avoid a boundary splitting Moira village without a natural boundary. Adding the Appleby & Oakthorpe ward to create a three-member ward is not justified because a clearly identified boundary exists and communities would be linked that have no natural connection.	One two-member ward and one single member ward.
Hugglescote	The proposed boundary for Hugglescote St Marys is satisfactory as a single-member ward. The proposed Hugglescote St Johns and Hugglescote Sence wards include a significant amount of development up to 2030 and beyond. The timing of the development is unclear in the different	One two-member ward and one single member ward.

Area	Analysis of District Council Proposals	Recommendation
	<p>areas. It is difficult to predict whether a natural boundary will exist to split the two wards. Consequently, we believe a two-member ward is more appropriate.</p>	

In summary, we are recommending 26 single member wards and 6 two member wards. Options are provided for a further 3 two member wards. We see little justification for any three member wards.

3 Ashby de la Zouch

The six ward configuration included in the Ward Submission as defined by the six ward maps has considerable merit in terms of grouping communities together that are served by key roads and minimising change from the current arrangement.

However, we would propose an additional amendment to further improve the cohesiveness of communities - ensuring that the whole area off Spring Avenue and School Lane are in the same ward.

We would propose amending the names of two of the wards: Ashby Knights Chase to Ashby Money Hill and Ashby Blackfordby Annswell to Ashby Blackfordby. These names better reflect the areas they serve and are much more intuitive to understand where they represent.

Ashby de la Zouch Detail

1. Ashby Castle boundaries are unchanged.
2. The currently built area to the east of Smisby Road through to (but excluding) the new Money Hill development site is moved to Holywell ward. This includes the recently built Dairy Lane estate.
3. The area around North Street, Market Street, South Street and the leisure centre is moved to Willesley.
4. The area south of, and including, Winchester Way, is moved from Holywell ward to Ivanhoe ward.
5. The whole of Spring Avenue and School Lane and roads off are moved from Holywell to the new Ashby Blackfordby Annswell ward.
6. The new estates on the western side of Ivanhoe ward (Bishops Hall Road and roads off) are moved to Blackfordby, becoming Ashby Blackfordby Annswell with the addition of the Blackfordby parish ward.
7. The community of Boothorpe, which looks to Blackfordby as part of their community, has been included within this new Ashby Blackfordby Annswell ward, though it is not currently in the Ashby Parish.
8. The small section of Woodville remains outside the Ashby wards and is included in a new Ashby Woulds two member ward (see section 3 above).

4 Appleby and The Forest

The proposal to create a three-member ward in this area is completely inconsistent with the approach taken elsewhere in the District. It is the only three-member ward proposed and it does not meet any of the reasonable criteria for creating multi-member wards – see section 5 below.

We would propose reverting to the original proposal (as described on p139 of the council report) which was to create one single member ward and one two member ward, but also including the small Woodville area. The crucial determinates of this view are:

- The boundary between the one and two member wards follows clearly identifiable features which link culturally similar areas. Creating a three-member ward links communities that are quite diverse and have no natural links and it covers a very large geographical area.
- Whilst having the same name, the communities of eastern and western Donisthorpe are culturally and geographically distinct.
- The two-member ward avoids the need to split the village of Moira in a very artificial way without any natural boundaries.

5 Whitwick & Thringstone

The Ward Submission proposals for Whitwick and Thringstone unnecessarily divides communities, further splits parishes across wards and makes little use of natural boundaries. The village of Thringstone is divided into two wards, splitting a distinct community and Swannington parish is combined with other parished areas as well as non-parished areas.

Our proposals make greater use of natural boundaries, retain the integrity of Thringstone and create wards with more compact geographies. In summary, they make use of the Grace Dieu Brook as a natural boundary, creating a Whitwick North ward and a Whitwick South ward, as well as a ward based on Swannington and a ward based on Thringstone.

Whitwick North – the existing Holly Hayes ward and TBB polling district North and East of Grace Dieu Brook.

Whitwick South – the majority of the existing Hermitage ward and the remaining parts of the existing Holly Hayes ward not included in Whitwick North.

Thringstone Ward – the existing Thringstone ward plus a small section of the existing TBB polling district.

Swannington Ward – the parish of Swannington plus the existing TBA polling district and the remaining parts of the existing Hermitage ward.

We believe this arrangement when compared with the District Council's Ward Submission proposals retains greater community cohesion and makes greater use of natural boundaries.

Whitwick Detail

1. Whitwick North – the existing Holly Hayes ward and TBB polling district North and East of Grace Dieu Brook.
2. Whitwick South – the existing Hermitage ward, less Elsdon Close and a section of Thomas Road, plus both sides of North Street up to Grace Dieu brook and the section of Holly Hayes ward south and west of Grace Dieu brook.

3. Thringstone Ward – the existing Thringstone ward plus the part of the existing TBB polling district between Talbot Street and Grace Dieu brook, largely consisting of Carter Dale.
4. Swannington Ward – the parish of Swannington plus the existing TBA polling district and the small section of the existing Hermitage Ward around Thomas Street described in 2 above.

6 Coalville

In general, we support the proposed warding arrangements for the Coalville Group contained in the Ward Submission. However, Wyggeston Road and the whole of Avenue Road and Broughton Street are part of one community of tenants and residents an estate, the majority of which is in the proposed Coalville ward. These would seem to fit better in the Coalville ward rather than Snibston South.

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 7 MAY 2024



Title of Report	LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND - DRAFT WARDING ARRANGEMENTS	
Presented by	Allison Thomas Chief Executive	
Background Papers	LGBCE technical guidance Council Report – Council Size Submission – 30 January 2024	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	<p>There are no immediate financial implications as the decision being sought is the approval of a proposal for consideration by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) within its review. The decision as to the warding pattern is ultimately that of the Local Government Boundary Commission.</p> <p>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes</p>	
Legal Implications	<p>The LGBCE has functions under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. It may at any time conduct a review of the area of the Council and recommend whether a change should be made to the electoral arrangements. The Council is required to co-operate with the Commission and must provide any information that it may reasonably require in connection with its functions (Section 56). The Council has provided information to the LGBCE as part of the first stage of the review process.</p> <p>As part of the review, the Council and others may make submissions proposing electoral arrangements as part of the LGBCE process.</p> <p>Legal advice has been provided by the Legal Services Team throughout the process.</p> <p>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes</p>	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	<p>There are no implications at this stage.</p> <p>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes</p>	
Purpose of Report	To present Members with the final submission, developed by officers and the Electoral Review Working Party, regarding Phase Two (Warding Patterns) to the Local Government Boundary Commission in respect of the forthcoming Electoral Review.	
Recommendations	<p>THAT COUNCIL:</p> <p>1. APPROVES AND AGREES THE SUBMISSION OF THE “DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NEW</p>	

	<p>ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL”, ATTACHED AS APPENDIX A AS THE COUNCIL’S SUBMISSION TO THE LGBCE’S CONSULTATION ON WARDING ARRANGEMENTS.</p> <p>2. DELEGATES TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE SUBMISSION OF THE “DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL” TO THE LGBCE.</p> <p>3. NOTES THAT PROPOSALS ON WARDING PATTERNS MAY ALSO BE PROVIDED TO THE LGBCE BY ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, EXTERNAL BODY, GROUP OR ORGANISATION WISHING TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE CLOSE OF THE CONSULTATION ON 27 MAY 2024.</p>
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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 11. In 2022, the LGBCE informed the Chief Executive of the Council of its intention to carry out an Electoral Review of the Council. The last electoral review of North West Leicestershire was undertaken in 2013.
- 1.2 The review process began in mid-2023. Any changes that are made regarding council size and ward boundaries will come into effect for the local government elections in May 2027.
- 1.3 In the first phase of the review, the size of the Council was considered. On 30 January 2024, the Council made a formal submission which supported the size of the Council remaining at 38 councillors, with a preference for single-member wards. On 12 March 2024 the LGBCE made a determination that the Council should remain at the same size, at 38 Councillors, and noted the preference for single-member wards where possible, taking the statutory criteria into account as set out at 2.1 below.
- 1.4 On 19 March 2024, the public consultation on future warding arrangements commenced. This gives the Council, individuals and community organisations the opportunity to provide the LGBCE with views on the positioning of ward boundaries, based on the identity and interests of local communities alongside the other statutory criteria.
- 1.5 It is recognised that the shape and size of existing wards will need to change to reflect the change in population and housing developments (and demolitions) since the last review 10 years ago.

2.0 APPROACH

- 2.1 In considering the warding pattern for an authority, the LGBCE has regard to the statutory criteria set down in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. These are:
 - the need to secure equality of representation (taking future growth into account);
 - the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
 - the need to secure effective and convenient local government.

- 2.2 Officers developed the initial warding proposals and these were considered by the cross-party Electoral Review Working Party at four meetings between 22 February 2024 and 10 April. Comments and suggestions by Members were taken into account in revised proposals. On 17 April 2024, an all-Member Briefing was held on the draft proposals for the warding arrangements developed by the Working Party. Comments were received on the proposals during and following the briefing. It was agreed that a meeting of the Working Party would be held on 22 April 2024 to consider the comments and any changes which had been made to wards to ensure that they better reflected the local interests and identities of communities, alongside the other statutory criteria. The minutes of the meeting of the Working Party at which the draft proposals were agreed for consideration by Council are attached at appendix A
- 2.3 In drafting the proposals, officers have:
- Reviewed where existing wards can remain unchanged and remain within the electoral equality criteria, on the basis that if change to boundaries is not necessary then it makes sense to retain them (leading to more effective and convenient local government, and on the basis the previous boundaries would have been drawn to reflect local community interests originally).
 - Grouped smaller parishes together to create new or amended wards.
 - Agreed that, as far as possible, rural parishes will not be merged with parts of more urban towns simply to balance the electorates, recognising the different identities, interests and concerns between rural and urban populations (noting that rural/urban is relative).
 - Identified areas of the District where a new split of parishes will be required to ensure electoral equality (for example, Castle Donington will have three Councillors). New wards are based, where possible, on existing wards in these areas taking the three statutory criteria into account and other identifiable features and landmarks.
- 2.4 Consideration was also given to the forecasted ratio of one councillor to 2,358 electors. This equates to a maximum 10% variance of 2,593 electors and a minimum 10% variance of 2,123 electors.
- 2.5 There is a balance to be made in each of these steps, and ‘fixing’ any ward arrangements has a knock-on effect across the District. It is important to recognise that almost every ward will be changed through this process, even where the current ward has good electoral equality.
- 2.6 During the process it became apparent that splitting the communities in the south-west corner of the district (part of Appleby, Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe, Ashby Woulds and part of Blackfordby), could not be done in such away, to create three single member wards, without artificially splitting the communities to create electoral equality required. Considerable thought and careful discussion were given to this area by the working party and a number of proposals put forward. Following comments made at the all-member briefing and further consideration by the working party, it was agreed that a proposal for a one three-member ward to cover the whole area would be the best solution, to avoid the splitting of communities.
- 2.7 The final version of the Council’s submission can be found at appendix B.

3.0 IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The LGBCE technical guidance says the following in relation to participation in the review process:

“5. Making your views known to us

“Throughout the conduct of the review, we are keen to encourage councils, their partners and the public at large to tell us what they would like to see in the electoral arrangements for their local authorities. We do this when we invite proposals and when we arrange consultations on our draft recommendations and occasionally, on alterations to draft recommendations”.

The Council is encouraged by the LGBCE to provide a consultation submission on warding arrangements and this will form the basis of the proposals considered by the LGBCE, along with any other representations it receives during the consultation period. The Council’s submission provides a good representation of communities in the council area from across the political spectrum. If the Council does not submit proposals on the warding arrangements, the LGBCE will take any other representations into account in formulating the draft electoral arrangements.

4.0 WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE SUBMISSION IS MADE?

4.1 The LGBCE will consider all the representations and submissions received before the closing date of 27 May 2024 and will formulate draft recommendations on the warding proposals. These are expected to be published in August 2024.

4.2 A further 12-week period of consultation on the LGBCE’s proposals is due to commence in September 2024. Meetings of the Electoral Review Working Party will meet to prepare a response to the proposals, which will then be considered by Council. The LGBCE will then finalise and publish the new wards early 2025, with the order then being laid before Parliament in Spring 2025.

4.3 New wards are scheduled to come into effect at the 2027 District and Parish elections.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	A well-run council
Policy Considerations:	The (LGBCE is a parliamentary body established by statute to conduct boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government areas in England.
Safeguarding:	There are none at this stage.
Equalities/Diversity:	There are none at this stage.
Customer Impact:	The Commission will work to achieve electoral equality and will consider representations made to it by other public authorities, community groups, residents associations, electors, political and other stakeholders during later stages. There will be an impact to those communities where wards will need

	to change so that electoral equality can be achieved.
Economic and Social Impact:	There are none at this stage.
Environment, Climate Change and zero carbon:	There are none at this stage
Consultation/Community Engagement:	The LGBCE is responsible for running any consultations during the review.
Risks:	If the Council does not submit proposals on the warding arrangements, the LGBCE will take any other representations into account in formulating the draft electoral arrangements.
Officer Contact	Elizabeth Warhurst Head of Legal and Commercial Services elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

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APPENDIX A

MINUTES of a meeting of the ELECTORAL REVIEW WORKING PARTY held in the Abbey Room, Stenson House, London Road, Coalville on MONDAY, 22 APRIL 2024

Present: Councillor M B Wyatt (In the Chair)

Councillors K Merrie MBE, A C Woodman, M B Wyatt, D Bigby (Substitute for Councillor C A Sewell) and J Legrys (Substitute for Councillor S Sheahan)

In Attendance: Councillors P Moulton, M Ball, A Barker, D Cooper, R Johnson and D Everitt

Officers: Mrs C Hammond, Miss E Warhurst, Mr R Beesley and Mrs A Thomas

37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors C Sewell and S Sheahan.

38 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared.

39 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2024.

By affirmation of the meeting it was

RESOLVED THAT:

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2024 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

40 ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE - WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Officers presented the report to members and drew their attention to the comments that had been at the all member briefing and that had been received following it. They then presented to updated proposals document, with the amendments shown in tracked changes, to the group and they considered each ward in turn taking into account any changes that had been made following the briefing.

Heather and Packington

No changes since the briefing.

The decision to include the proposal as set out in the document was agreed 3 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

Ravenstone and Snibston

No changes since the briefing.

The decision to include the proposal as set out in the document was agreed 3 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

Worthington and Coleorton

No changes since the briefing.

The decision to include the proposal as set out in the document was agreed 3 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

Breedon and Belton

No changes since the briefing.

The decision to include the proposal as set out in the document was agreed 3 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

Castle Rock

No changes since the briefing.

The decision to include the proposal as set out in the document was agreed 3 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

Bardon

No changes since the briefing.

The decision to include the proposal as set out in the document was agreed 3 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

Kegworth

Changes had been following the proposal and were set out in tracked changes in the document. The proposed name change to Kegworth South and Long Whatton was noted.

The group discussed and considered the changes.

The decision to include the proposal as set out in the document, as amended following the briefing, was agreed 3 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

Daleacre Hill

Changes had been made following the briefing and were set out in tracked changes in the document. The proposed name change to Kegworth North and Daleacre Hill was noted.

The group discussed and considered the changes.

The decision to include the proposal as set out in the document, as amended following the briefing, was agreed 3 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

Castle Donington Ward Group

No changes since the briefing.

The decision to include the proposal as set out in the document was agreed 3 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

Measham Ward Group

Changes had been made following the briefing and were set out in tracked changes in the document.

The group discussed and considered the changes.

The decision to include the proposal as set out in the document, as amended following the briefing, was agreed unanimously.

Ashby and Woulds Groups

Changes had been made following the briefing and were set out in tracked changes in the document. As the changes made to the Ashby Wards had a knock-on effect to the Woulds wards later in the document, it was agreed to consider both groupings together.

The group discussed and considered the changes to both groups, including the option of a three-member ward for the Woulds grouping, therefore not splitting any of the communities in that area. Proposed ward names were put forward for Ashby Money Hill (Ashby Knights Chase) and Blackfordby (Ashby Blackfordby Annswell).

Ashby Group

The decision to include the proposals as set out in the document and amended following the briefing, and the name of Ashby Blackfordby Annswell, was agreed unanimously. It was agreed that the current ward member would be consulted on the suggested ward name of Ashby Knights Chase.

Woulds Group

The decision to include the option of a three-member ward for the Woulds group as set out in the document and amended following the briefing was agreed unanimously. It was agreed that the current ward members for the areas included in the new ward be asked to submit suggestions for the ward name.

Coalville Ward Group

Changes had been made following the briefing and were set out in tracked changes in the document.

The group discussed and considered the changes.

The decision to include the proposal for the ward group without the changes following the briefing was agreed 3 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

Ellistown and Ibstock Ward Group

No changes since the briefing.

The decision to include the proposal as set out in the document was agreed 3 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

Whitwick Ward Group

Changes had been made following the briefing and were set out in tracked changes in the document. A verbal update was provided on suggestions that had been made over the weekend, since the publication of the agenda.

The group discussed and considered the changes.

The decision to include the proposal for the ward group without the changes following the briefing was agreed 3 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

Hugglescote Ward Group

Changes had been made following the briefing and were set out in tracked changes in the document.

The group discussed and considered the changes.

The decision to include the proposal as set out in the document, as amended following the briefing, was agreed 3 votes for, with 2 abstentions.

The recommendations were then put to the vote.

An amendment to recommendation 3 was moved by Councillor D Bigby and seconded by Councillor J Legrys to request that a Extraordinary meeting of Council be held in between 7 May and 27 May to consider the Council's submission, therefore allowing more time for consultation on the proposals.

The amendment was put to the vote and LOST.

It was moved Councillor A Woodman, seconded by Councillor K Merrie and

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The comments made by the working party be noted and the final document be updated;
2. Ward members be consulted on ward names as agreed by the working party;
and
3. The document be endorsed for consideration at Annual Council on 7 May 2024.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2.07 pm

Submission on behalf of North West Leicestershire Council

Electoral Review of North West Leicestershire

Warding submission

Version date: 24 April 2024

Introduction

This document contains the warding arrangements developed by North West Leicestershire council in response to the current Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) electoral review. This is the formal submission of the authority, having been approved by Full Council at the meeting of [DATE].

Background

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) are currently undertaking a review of electoral arrangements for the district. This is necessary due to electoral inequality (where some Councillors represent more electors than others) that is outside of the permitted tolerance.

The LGBCE review is split into two phases:

- The first is to determine Council Size – how many Councillors there will be to serve the district. Full Council considered this in January 2024 and, following their decision, a formal submission for 38 Councillors was submitted to the LGBCE. The Commissioners will consider the submission, alongside any other submissions they receive, and decide the future Council Size.
- The second phase is to develop warding patterns. This draws the boundaries for every ward for the district. Officers and the Member Working Group will draw up proposals for consideration by full Council and submission to the LGBCE. This document outlines the process and timing for this stage of the work.

Approach taken

In developing draft ward arrangements, there must be a balance between the three statutory criteria:

- the need to secure equality of representation (taking future growth into account);
- the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
- the need to secure effective and convenient local government.

In developing proposals, we have been mindful of the guidance from the LGBCE (https://www.lgbce.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-06/technical-guidance-june_2023.pdf).

The Council has requested that the review considers implementing single member wards, and although this does not override the statutory criteria, the presumption is that single member wards will be delivered.

Initial proposals were developed by officers, and then discussed and revised through a cross-party Member Working Group. The revised versions have been discussed at a Member briefing, open to all Councillors, before being finalised ahead of debate at Full Council.

In drafting the proposals in this document, we have:

- Reviewed where existing wards can remain unchanged and remain within the electoral equality criteria, on the basis that if change to boundaries is not necessary then it makes sense to retain them (leading to more effective and convenient local government, and on the basis the previous boundaries would have been drawn to reflect local community interests originally).
- Grouped smaller parishes together to create new or amended wards.
- Agreed that, as far as possible, rural parishes will not be merged with parts of more urban towns simply to balance the electorates, recognising the different identities, interests and concerns between rural and urban populations.
- Identified areas of the District where a new split of parishes will be required to ensure electoral equality (for example, Castle Donington will have three Councillors). New wards are based, where possible, on existing wards in these areas taking the three statutory criteria into account and other identifiable features and landmarks.

There is a balance to be made in each of these steps, and 'fixing' any ward arrangements has a knock-on effect across the District. It is important to recognise that almost every ward will be changed through this process, even where the current ward has good electoral equality.

The LGBCE have expressed that warding arrangements are often the 'least worst' configuration, particularly for areas that are complex. There is, therefore, a degree of compromise and flexibility required in developing warding patterns.

The expectation is that in 2030, every ward will have a variance less than $\pm 10\%$, although the other statutory criteria are also balanced in the overall consideration of warding arrangements.

Existing parishes



Warding arrangements

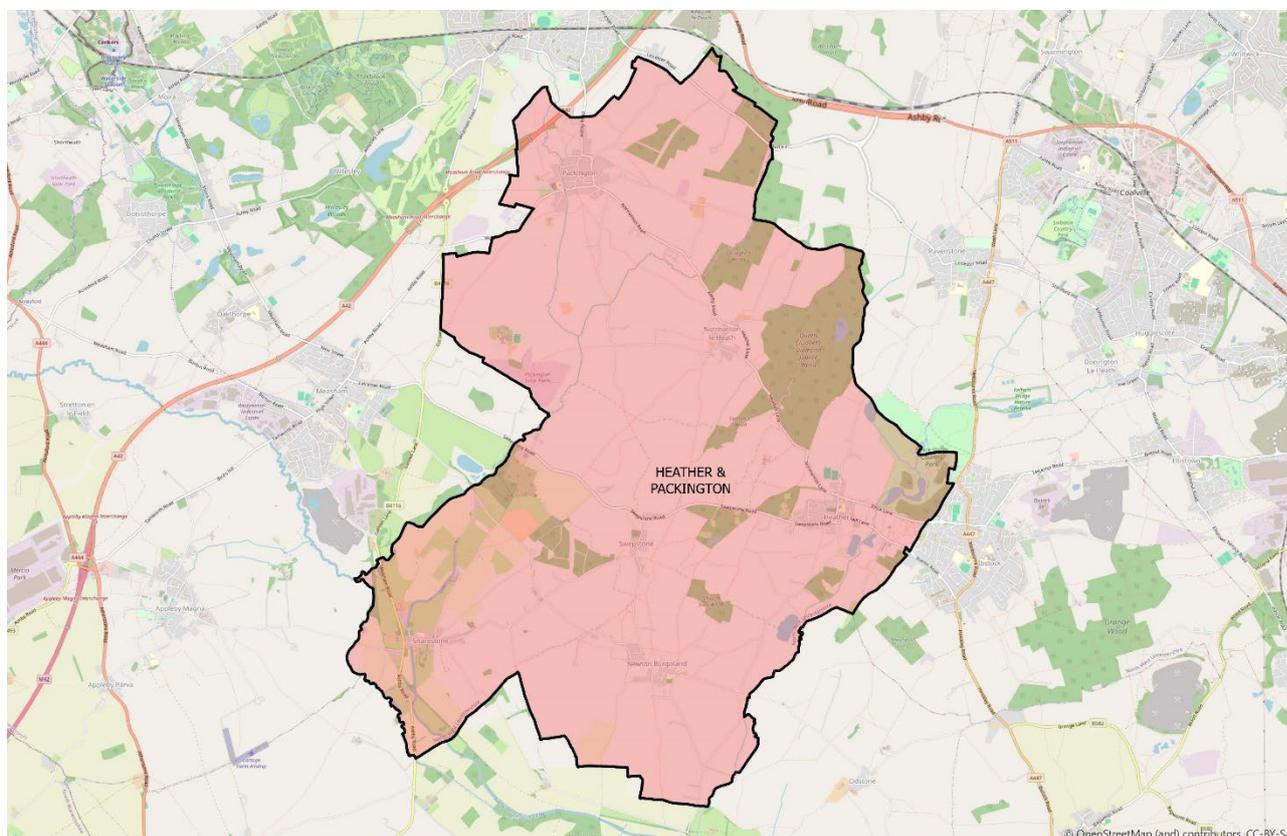
Introduction

The pages that follow show each proposed ward, or group of wards, in turn along with a summary about the ward and justification for the proposed configuration. In each case, the current Councillors that serve the area are included. This is for information only, to enable Councillors and members of the public to easily identify their own local area.

Considerable work has been undertaken to explore how rural parishes can be grouped to create wards with an acceptable electoral variance. There are, however, very few possible configurations that work across the entire District. It is important to recognise that some existing combinations of parishes cannot continue under the new warding arrangements, and some parish wards are placed into different wards, due to the need for electoral equality across the entire district area.

HEATHER & PACKINGTON

Ward	Electorate 2023	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
HEATHER & PACKINGTON	2458	14%	2458	3%



This ward comprises the parishes of Heather, Packington, Snarestone, and Swebstone & Newton Burgoland, and the unparished community of Normanton le Heath. To the west is the urban area of Measham, to the north-west is Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and to the east the communities of Ibstock.

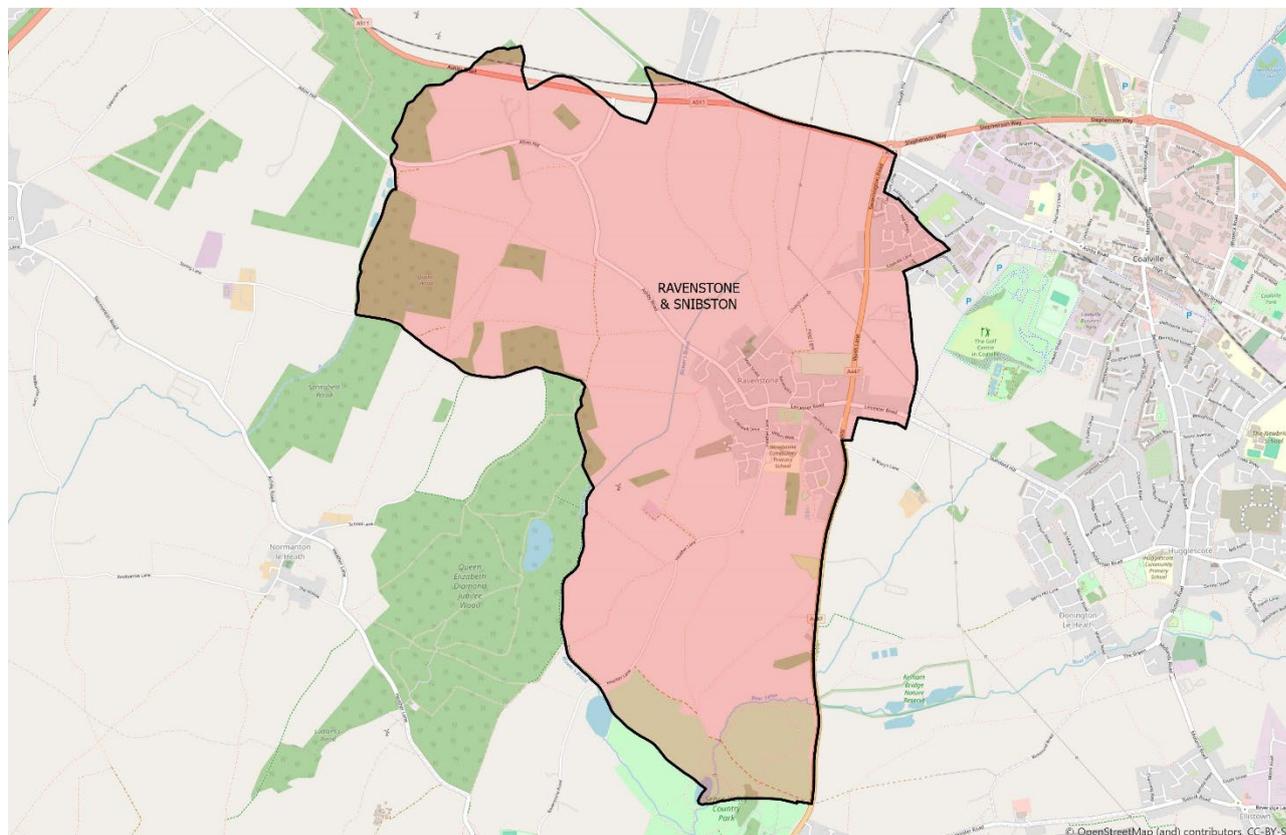
Whilst this ward includes parts of three former wards, it includes only rural parish areas which appear to have closer affiliation with each other than the nearby urban centres, all of which have good rural road links between them. The matters of concern in Heather are more similar to those in Swebstone than in the more urban areas of Ibstock or Measham, for example.

This ward includes parts of the following current wards:

Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Appleby	Cllr Richard Blunt
Sence Valley	Cllr Guy Rogers
Ravenstone & Packington	Cllr Nigel Smith

RAVENSTONE & SNIBSTON

Ward	Electorate 2023	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
RAVENSTONE & SNIBSTON	2187	1%	2224	-7%



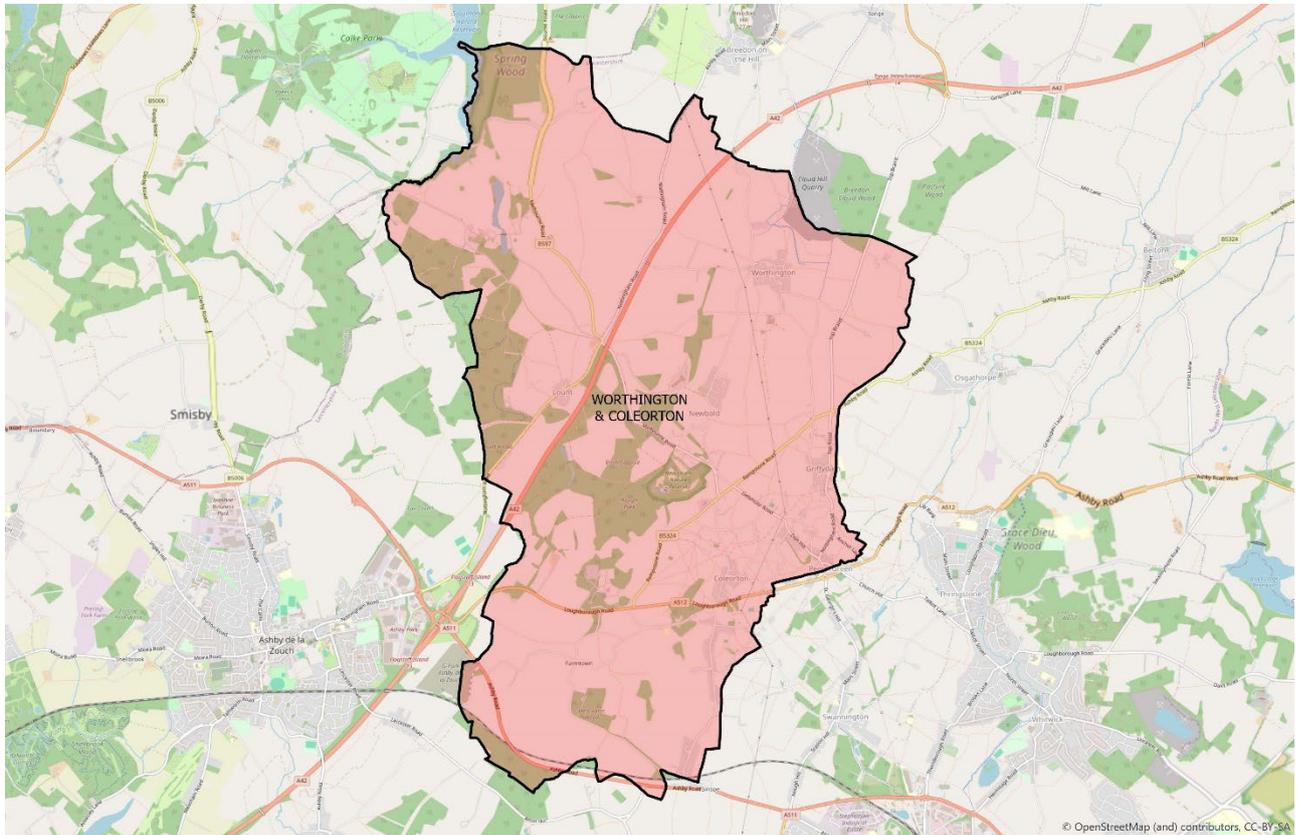
This ward comprises the parish of Ravenstone with Snibston. In the current warding arrangement, this parish is split between two different district wards. This new arrangement brings both parts of the parish back into a single member ward. This better reflects the identities and interests of the communities, and supports effective and convenient local government – it is much easier for electors and elected representatives where entire parishes are within the same ward (where possible).

This ward includes parts of the following current wards:

Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Ravenstone & Packington	Cllr Nigel Smith
Snibston North	Cllr John Geary

WORTHINGTON & COLEORTON

Ward	Electorate 2023	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
WORTHINGTON & COLEORTON	2355	9%	2355	-1%



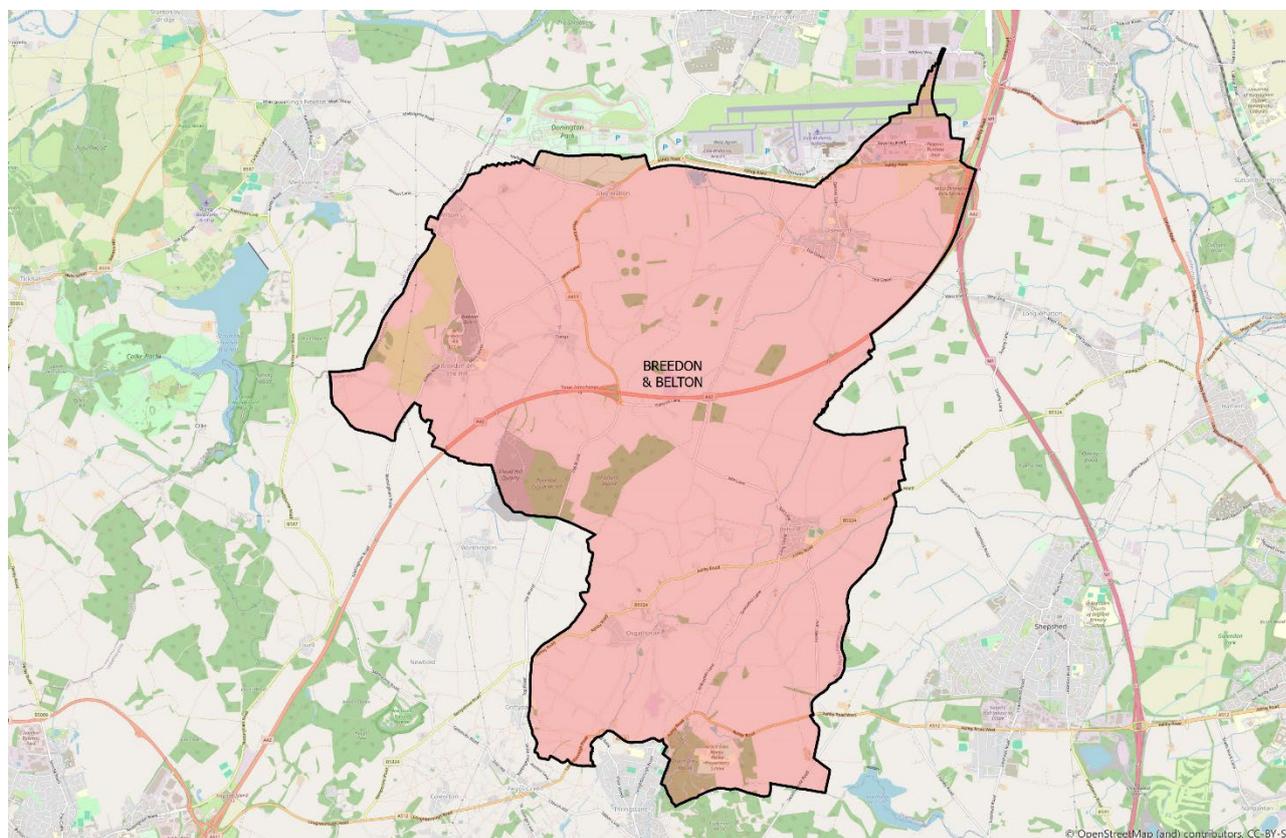
This ward comprises the parishes of Coleorton and Worthington, and the unparished community of Staunton Harold. Coleorton was previously split between two wards. As with other examples in this proposal, bringing the entire parish into one ward benefits both the residents and elected representatives and ensures more effective and convenient local governance.

This ward includes parts of the following current wards:

Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Valley	Cllr Russell Boam
Worthington & Breedon	Cllr Ray Morris

BREEDON & BELTON

Ward	Electorate 2023	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
BREEDON & BELTON	2545	18%	2580	8%



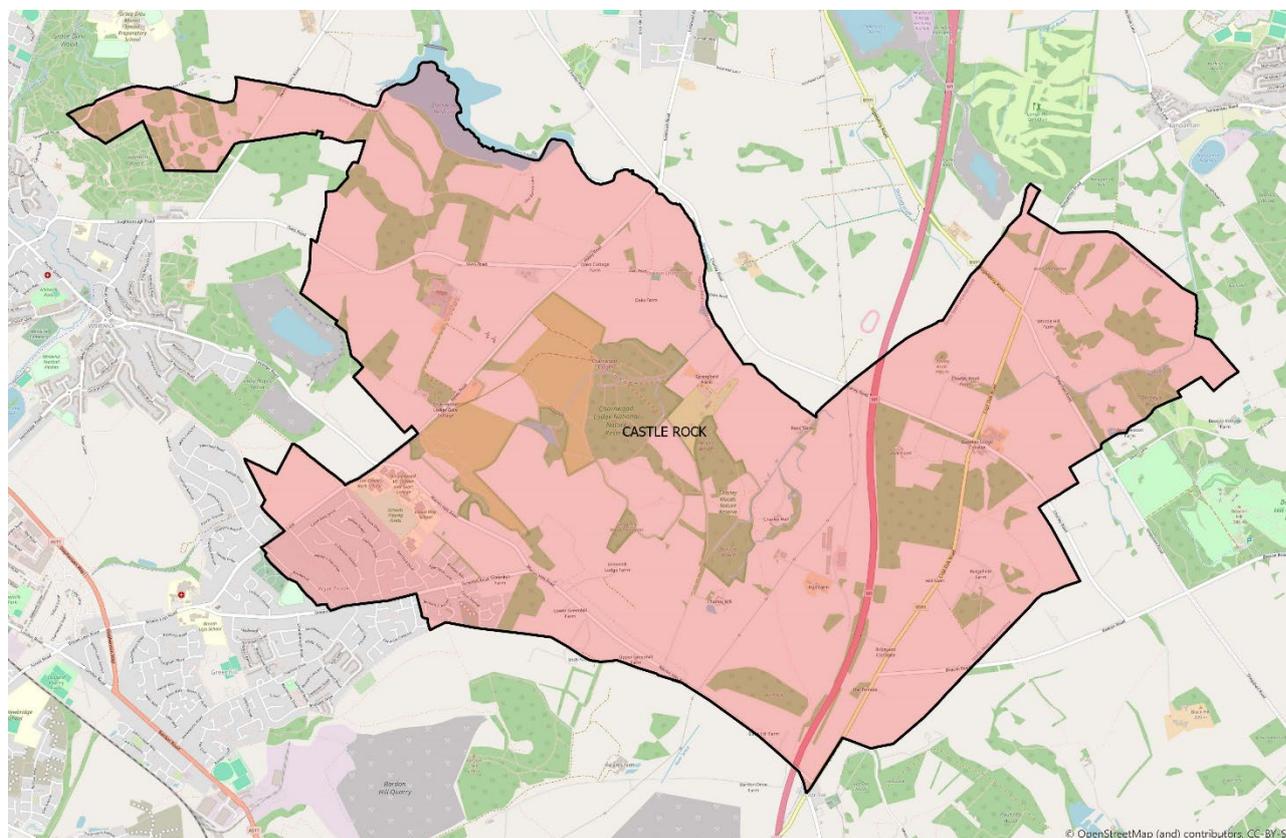
This ward includes the parishes of Belton, Breedon on the Hill, and Osgathorpe, plus the Diseworth ward of Long Whatton & Diseworth parish. Geographically this is a large ward, comprising a number of relatively sparsely populated parishes and communities. These rural areas are more closely aligned with each other than with the urban communities they border.

This ward includes parts of the following current wards:

Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Worthington & Breedon	Cllr Ray Morris
Long Whatton & Diseworth	Cllr Nicholas Rushton
Valley	Cllr Russell Boam

CASTLE ROCK

Ward	Electorate 2023	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
CASTLE ROCK	2229	3%	2359	-1%



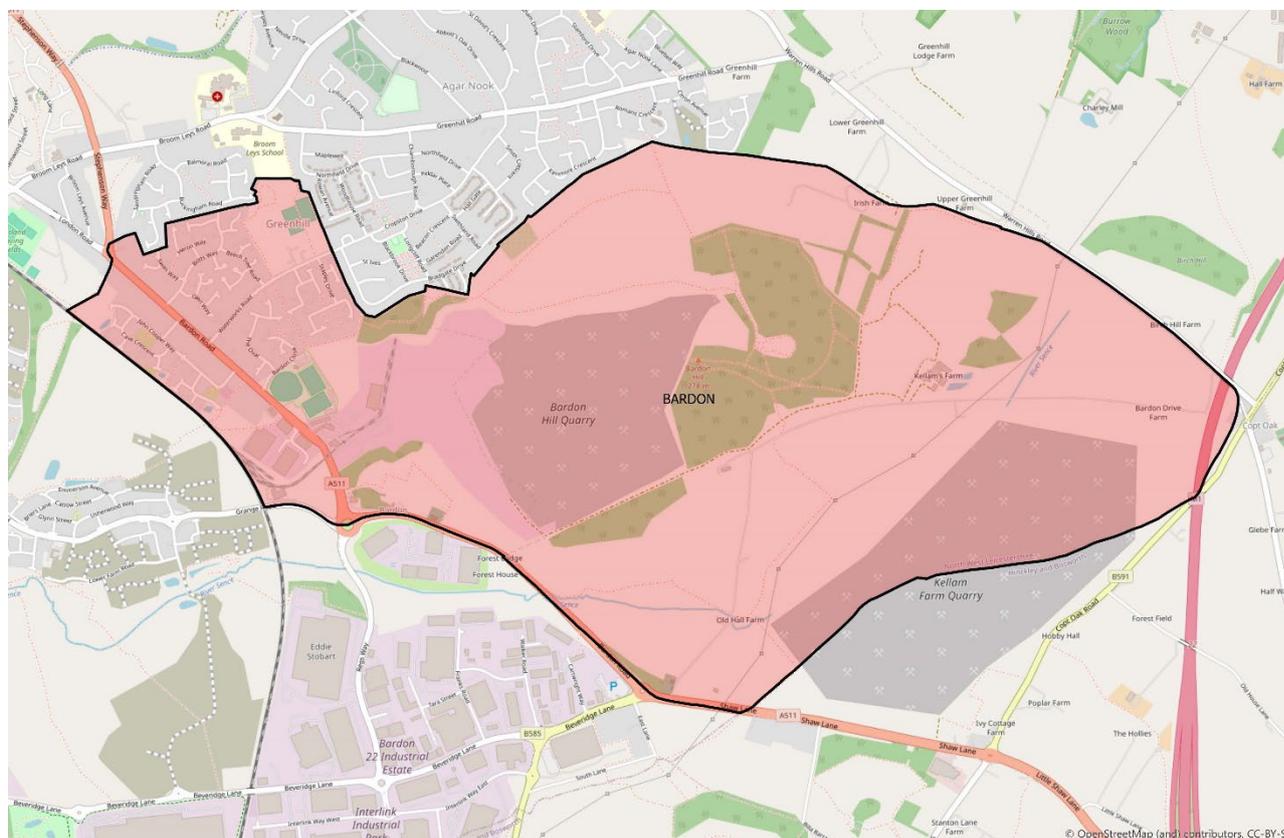
This ward is largely unchanged from the current ward, and includes the parish of Charley and part of Coalville. One small adjustment moves the boundary between Castle Rock and Broom Leys from the centre of the Blackwood road such that properties on both sides of the road are in Castle Rock. This affects 89 electors, but reflects the fact that the residents of Blackwood consider themselves part of the Castle Rock community regardless of which side of the road they live on. Blackwood is not a natural barrier between communities, with the open spaces of the cricket ground and cemetery being clear demarcations between the two communities.

This ward includes parts of the following current wards:

Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Castle Rock	Cllr Michael Wyatt

BARDON

Ward	Electorate 2023	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
BARDON	2256	4%	2440	2%



This ward is largely unchanged from the current ward, and includes the unparished area of Bardon, and part of Coalville. The one adjustment is that the whole of Cropston Drive is now included in Greenhill ward; it is currently split with a small number of properties (and 21 electors) in Bardon. The revised boundary is more logical and ensures the entire road (including both sides of the road) is within the same ward.

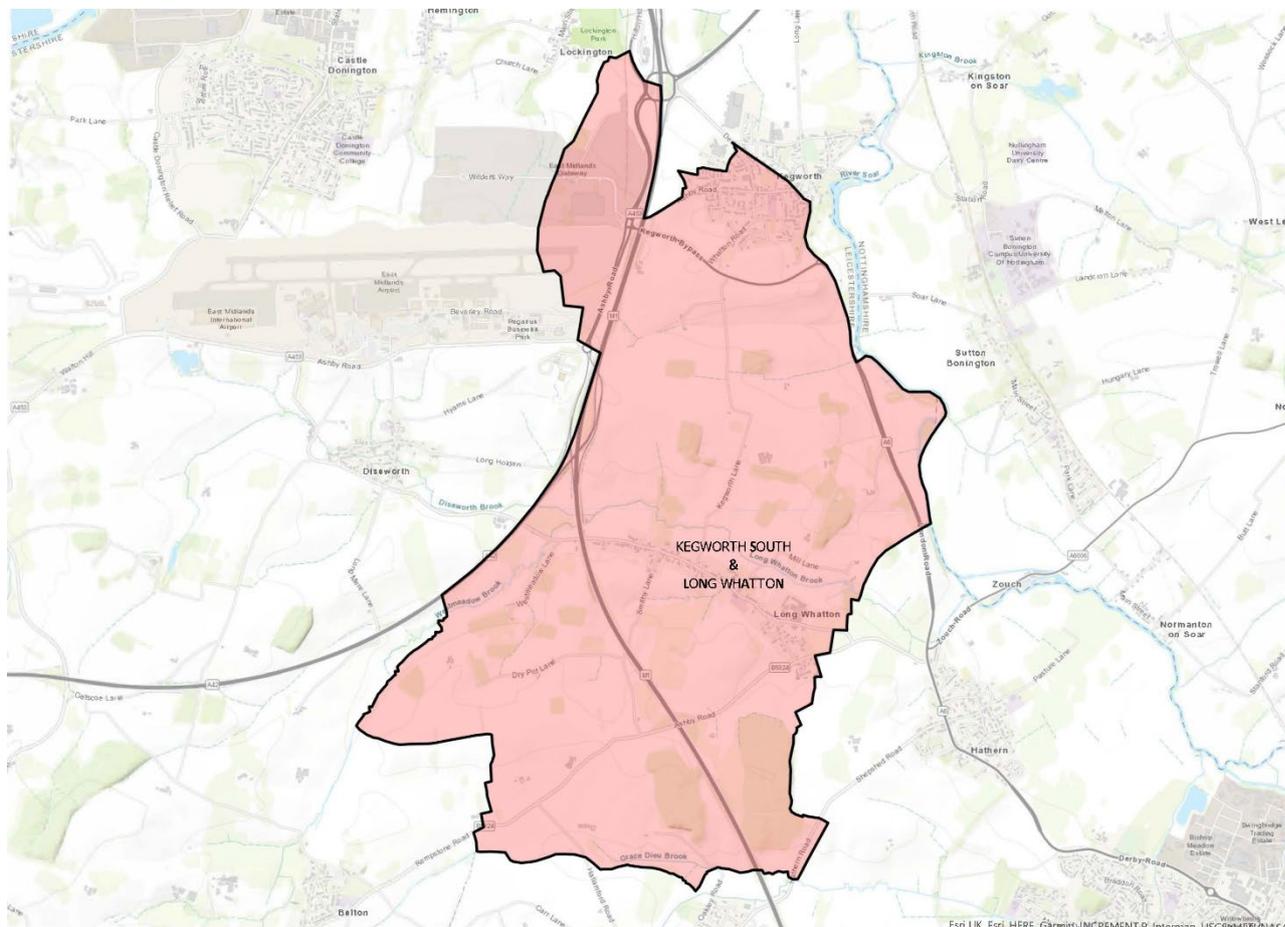
This ward includes parts of the following current wards:

Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Bardon	CIlr Morgan Burke

KEGWORTH SOUTH AND LONG WHATTON

Ward	Electorate 2023*	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
KEGWORTH SOUTH AND LONG WHATTON	2662	23%	2573	8%

* Based on current ward boundaries, not revised.



This ward includes the current South ward of Kegworth parish, and the Long Whatton ward of Long Whatton & Diseworth parish. However, this gives a variance of +11%, which means there are too many electors in this ward at present. Therefore, the boundary between Kegworth North and Kegworth South will be adjusted to transfer electors from the south to the north, giving greater electoral equality in this area. This electoral imbalance can be resolved by adjusting the boundary slightly:

- Pritchard Drive moves to Daleacre Hill ward instead of Kegworth ward; this is relatively self-contained in that it does not link to other residential roads in Kegworth, and is accessible by vehicle only from Packington Hill close to Derby Road, which is the current boundary between the wards.
- The new developments planned to the west of Pritchard Drive will be accessible only from the north and south access roads, with no direct link to the rest of Kegworth

ward. These, too, therefore move to Daleacre Hill as they become a self-contained group of properties.

- To ensure the boundary between the two wards is clear and reflects the natural boundaries whilst delivering electoral equality, the western boundary then follows the M1 south to the parish boundary.

Whilst this new arrangement splits Kegworth parish, this is already the case in the existing warding arrangements.

Members suggested retaining the area west of the M1 in Kegworth ward, as this includes part of the airport which can cause issues for local residents of Kegworth. Local representation suggested that including the airport within the ward gives a greater opportunity for the views of local residents of Kegworth to be represented in discussions regarding the airport. As a result, the boundary between Kegworth and Daleacre Hill now reverts to the parish boundary. There are no electors in this area. Consideration has been given to tidying-up what is currently the northern part of Long Whatton & Diseworth parish as it extends over the airport; however, the communities in that parish are also affected by the airport and ensuring they have representatives covering the airport area ensures local voices can be heard.

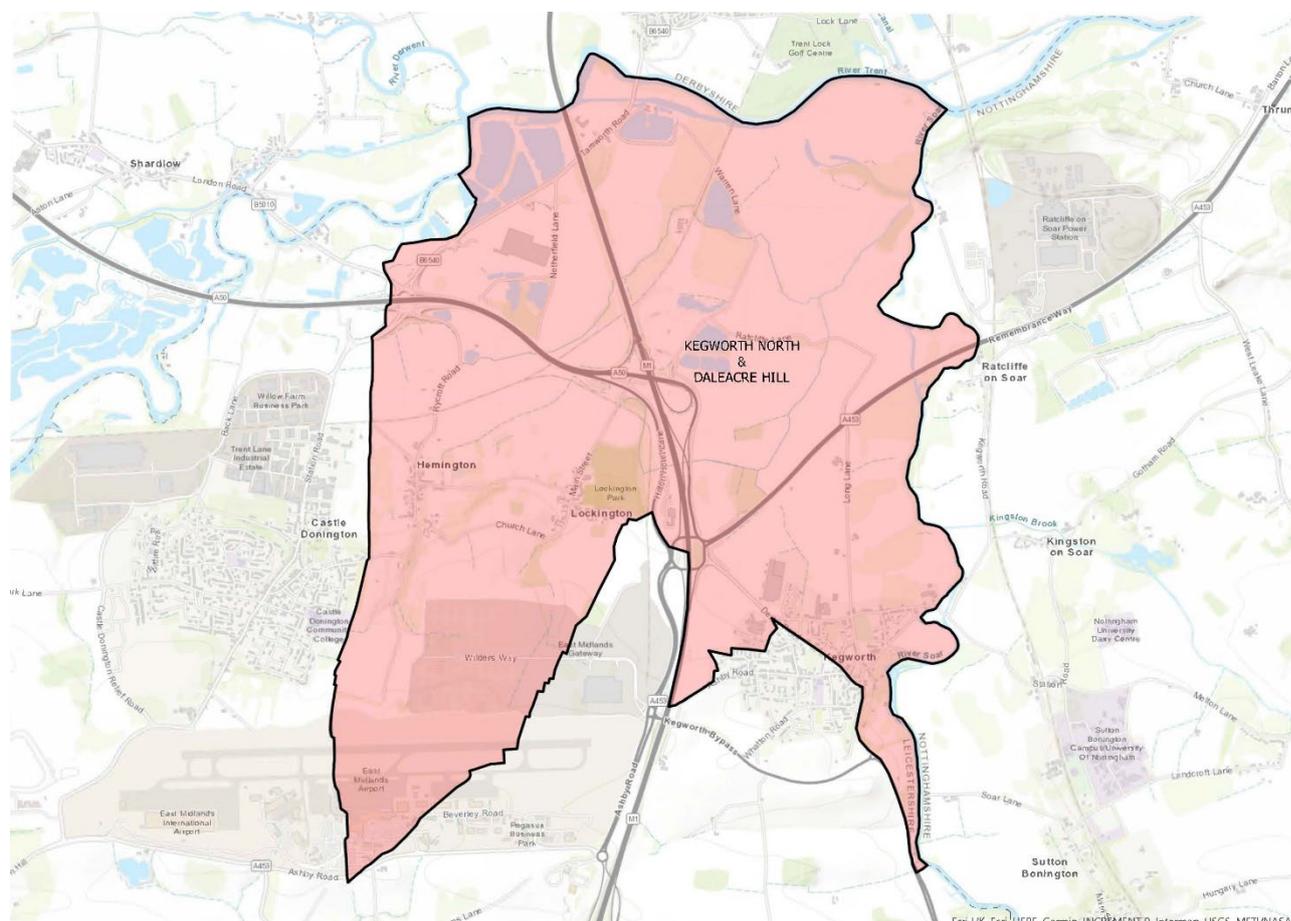
This ward includes parts of the following current wards:

Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Kegworth	Cllr Ray Sutton
Long Whatton & Diseworth	Cllr Nicholas Rushton

KEGWORTH NORTH & DALEACRE HILL

Ward	Electorate 2023*	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
KEGWORTH NORTH & DALEACRE HILL	1960	-9%	2552	7%

* Based on current ward boundaries, not revised.



This ward is based on the current ward. It includes the parish of Lockington & Hemington and the current North ward of Kegworth parish. However, this gives a variance of -11%, which means there are too few electors in this ward at present. Therefore, the boundary between Kegworth North and Kegworth South will be adjusted as noted above in 'Kegworth'.

This ensures the whole of the existing ward is kept together, with a slight extension due to electoral inequality. The new development now included in the proposed Daleacre Hill has yet to be built, and so the residents of the site will not have the close affiliation with Kegworth that some of the more established communities do. In addition, this site is only accessible from the north or south access routes, and not directly east into Kegworth. As such, being a distinct community, it's link to Daleacre Hill via this warding arrangement leads to electoral equality without compromising on local representation.

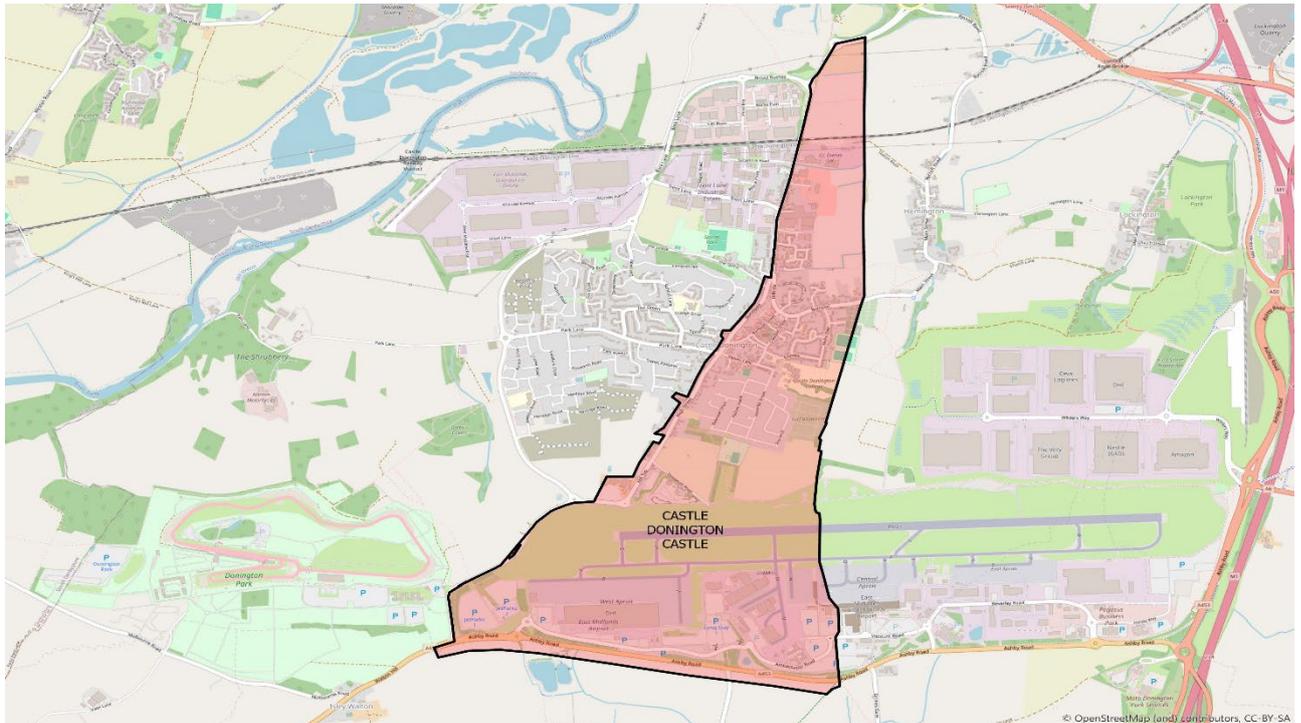
This ward includes parts of the following current wards:

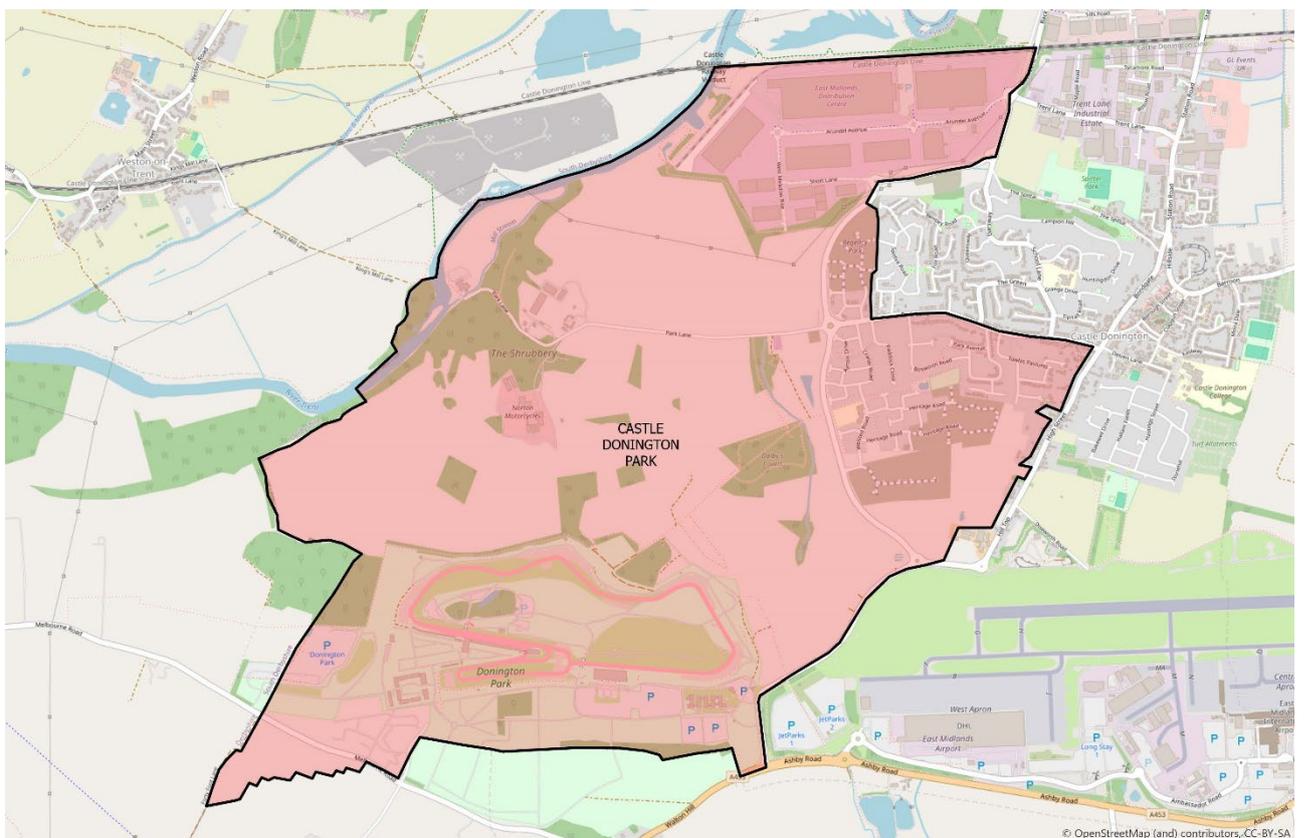
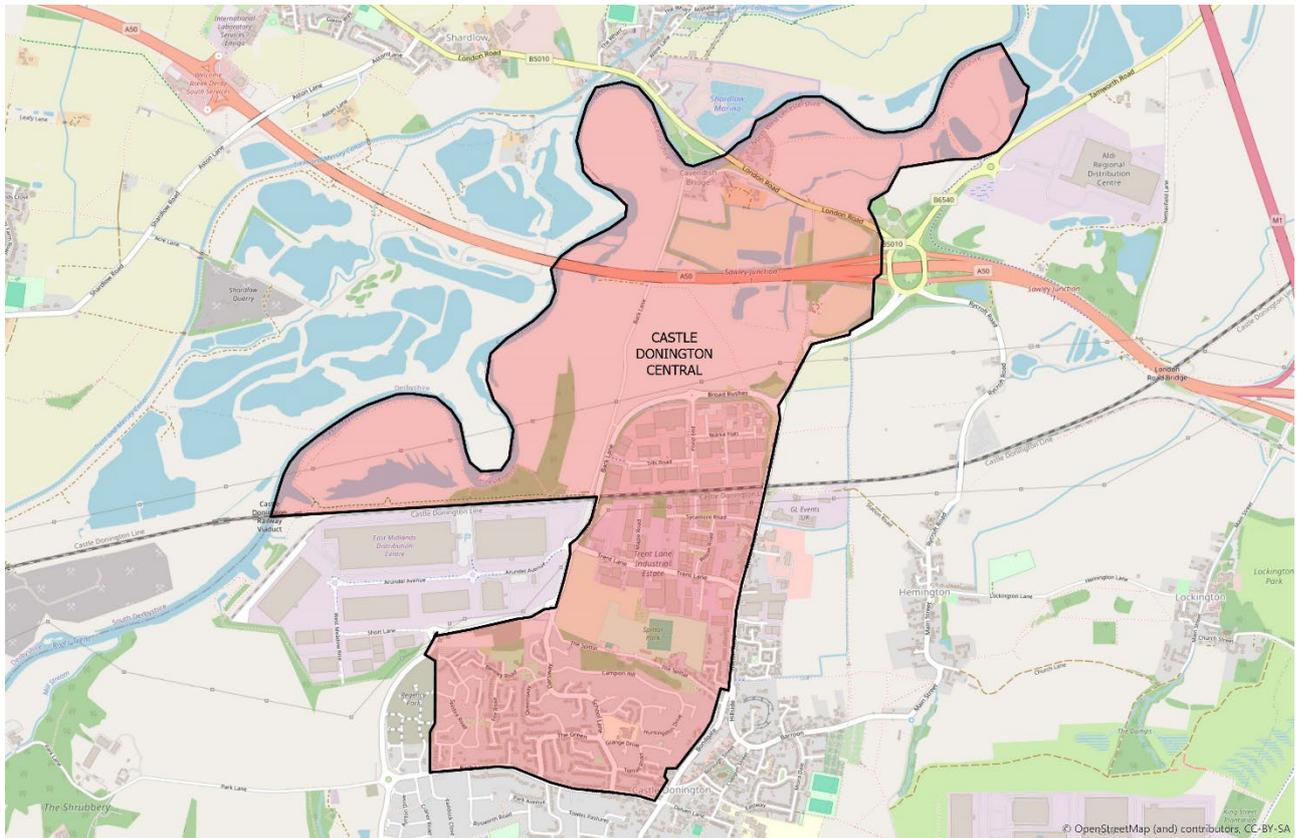
Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Kegworth	Cllr Ray Sutton
Daleacre Hill	Cllr Carol Sewell

GROUP: CASTLE DONINGTON

Ward	Electorate 2023*	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
CASTLE DONINGTON CASTLE	2040	-6%	2161	-10%
CASTLE DONINGTON CENTRAL	1916	-11%	2298	-4%
CASTLE DONINGTON PARK	2104	-3%	2198	-8%

* Based on current ward boundaries, not revised.





Castle Donington is a discrete town in the north of the district, forming a triangle bordered on one side by the district boundary, on the second by Daleacre Hill, and the third by Breedon & Belton. As a more urban centre, the concerns and priorities of residents in Castle Donington are different to those of the more rural communities in neighbouring parishes. As a result, a

priority has been to adjust the wards within Castle Donington without extending any outside of the parish boundary.

The town has two main possible 'natural boundaries' – the main road, which runs north-south, and the railway running east-west. However, neither divide the town into appropriately-sized communities for new wards. Existing wards have therefore been used as a basis for creating new possible wards.

The revised Central ward include the roads off Spitfire Road. This tidies the boundary which currently cuts off the end of Bentley Road, and brings the whole of this distinct community into the same ward.

To adjust the electorate figures, a small number of properties (the western edge of Bondgate) are moved from Central to Castle. This means the rear of the properties are the new boundary, rather than the middle of the Bondgate road.

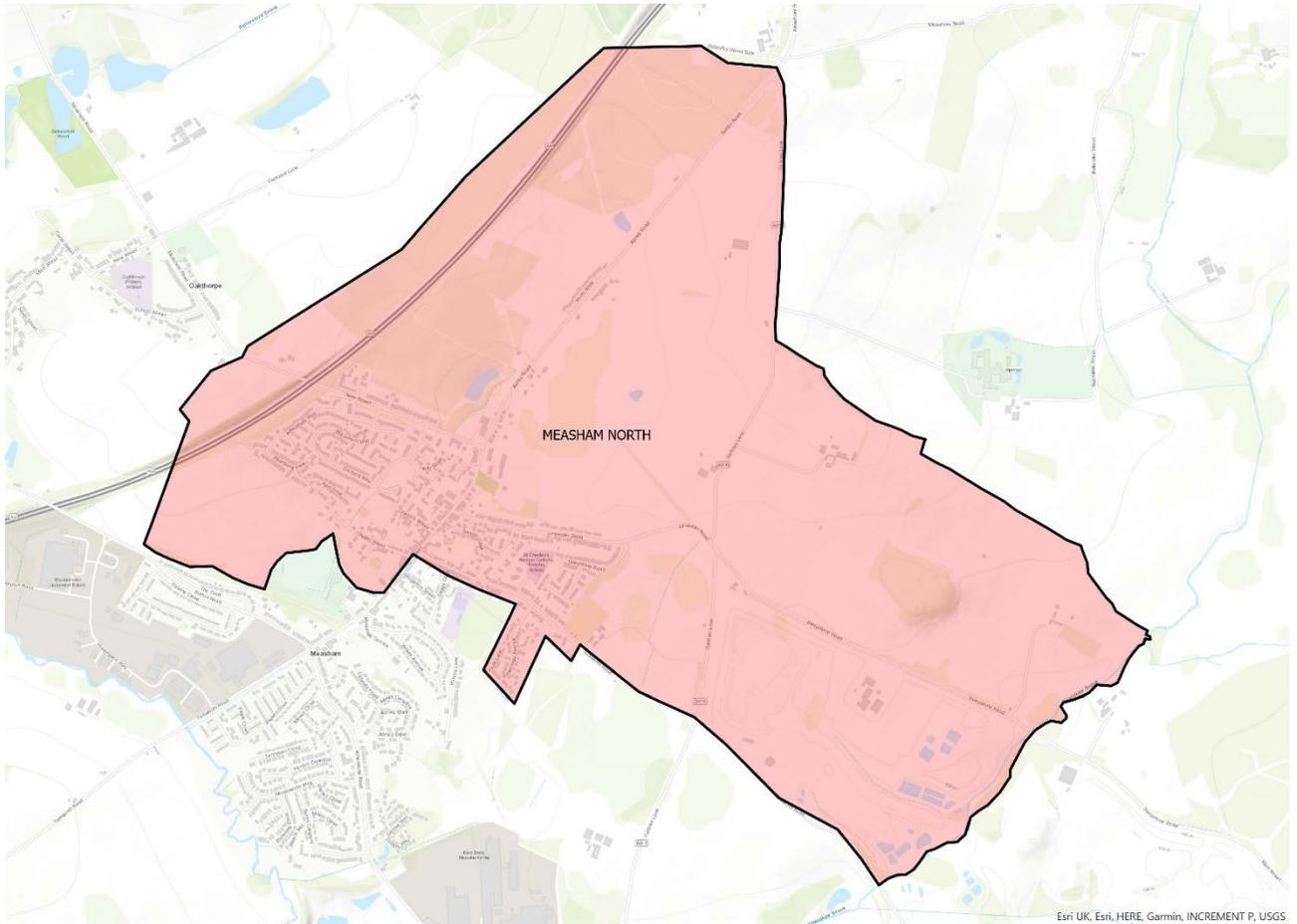
To equalise electorates, the boundary between Park and Castle is also adjusted, to run behind the properties on the western side of High Street and Hill Top, bringing both sides of the road into Castle ward.

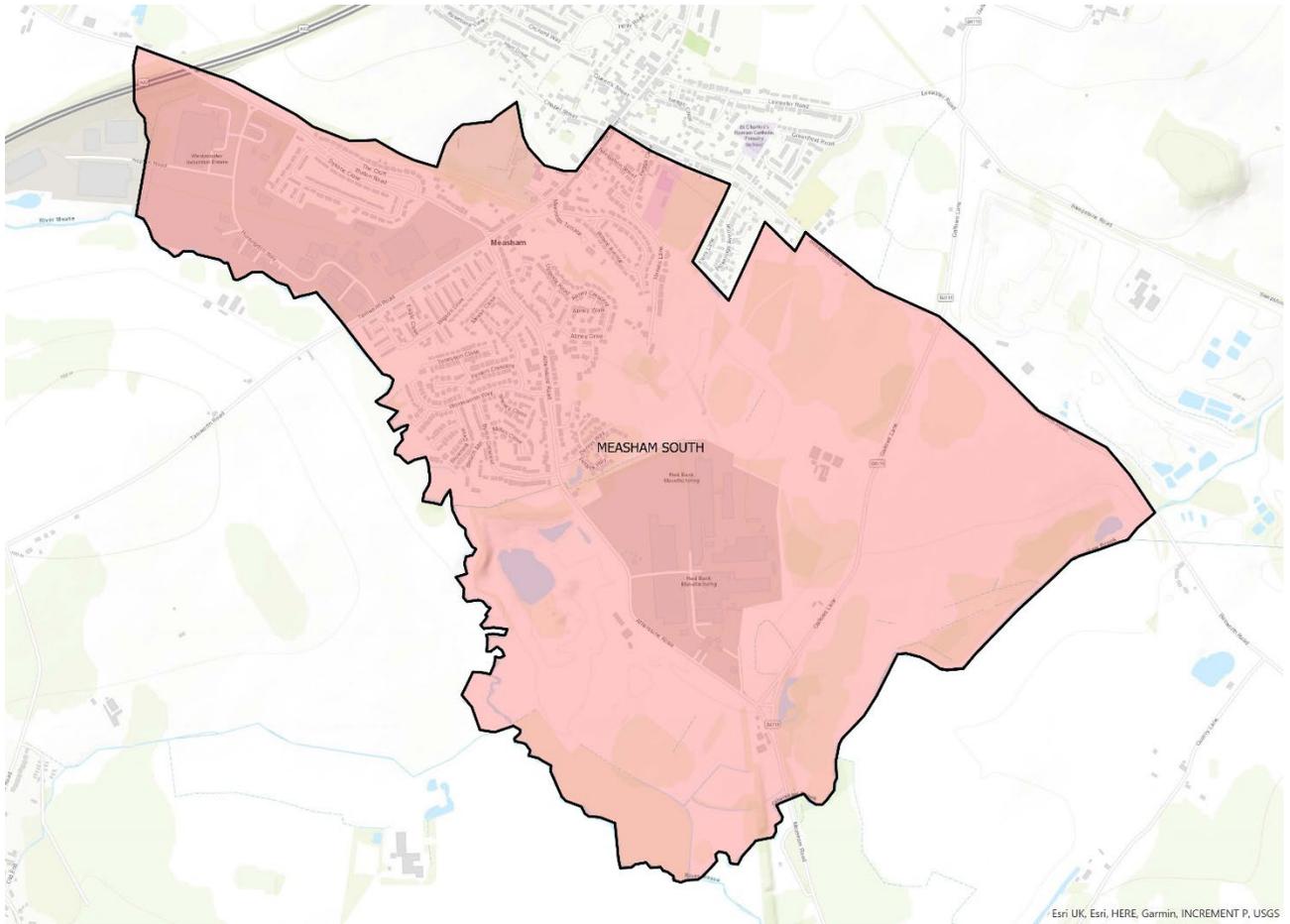
Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Castle Donington Castle	Cllr Tony Saffell
Castle Donington Central	Cllr Rachel Canny
Castle Donington Park	Cllr Alison Morley

GROUP: MEASHAM

Ward	Electorate 2023*	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
MEASHAM NORTH	2067	-4%	2177	-9%
MEASHAM SOUTH	2031	-6%	2387	0%

* Based on current ward boundaries, not revised.





Measham is a town which will be served by two councillors in two single-member wards. If no changes are made to the boundary between the north and south wards, the electoral variance in 2030 will be +6% and -15% respectively, owing to the large development taking place in the north ward. To balance the electorates between the two wards, a relatively small number of electors need to be moved. Having reviewed the current ward boundaries and borders and communities within Measham, there is one small change that creates electoral equality whilst supporting the cohesiveness of communities in the town.

The small area to be moved is between the current boundary which runs along Navigation Road, to the centre of Bosworth Road, following this to the eastern boundary of the parish. This change also removes the anomaly in which the properties on Horses Lane will be included in the same ward as their neighbours in Wilkes Avenue and Abney Crescent.

Local members felt that placing the new ward boundary along the centre of Bosworth Road may be unhelpful, as both sides of the road are affected by the same local issues (such as speeding). As a result, the revised boundary is proposed to include both sides of Bosworth

Road. This adds an additional 102 electors to Measham South (variance 0%) from Measham North (variance -9%).

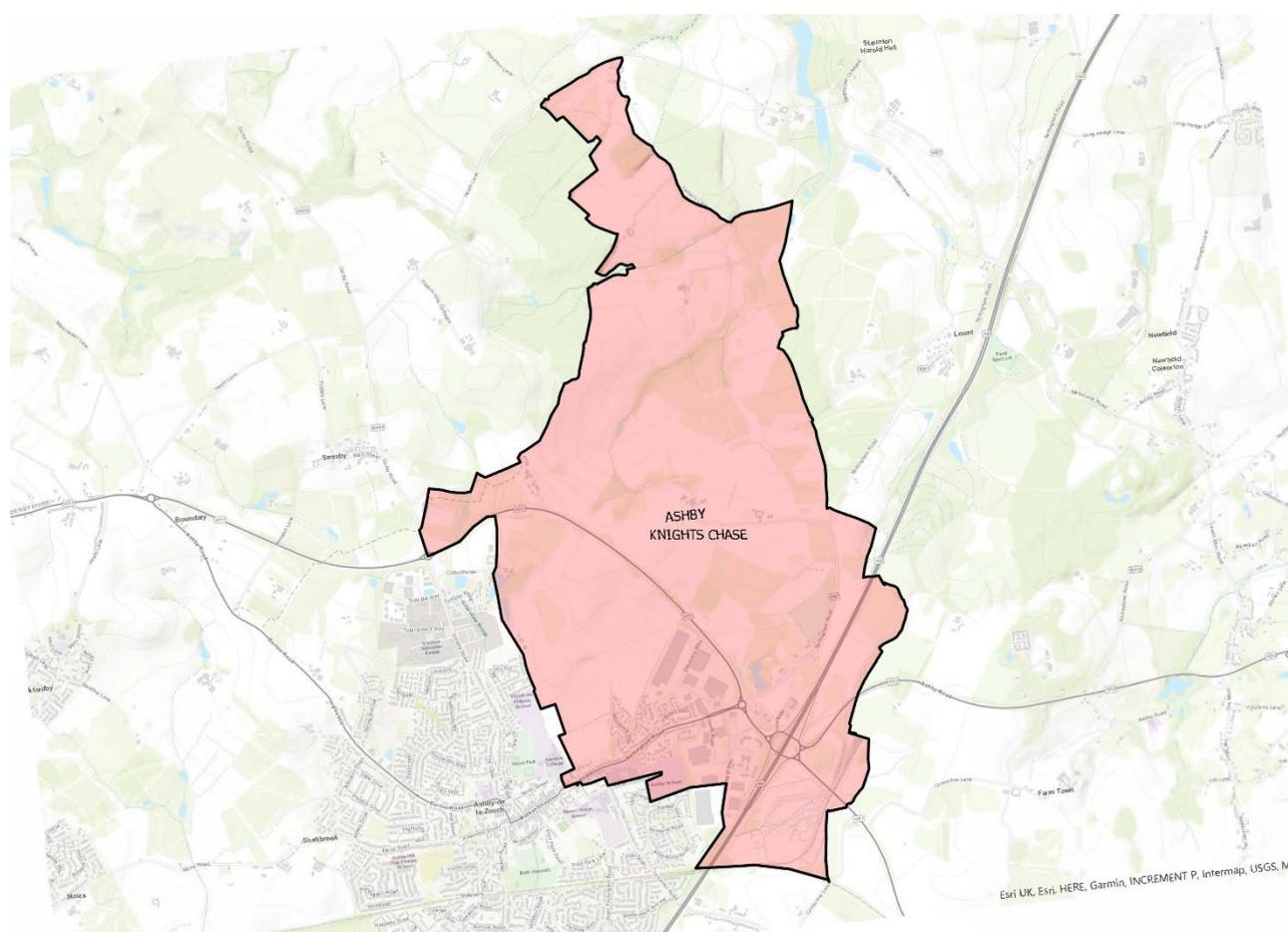
One local Member also felt that Pickerings Avenue and Centenary Place are more closely affiliated with the North than the South of Measham; however these roads run directly from Bosworth Road and the identity is aligned to that street rather. Any alternative split would require parts of the north-west of Measham becoming part of Measham South, which would affect communities across a wider area.

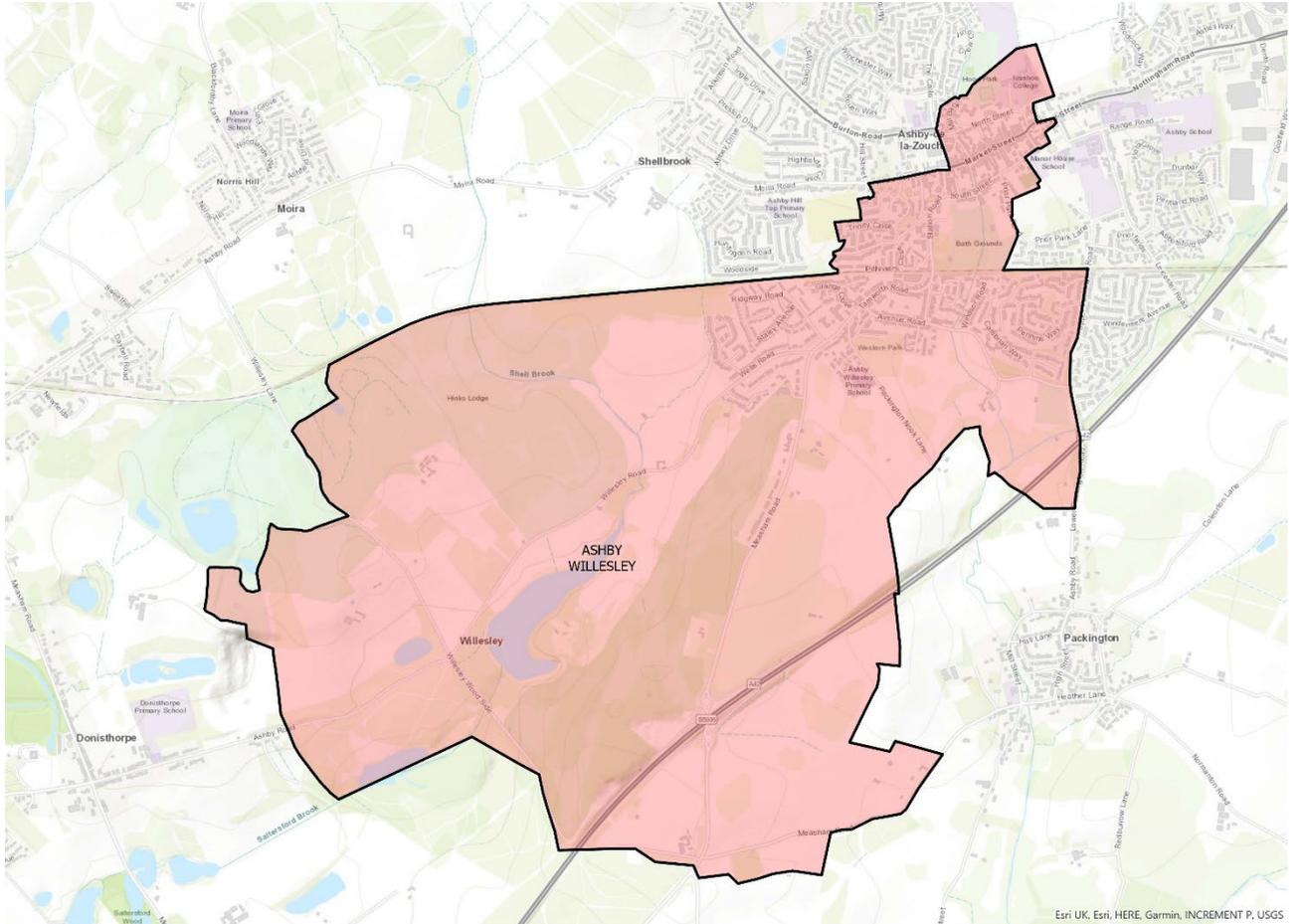
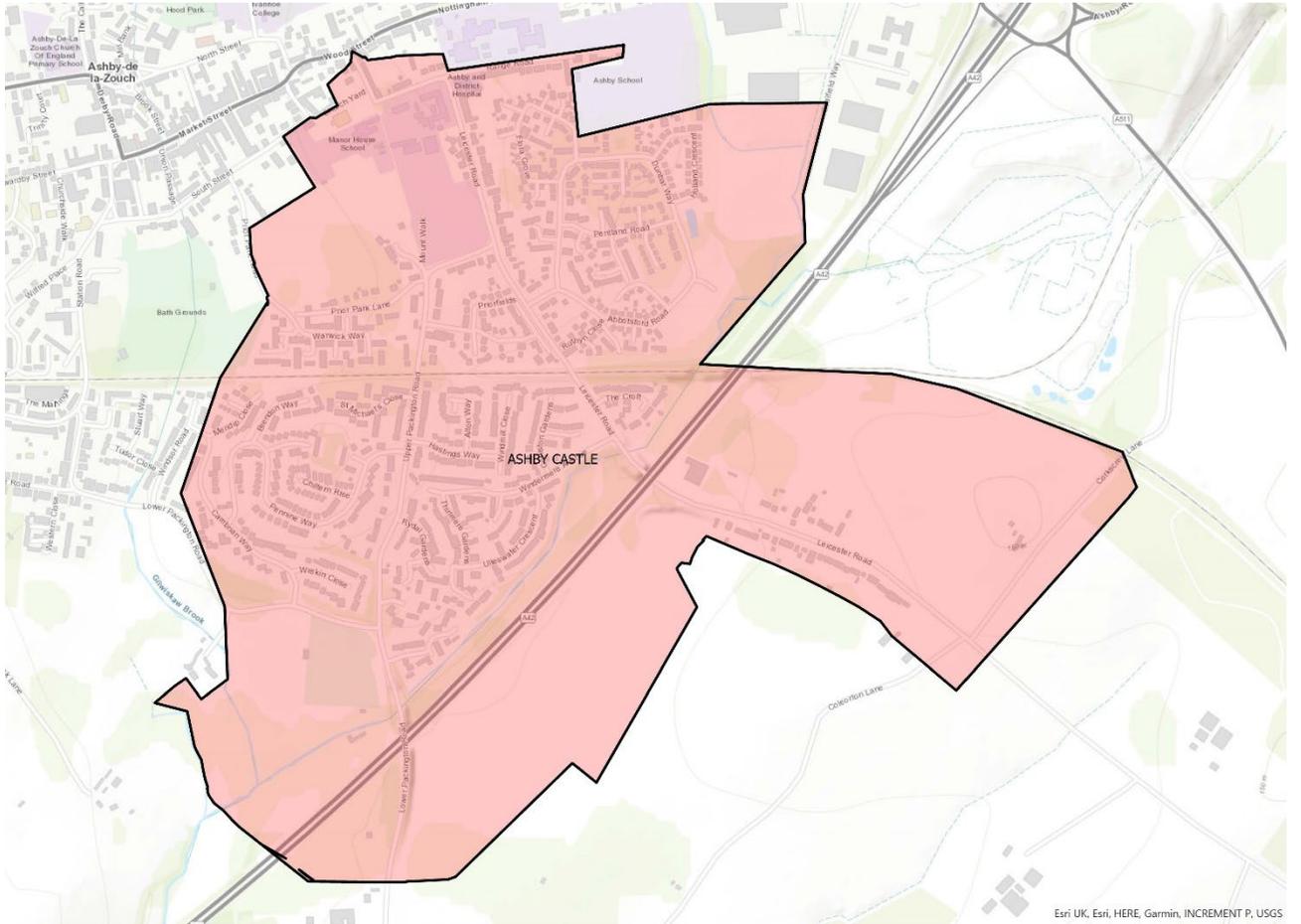
Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Measham North	Cllr Paul Lees
Measham South	Cllr Sean Sheahan

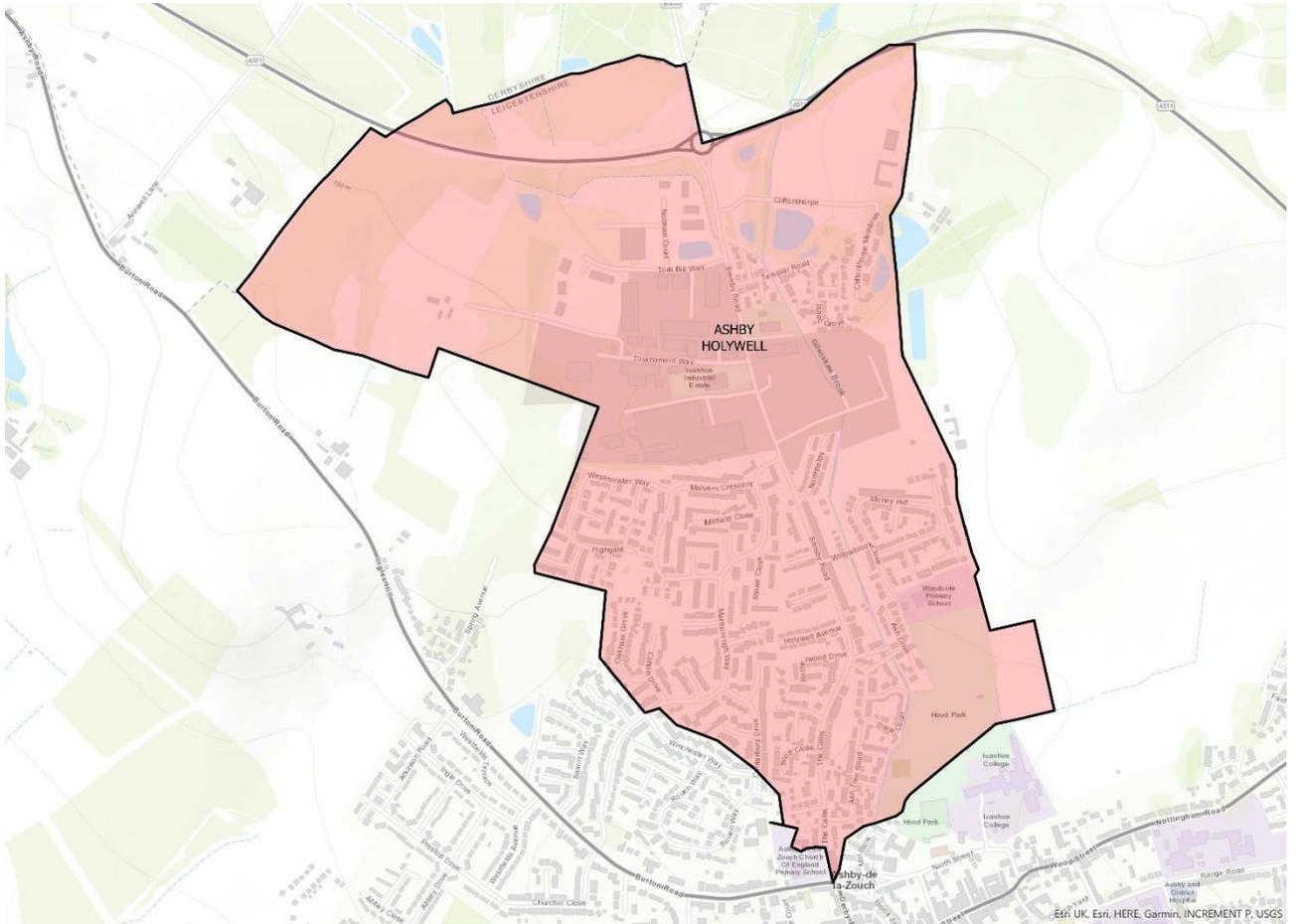
GROUP: ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH

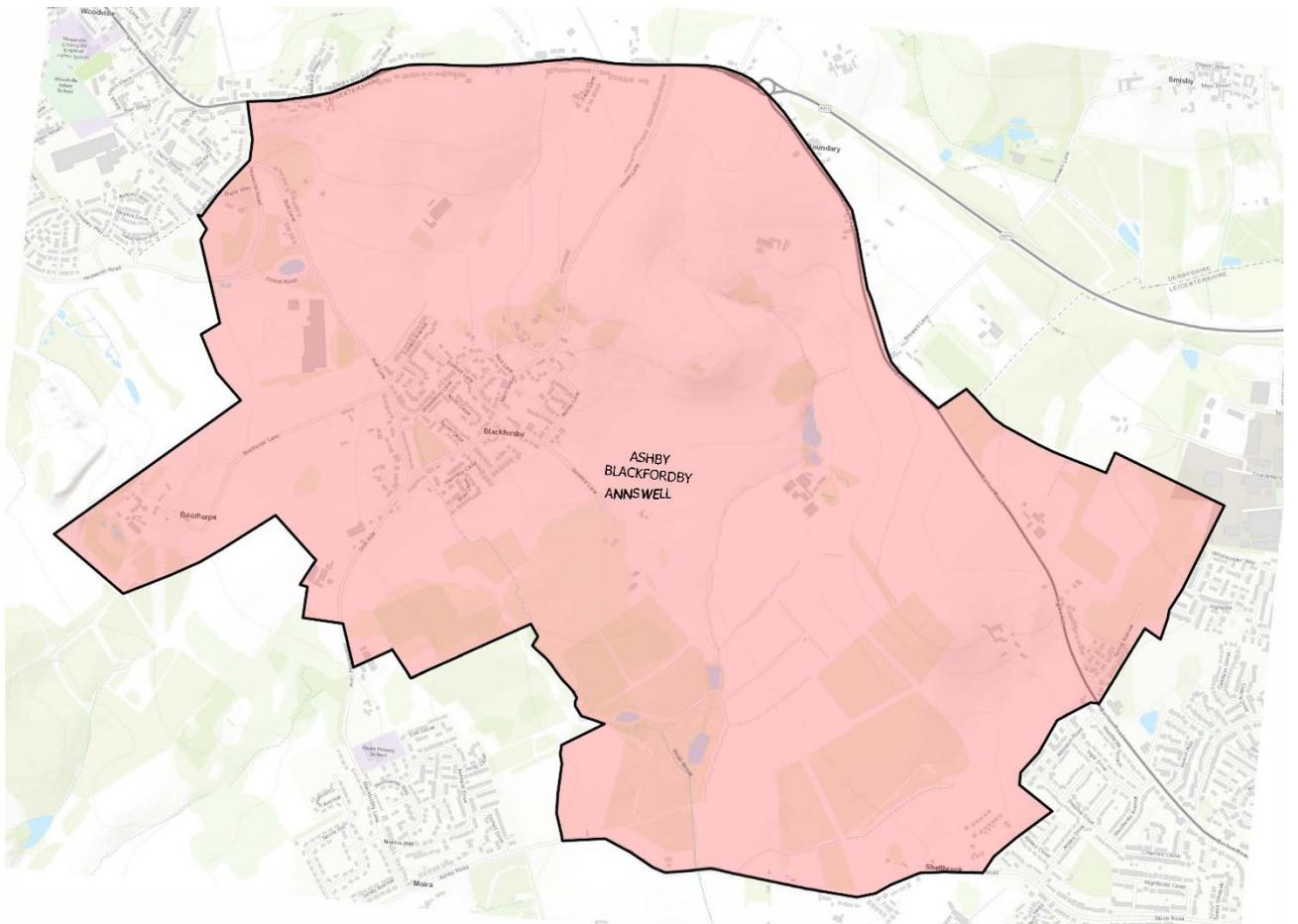
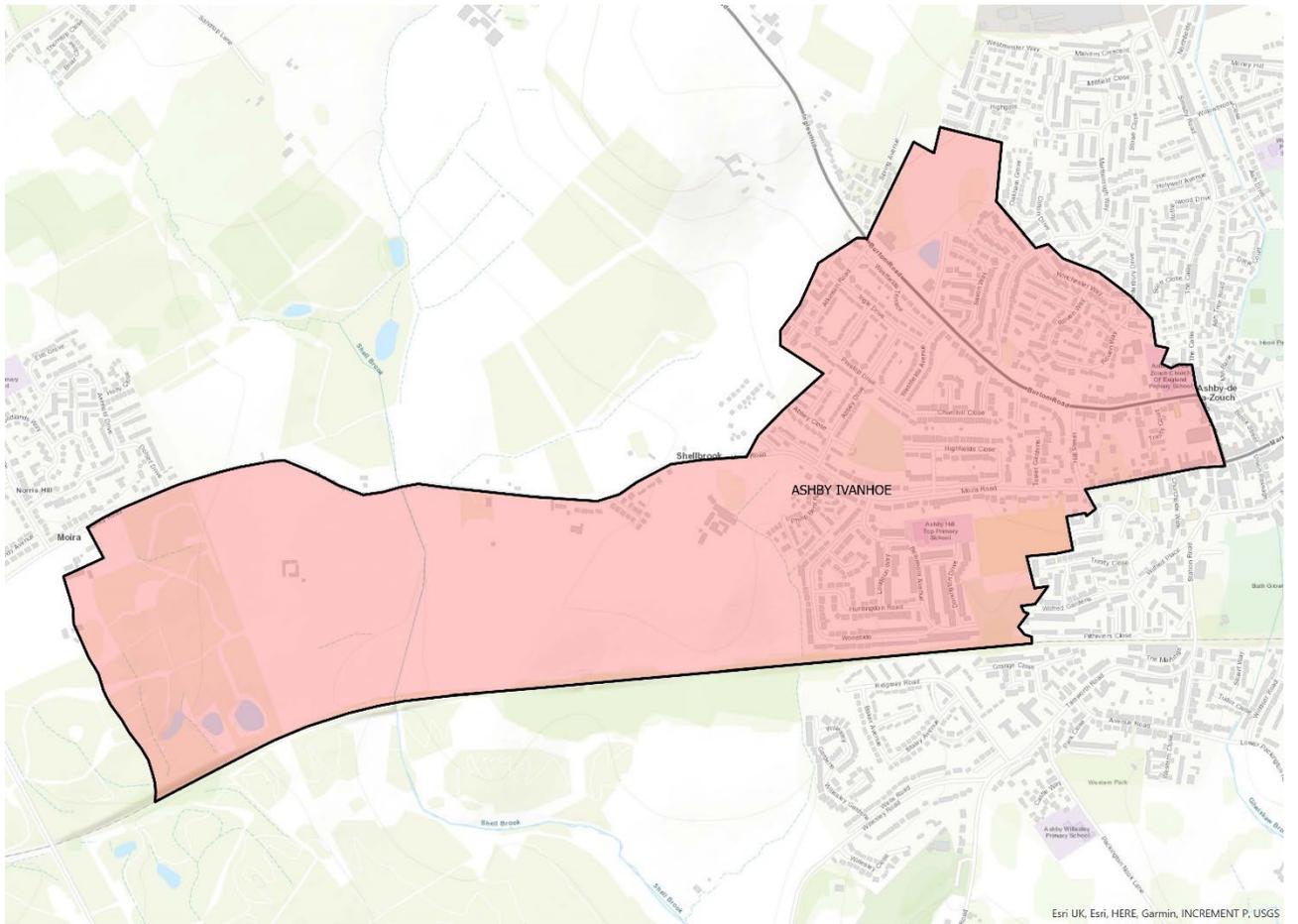
Ward	Electorate 2023*	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
ASHBY KNIGHTS CHASE	2325	8%	2576	8%
ASHBY CASTLE	2387	10%	2387	0%
ASHBY WILLESLEY	2073	-4%	2282	-4%
ASHBY HOLYWELL	2504	16%	2441	2%
ASHBY IVANHOE	2601	20%	2462	3%
ASHBY BLACKFORDBY ANNSWELL	n/a	n/a	2611	9%

* Based on current ward boundaries, not revised.









Ashby-de-la-Zouch will be served by six single-member wards. The parish council area covers a wide area, and a number of distinct communities, including a mix of new residential developments in the east, older housing in the centre, and rural communities in the south and west. It is a challenge to ensure wards reflect the different communities within them, particularly given the very significant new development site in the current Money Hill ward. These proposals outline how the new wards differ from existing wards, with which Councillors and local residents are familiar.

The very significant development in Money Hill means that, with no changes, it would have a variance of +61% in 2030. To remove that variance, substantial changes are needed to this ward and, consequentially, to other wards in the town. It is prudent to keep the new development in one ward, as they are similar styles of housing, built at the same time, and will form a new community. Therefore, until the properties are built and occupied, this ward will have a relatively small electorate although that will resolve over time. The new ward has an expected variance of 11%, but that depends on every property in the new development being completed, occupied, and electors registered by 2030; this may not be realistic, in which case the variance will remain within the 10% tolerance. The proposals here are:

- The area to the east of the main road (Smisby Road) through to (but excluding) the new development site is moved to Holywell
- The area around Market Street, South Street and the leisure centre is moved to Willesley
- The area south of Wood Street and Nottingham Road (including the properties on both sides of those roads) move to Castle
- To bring the electorate of Castle into alignment, the area west of Upper Packington Road is moved to Willesley
- The area to the west of and including Saxon Way is moved from Holywell to the new Blackfordby. This also ensures the whole of the area off Spring Lane is in the same ward, whereas it is currently split between two wards:
- In order to deliver electoral equality, and to ensure the whole of Ashby-de-la-Zouch boundaries are included in this group of wards, the existing Ivanhoe ward is split with the western side becoming Ashby Blackfordby with the addition of the Blackfordby parish ward. Following discussion with the Member Working Group, the communities of Woodville and Boothorpe, which look to Blackfordby as part of their community, have been included within this new Ashby ward. The split takes place to the west of development off Atkinson Road, and includes the rural households to the west of the town but excludes the properties that form the western edge of the current town

Following the Member briefing, the following alternative warding arrangement is proposed:

- (1) Ashby Castle boundaries remain unchanged from the present boundary.

- (2) Woodville remain outside of the Ashby wards. Members also suggested that Boothorpe remain outside of Ashby; however the very small community here is only accessed from Blackfordby, so is proposed to remain with Blackfordby.
- (3) All other wards in Ashby have been revised in line with proposals from local Councillors, to better reflect the local communities.

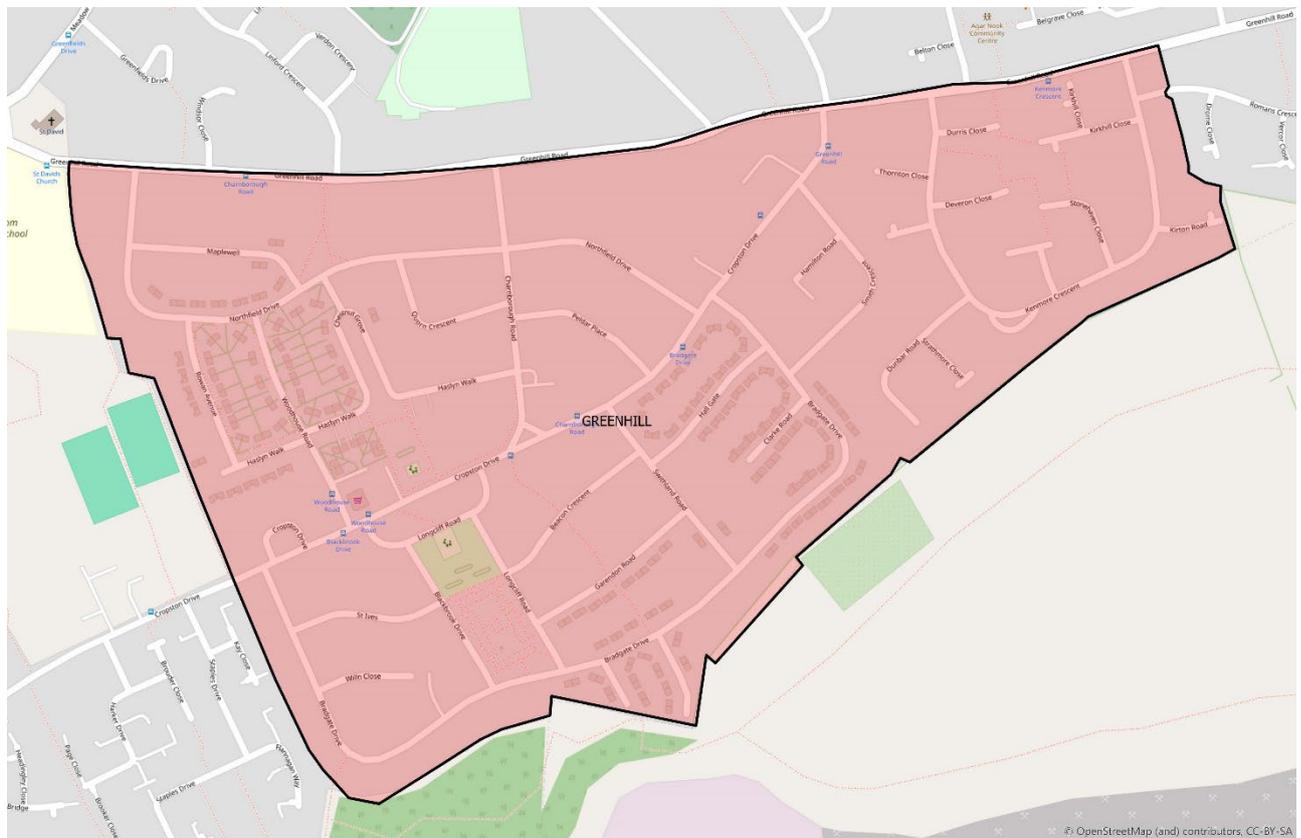
The knock-on impact of this is that an additional 338 electors from Woodville are moved to the Ashby Woulds group of wards.

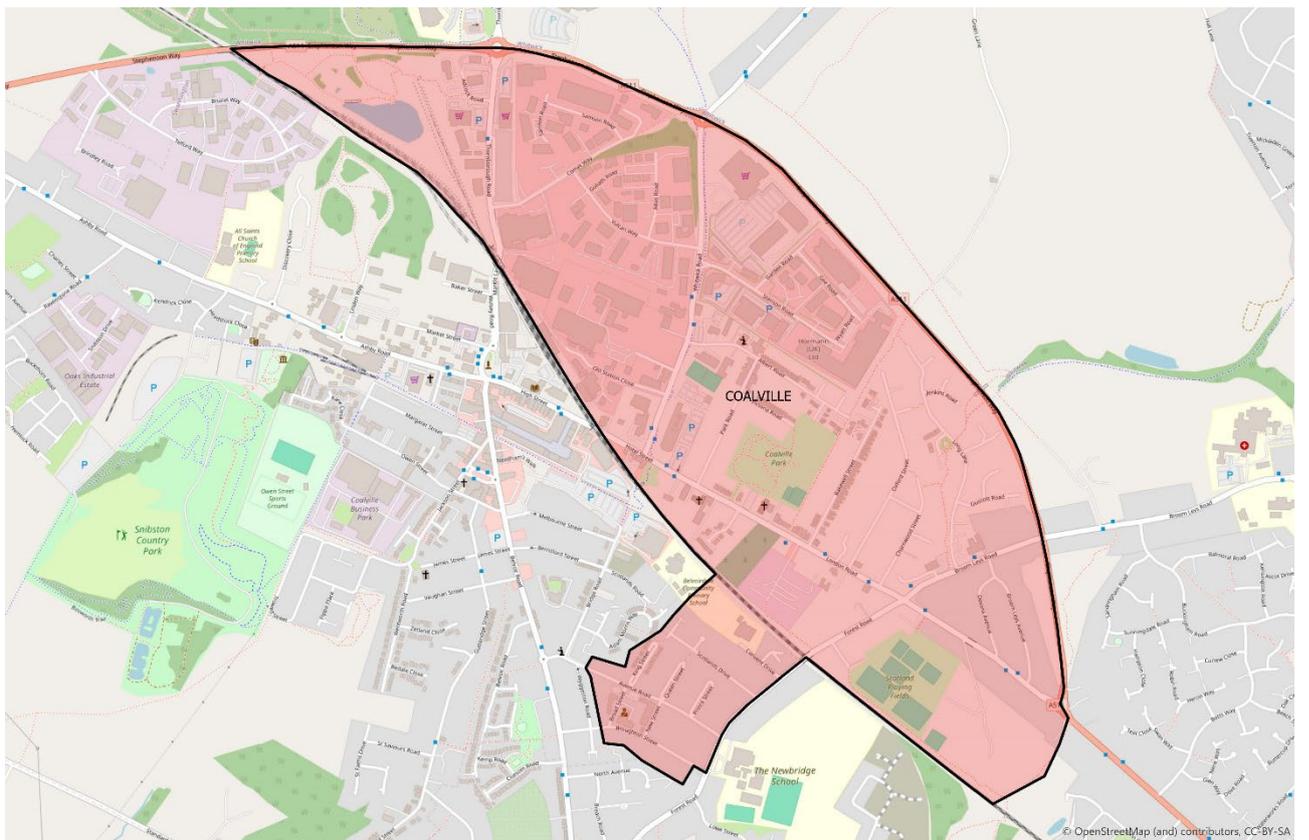
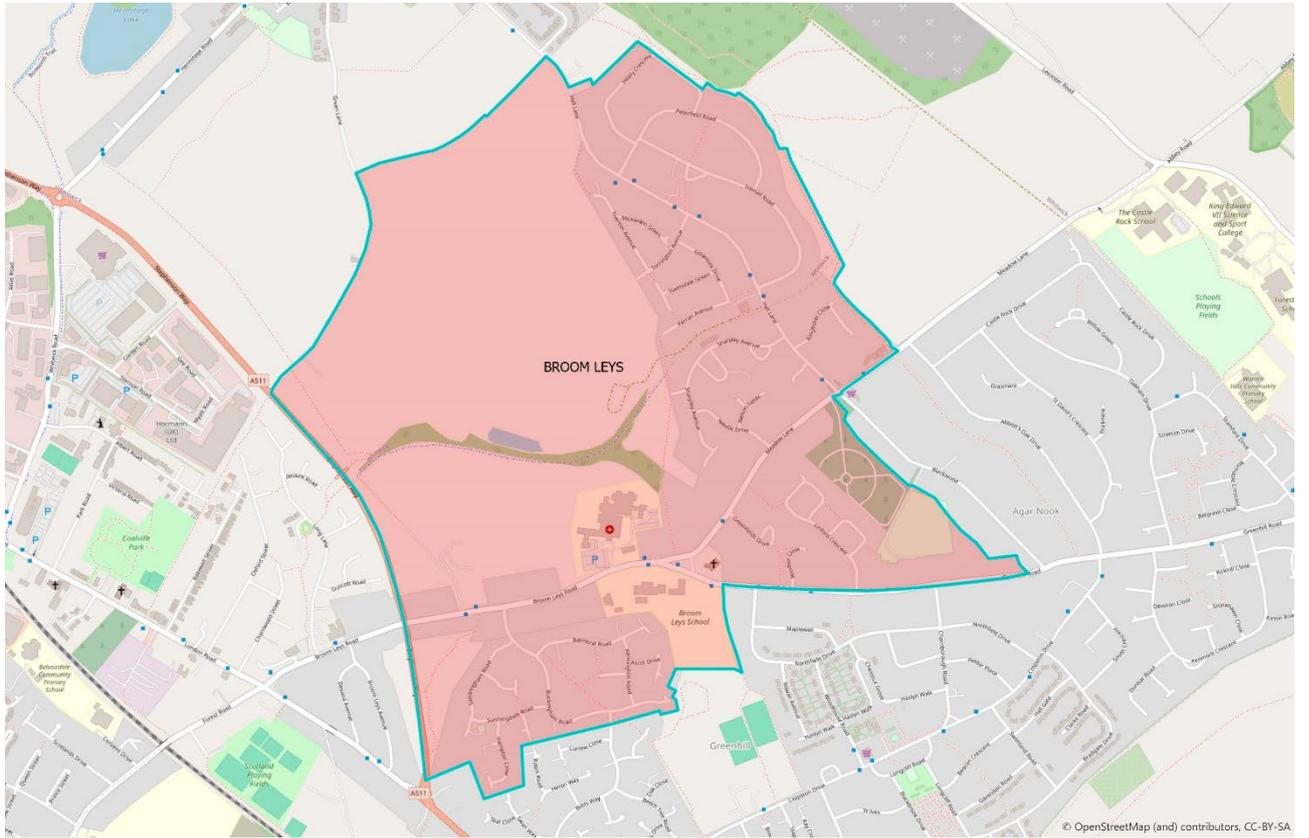
Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Ashby Castle	Cllr Kenny Horn
Ashby Holywell	Cllr Avril Wilson
Ashby Ivanhoe	Cllr Elizabeth Parle
Ashby Money Hill	Cllr Murrae Blair-Park
Ashby Willesley	Cllr Dave Bigby
Blackfordby	Cllr Andrew Woodman

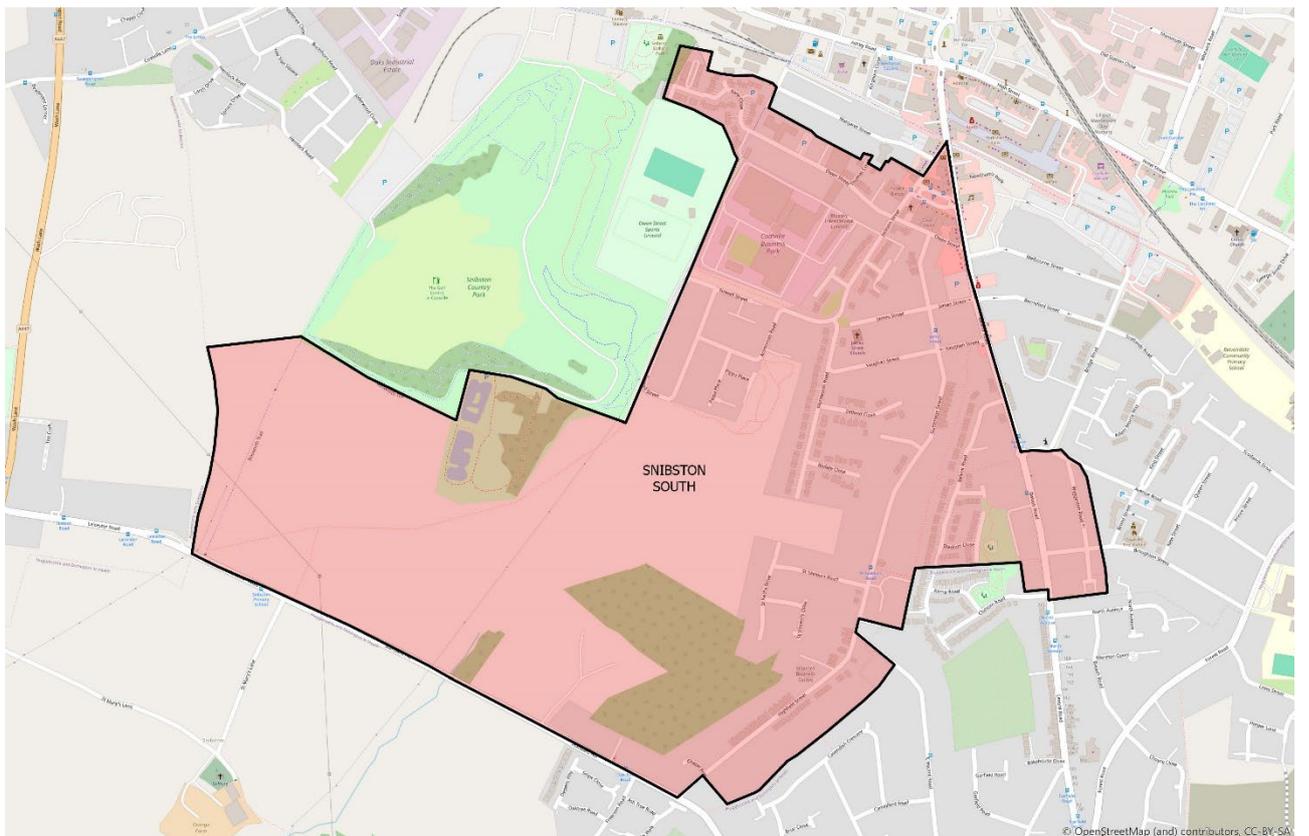
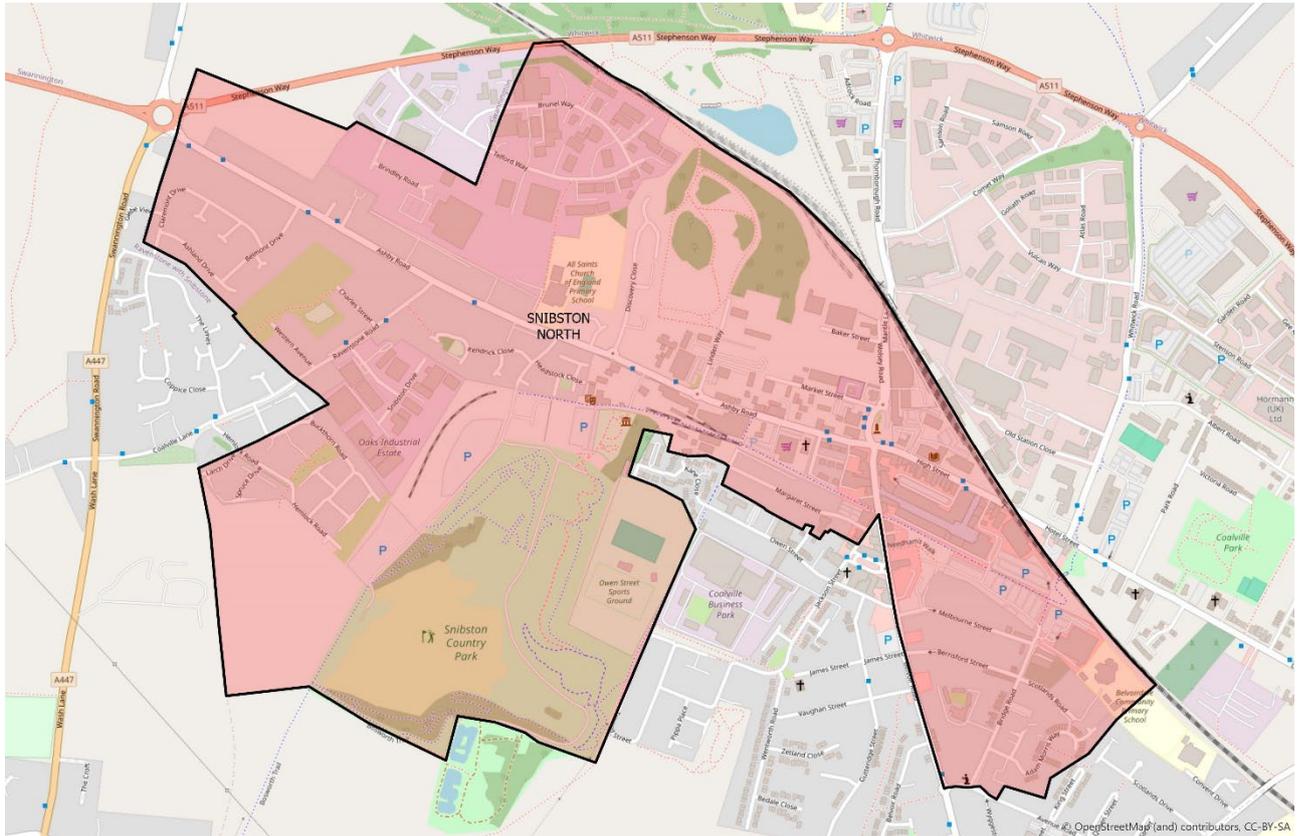
GROUP: COALVILLE

Ward	Electorate 2023*	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
GREENHILL	2099	-3%	2241	-6%
BROOM LEYS	2702	25%	2460	3%
COALVILLE EAST	1997	-8%		
COALVILLE WEST	1849	-14%		
COALVILLE	n/a		2546	7%
SNIBSTON NORTH	2620	21%	2684	12%
SNIBSTON SOUTH	1993	-8%	2607	9%

* Based on current ward boundaries, not revised.







Coalville as a whole will be served by 5 Councillors.

As it currently stands, Greenhill ward will have a variance of -12% in 2030. However, a minor adjustment brings that variance into an acceptable limit. Moving the northern boundary so it

follows the centre of Greenhill Road brings in an additional 121 electors. It also ensures the boundary line continues along the same Greenhill Road, which is also the boundary between Castle Rock and the current Greenhill ward. In addition, the whole of Cropston Drive is moved into Greenhill, which ensures a clearer boundary; it was previously split with some of the road and a small number of electors in Bardon.

Broom Leys is extended to include part of what is currently Coalville East, bringing the electorate variance up to an acceptable level. The new boundary follows the A511, which forms a natural barrier and demarcation line. As noted above, the boundary is adjusted such that the entire Blackwood Road is included in Castle Rock as the road is not a boundary between communities, but residents on both sides of the road consider themselves part of the same community of Castle Rock. In addition, The Pines is moved from the existing Broom Leys to Holly Hayes, noting that the small number of electors in this road are more closely aligned with the latter than the rest of Broom Leys (this adjustment also affects two properties on Hall Lane).

To bring the remaining areas into alignment, whilst reflecting community interests and identities, there are further changes between the current Coalville ward and Snibston wards. The whole of CTB and CWB polling districts, along with the eastern side of CWA (including Avenue Road and surrounds) form the new Coalville ward. The northern edge of Snibston North, north of the railway line, is also moved to Coalville as it is not accessible other than through Coalville, although this affects no electors.

The remainder of CWA forms part of Snibston North, which extends to the centre of Belvoir Road. The south-western corner of Snibston North now includes all properties in the Larch Drive, Bruce Drive area, resolving a long-standing boundary anomaly. One further adjustment moves Des Starbuck Close into Snibston South as it is only accessible from Kane Close (also in Snibston South).

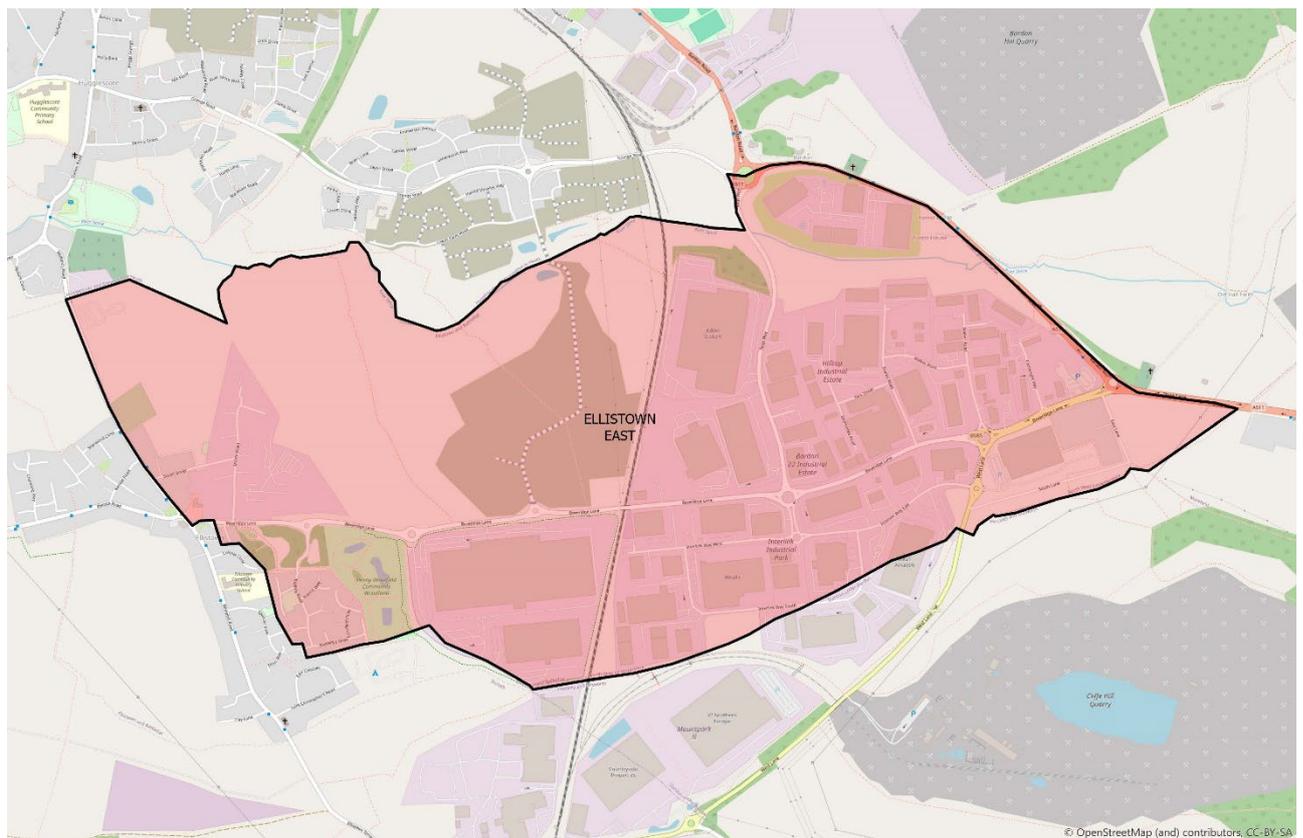
Although Snibston North as proposed has a variance of 12%, this reflects the boundaries and community identities in the area.

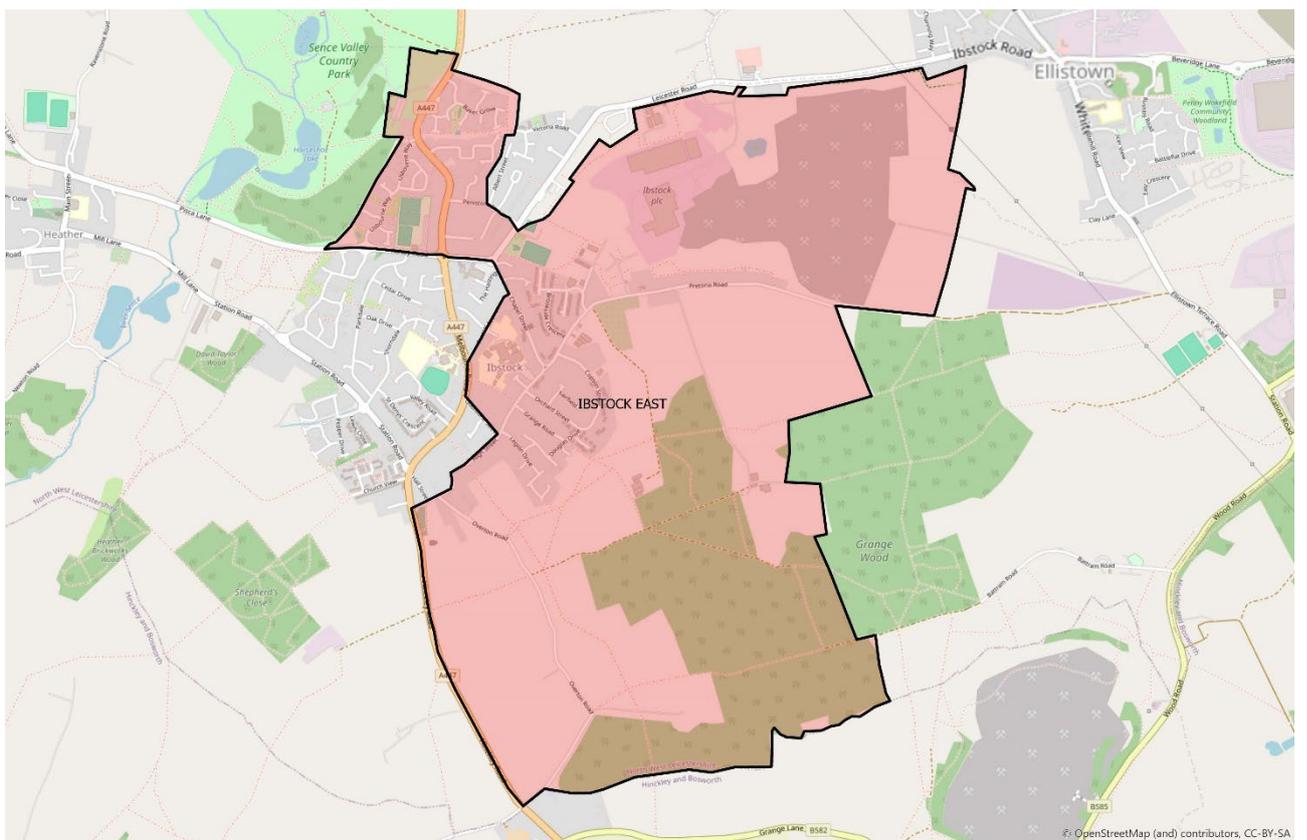
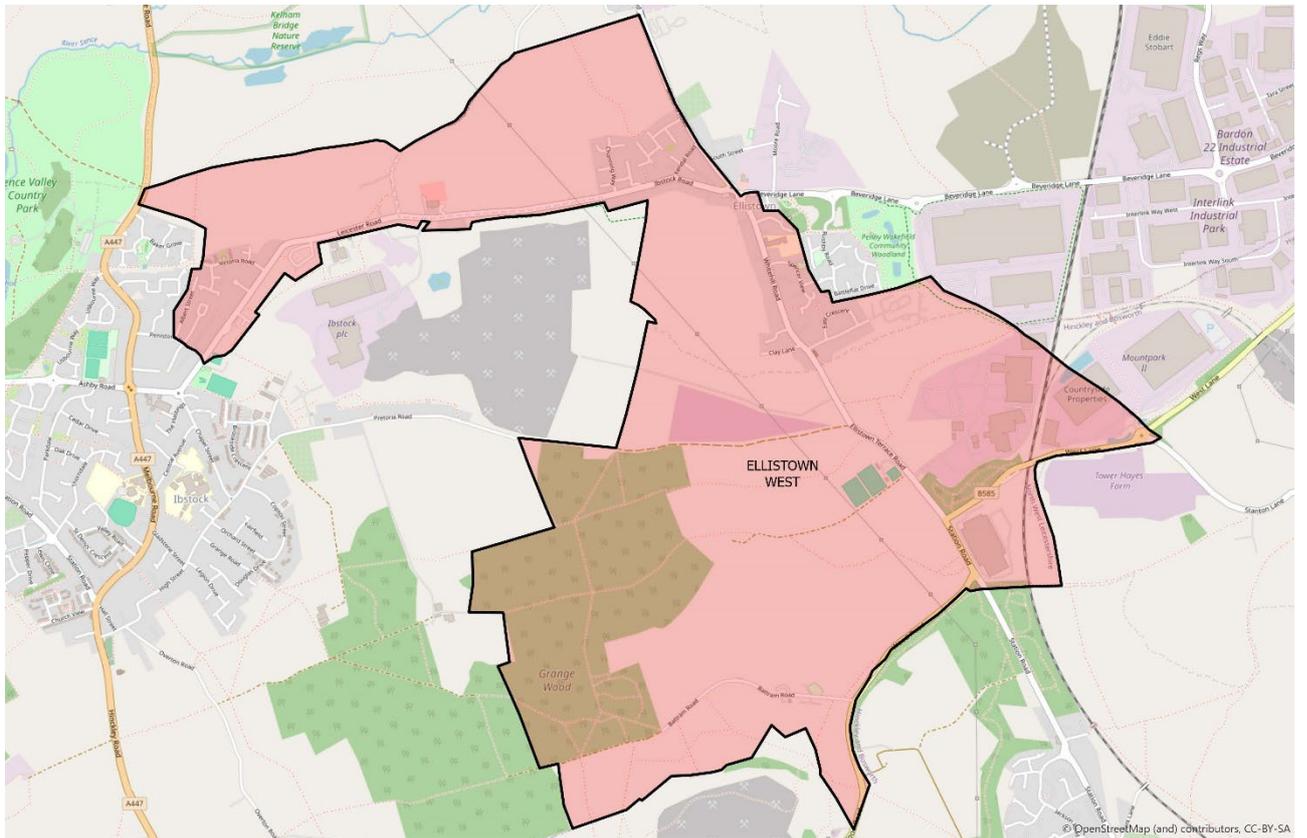
Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
GREENHILL	Cllr Jake Windram
BROOM LEYS	Cllr Lee Windram
COALVILLE EAST	Cllr Marie French
COALVILLE WEST	Cllr John Legrys
SNIBSTON NORTH	Cllr John Geary
SNIBSTON SOUTH	Vacant

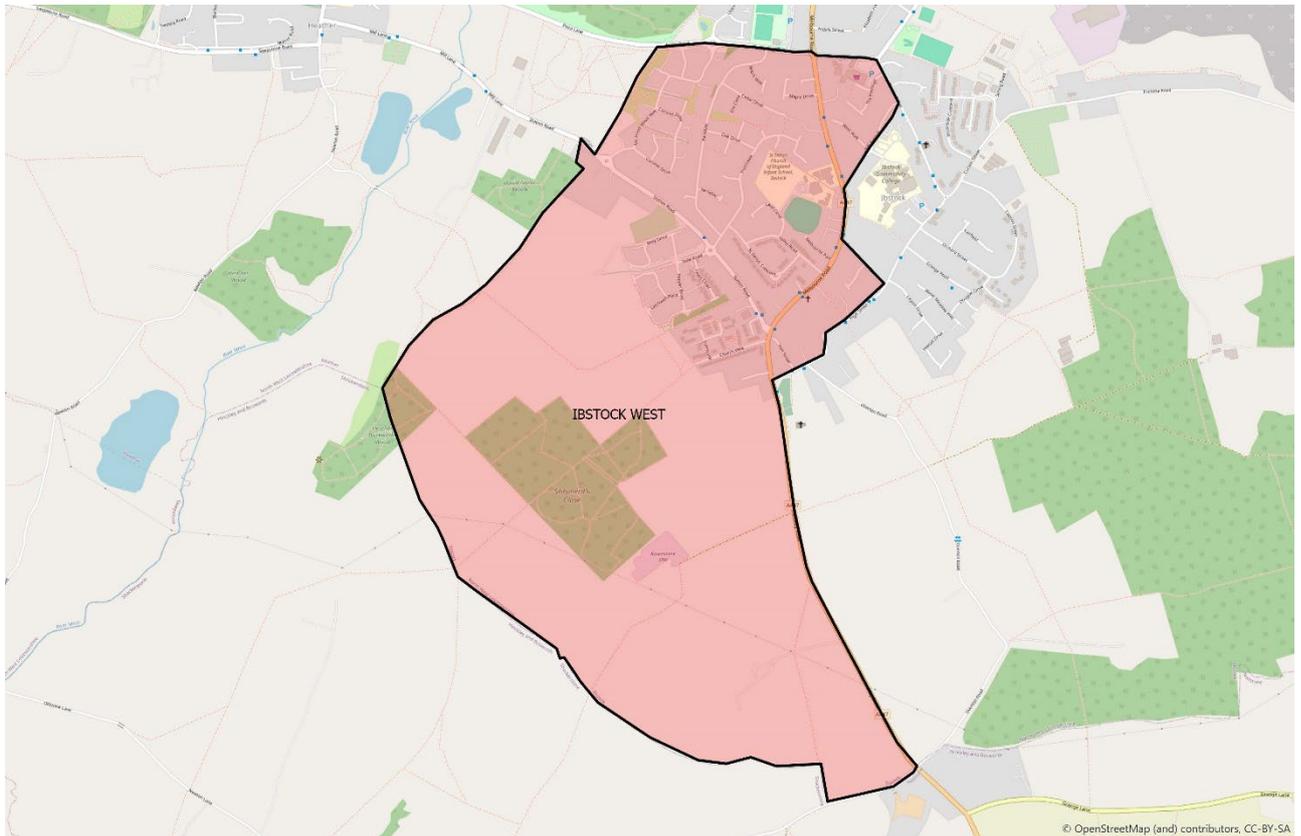
GROUP: IBSTOCK & ELLISTOWN

Ward	Electorate 2023*	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
Ellistown East	n/a		2344	-2%
Ellistown West	n/a		2292	-4%
Ellistown & Battleflat	2,058	-5%		
Ibstock East	3182	47%	2612	9%
Ibstock West	2378	10%	2378	0%

* Based on current ward boundaries, not revised.







The communities of Ibstock and Ellistown will, together, grow from an area served by three Councillors to one served by four. Much of this growth is in the large residential development in the east of Ellistown. However, to accommodate this growth, changes are required across the area to ensure electoral equality. In addition, the significantly smaller wards of Ibstock require some rebalancing.

This proposal places the whole of the new development, and the roads to the east of Midland Road, and south of Beveridge Lane, into the new Ellistown East ward. It is important that this new development is not split, as it is expected to become a community hub in its own right due to the size of the residential growth there.

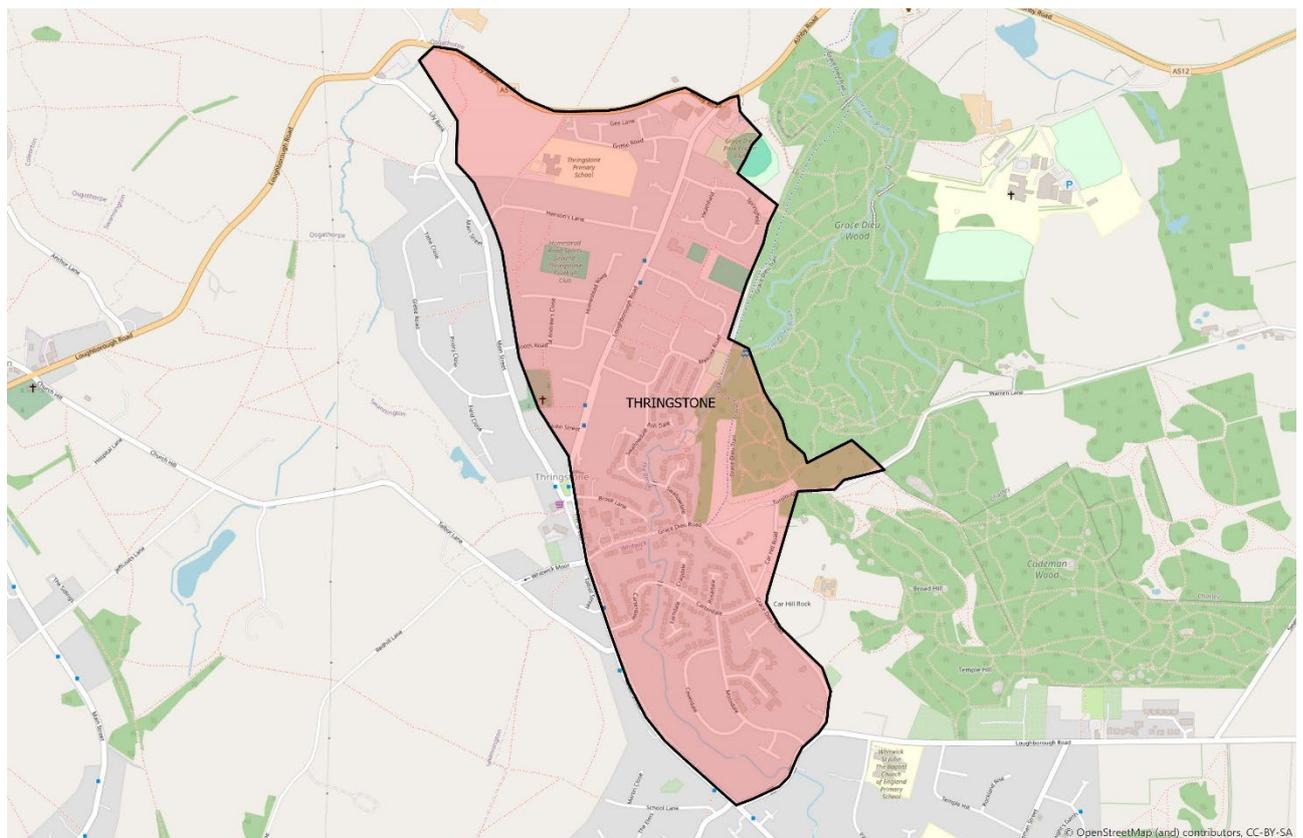
The remainder of Ellistown joins polling district IEB from the old Ibstock East, which is only accessible from Ellistown, along with parts of the northern edge of Ibstock (Leicester Road and a few residential roads to the north of it).

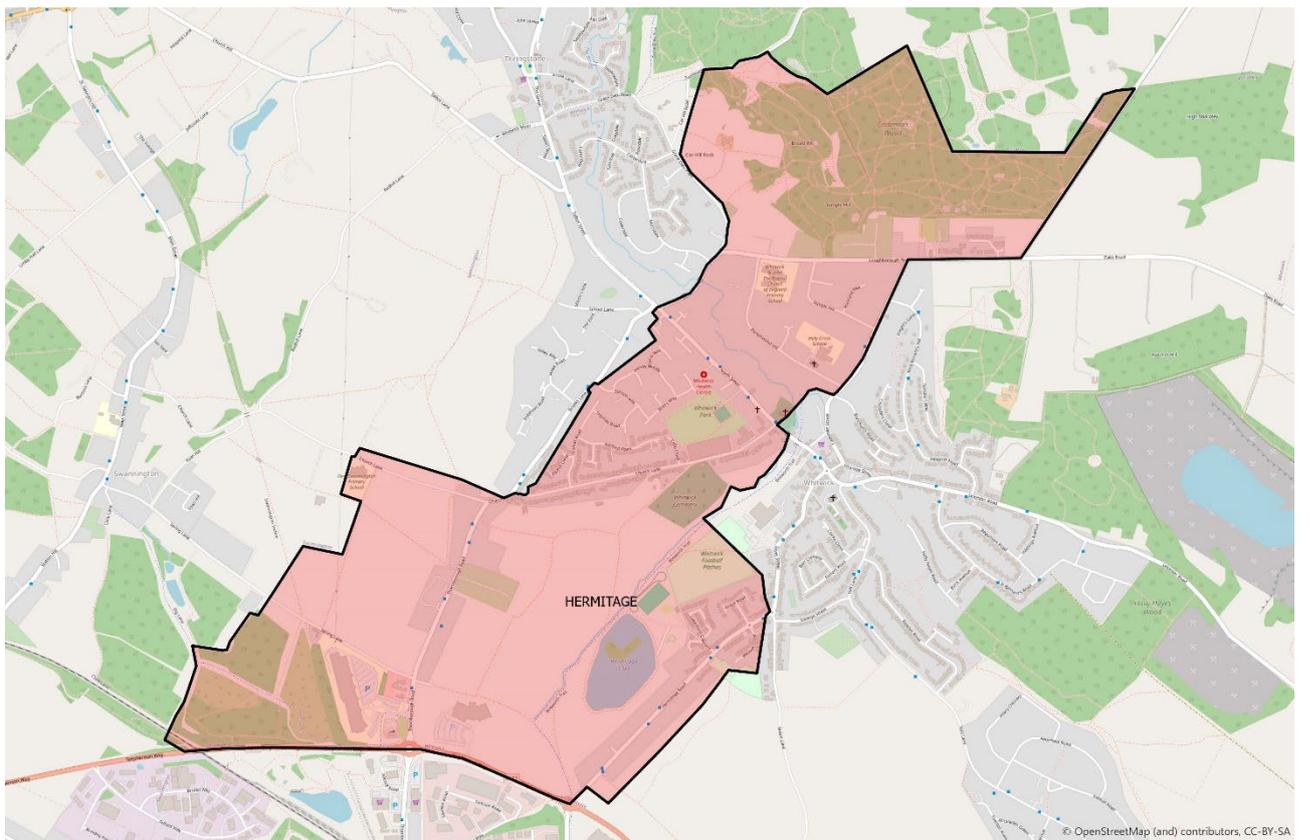
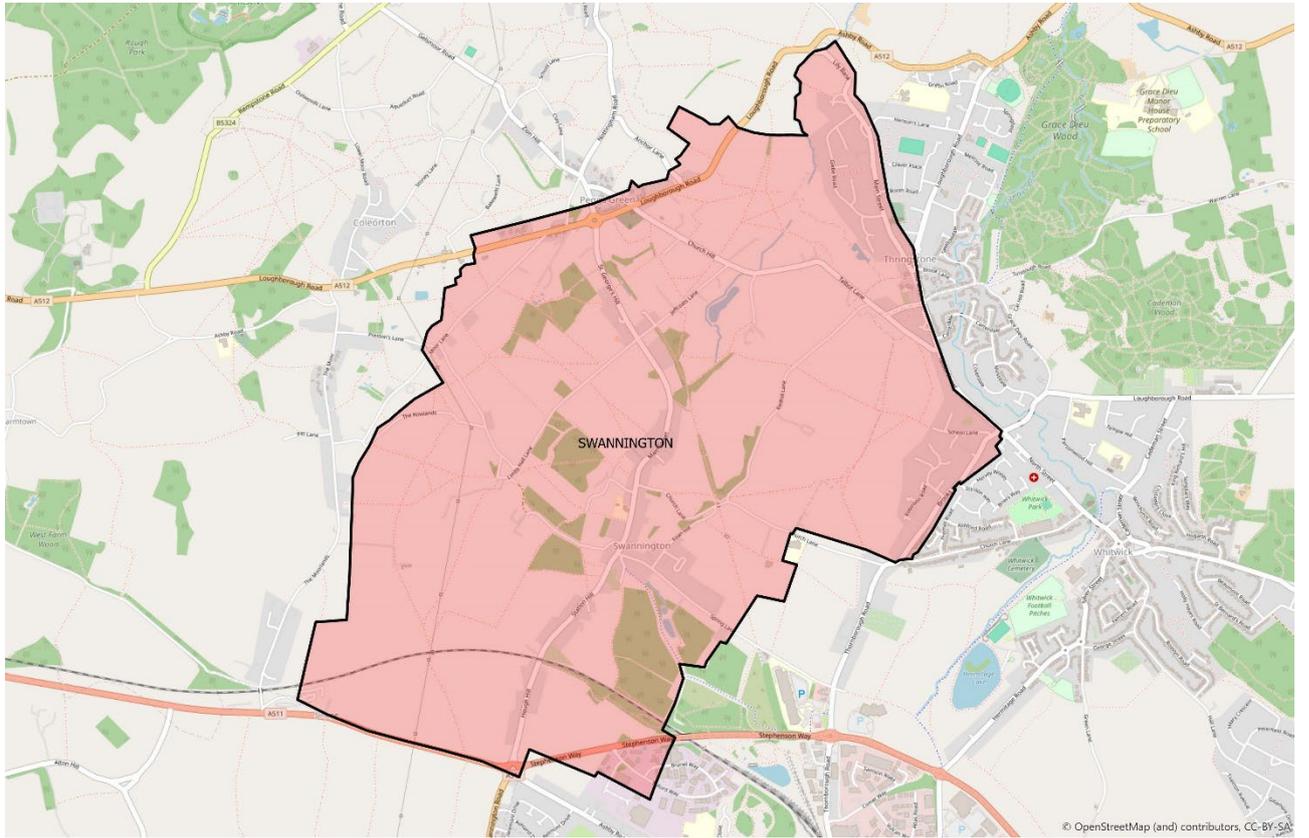
Ibstock West is unchanged.

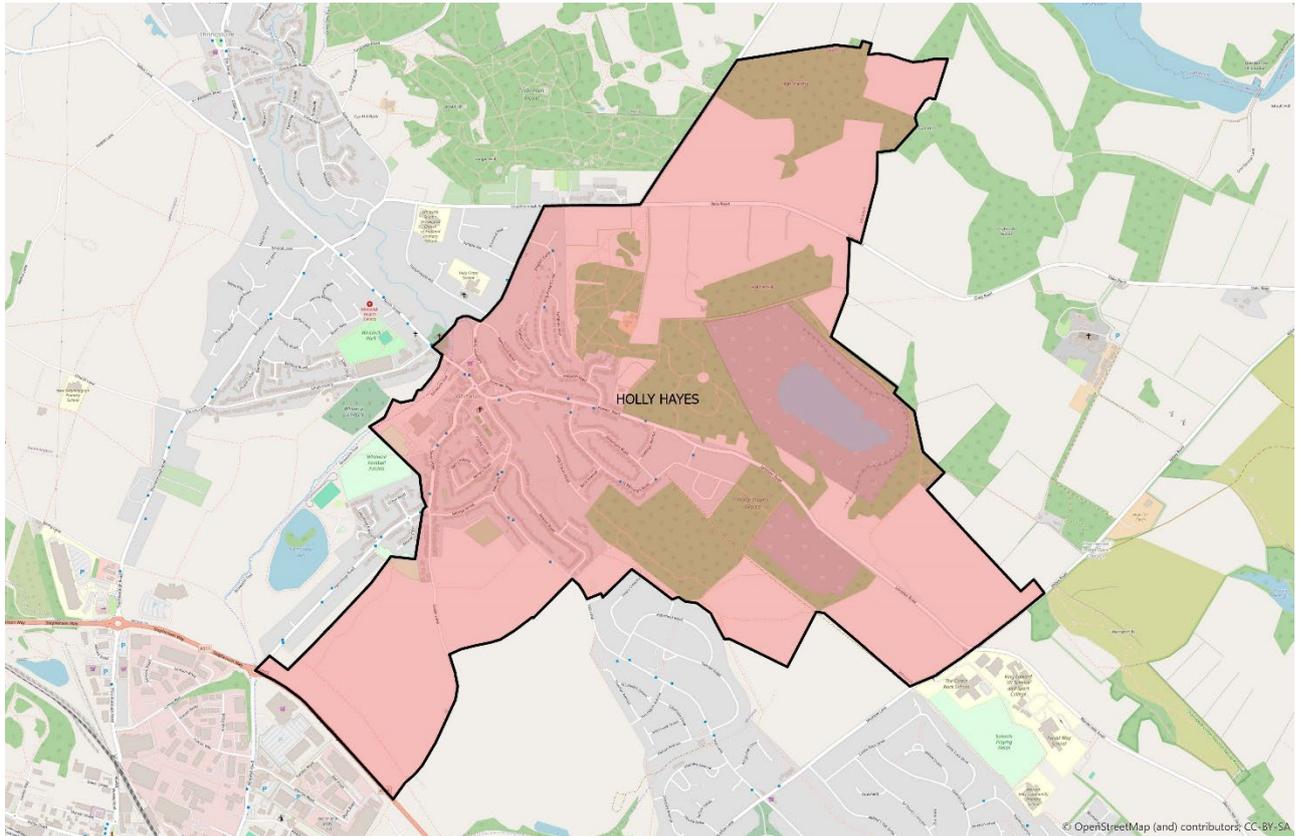
Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Ibstock East	Cllr Jenny Simmons
Ibstock West	Cllr Simon Lambeth
Ellistown & Battleflat	Cllr Keith Merrie

GROUP: WHITWICK & THRINGSTONE

Ward	Electorate 2023*	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
THORNBOROUGH	2057	-5%		
THRINGSTONE	3244	50%	2151	-10%
VALLEY	2282	6%		
SWANNINGTON			2273	-5%
HERMITAGE	2672	24%	2224	-7%
HOLLY HAYES	1932	-11%	2319	-3%







Due to electoral growth, this area will be served four (up from 3) Councillors.

Swannington alone is too small for a single Councillor, so is joined by the western part of Thringstone (Main Street and roads to the west of it) and the majority of the TBA polling district (excluding the southern part).

The new Hermitage ward takes on part of Thornborough, the rest of TBA polling district, and the majority of HE (Hermitage parish ward of Whitwick parish council) excluding Silver Street and roads to the north of it, which form a neater alignment with Holly Hayes.

The new Holly Hayes ward is the existing parish ward of that name, with the addition of a small part of Hermitage ward as noted above. In addition, The Pines is moved from the existing Broom Leys to Holly Hayes, noting that the small number of electors in this road are more closely aligned with the latter than the rest of Broom Leys (this adjustment also affects two properties on Hall Lane).

Thringstone ward, having donated the western edge to Swannington, takes on the northern part of TBB polling district (which was in Thornborough ward). Despite parish boundaries, these properties form a continuous flow.

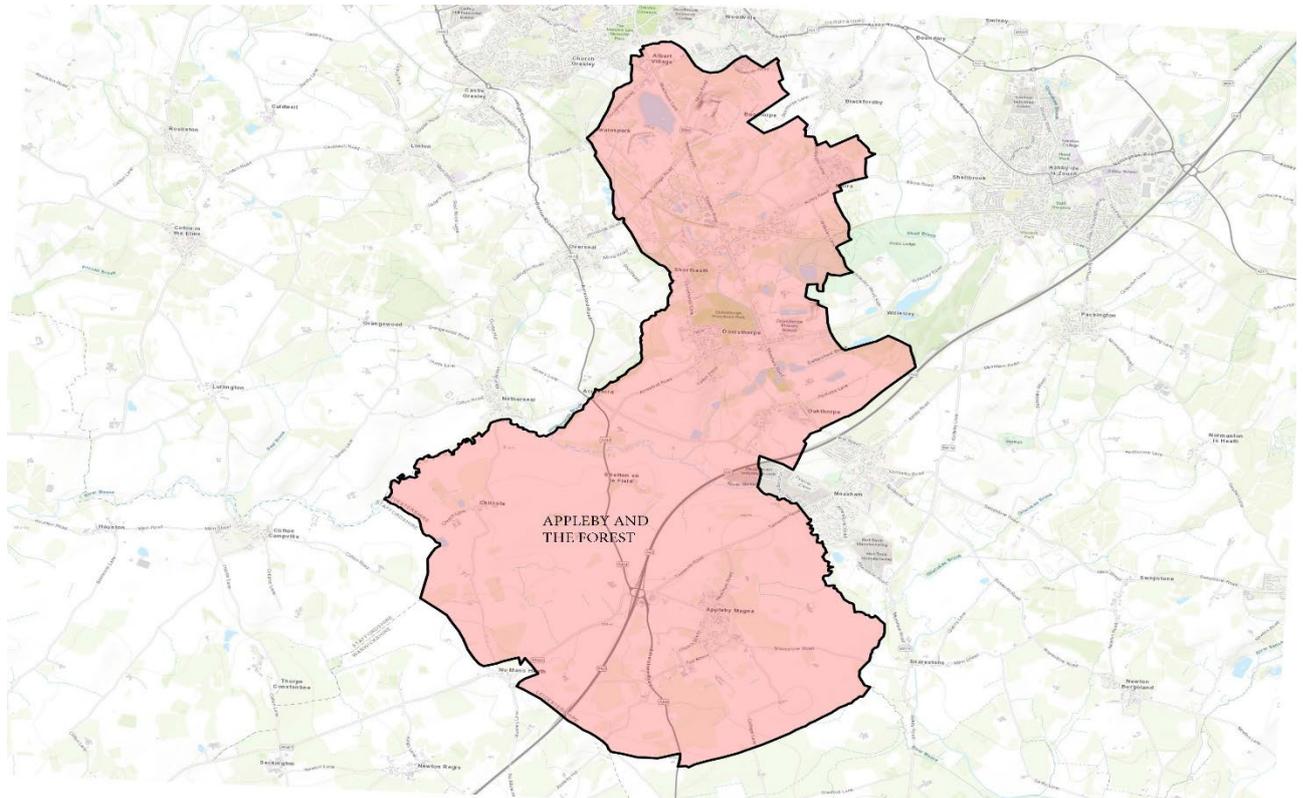
These new wards each have intra-ward access and good community representation.

These proposals do result in communities being split and reconfigured into new district wards. This is because each parish is too small to be a ward alone, and too big to be joined in pairs.

Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
THORNBOROUGH	Cllr Peter Moulton
THRINGSTONE	Cllr David Everitt
VALLEY	Cllr Russell Boam

GROUP: APPLEBY AND THE FOREST

Ward	Electorate 2023	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
APPLEBY AND THE FOREST Three-Member ward	6878	6%	6912	-4%



The communities of the south-west corner of the district will be served by 3 councillors in total. However, it is not straightforward to create three single-member wards in this area as it results in splitting communities artificially. After considerable thought and careful discussion by the Member Working Group, a solution was developed that ensured communities were kept together, and links between communities were preserved, whilst attempting to minimise the overall size of the ward.

The proposal for the area was:

- One two-member ward, serving Moira, Albert, Norris Hill, Oakthorpe, and the eastern side of Donisthorpe, with the boundary following clearly identifiable features (the stream, edge of woodland and footpath) to include Ramscliff Road and everything east of it. This ward has good community links, keeping the communities of Moira, Albert and Norris Hill together and supplementing with the smaller community of Oakthorpe. Good road links join these areas together.
- One single-member ward, serving the majority of Donisthorpe (west of Ramscliff Road), Appleby Magna, Chilcote, Stretton-en-le-Field, and Acresford. This ward also has

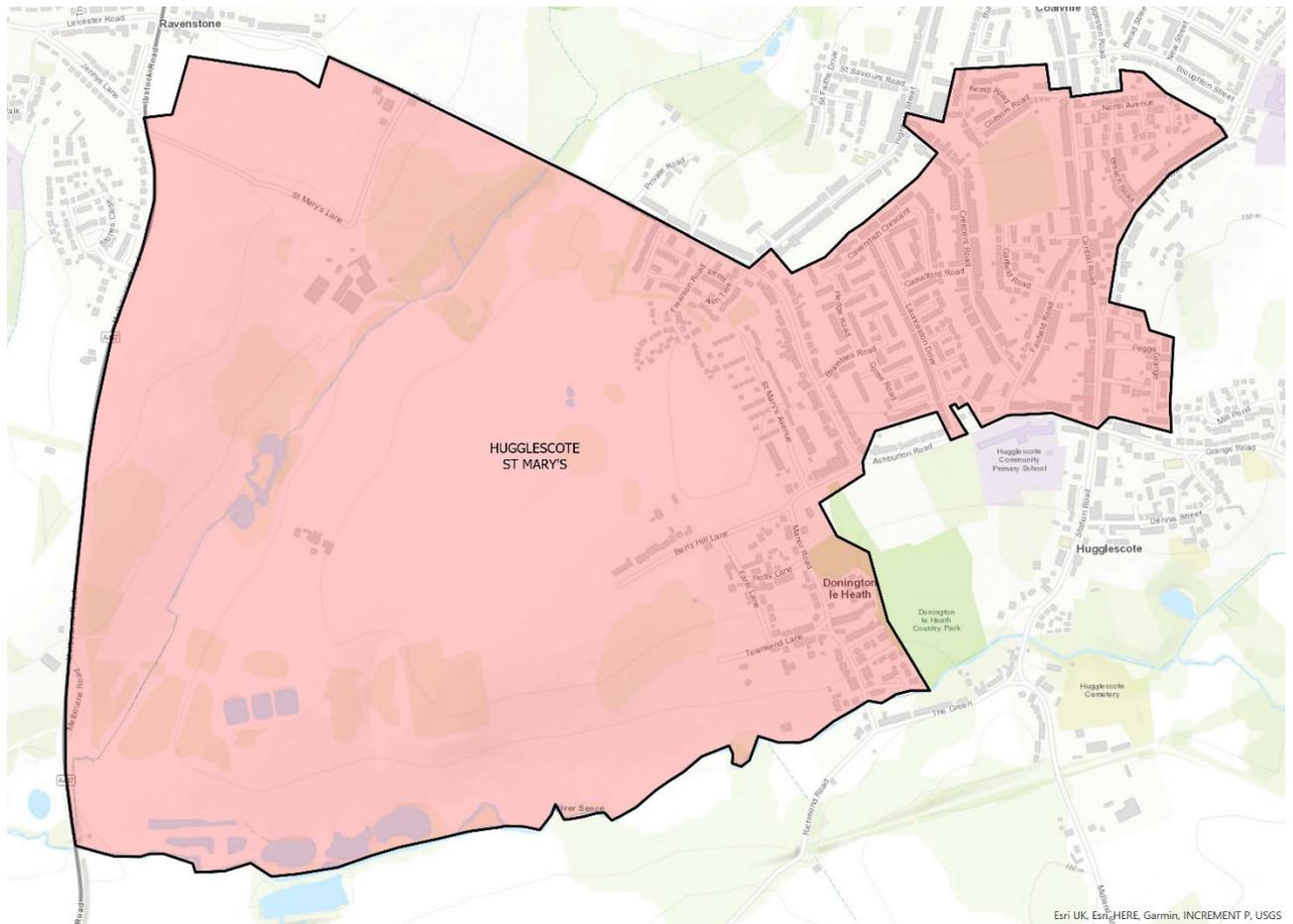
good intra-ward roads, and ensures smaller communities are not split further for the sake of electoral equality.

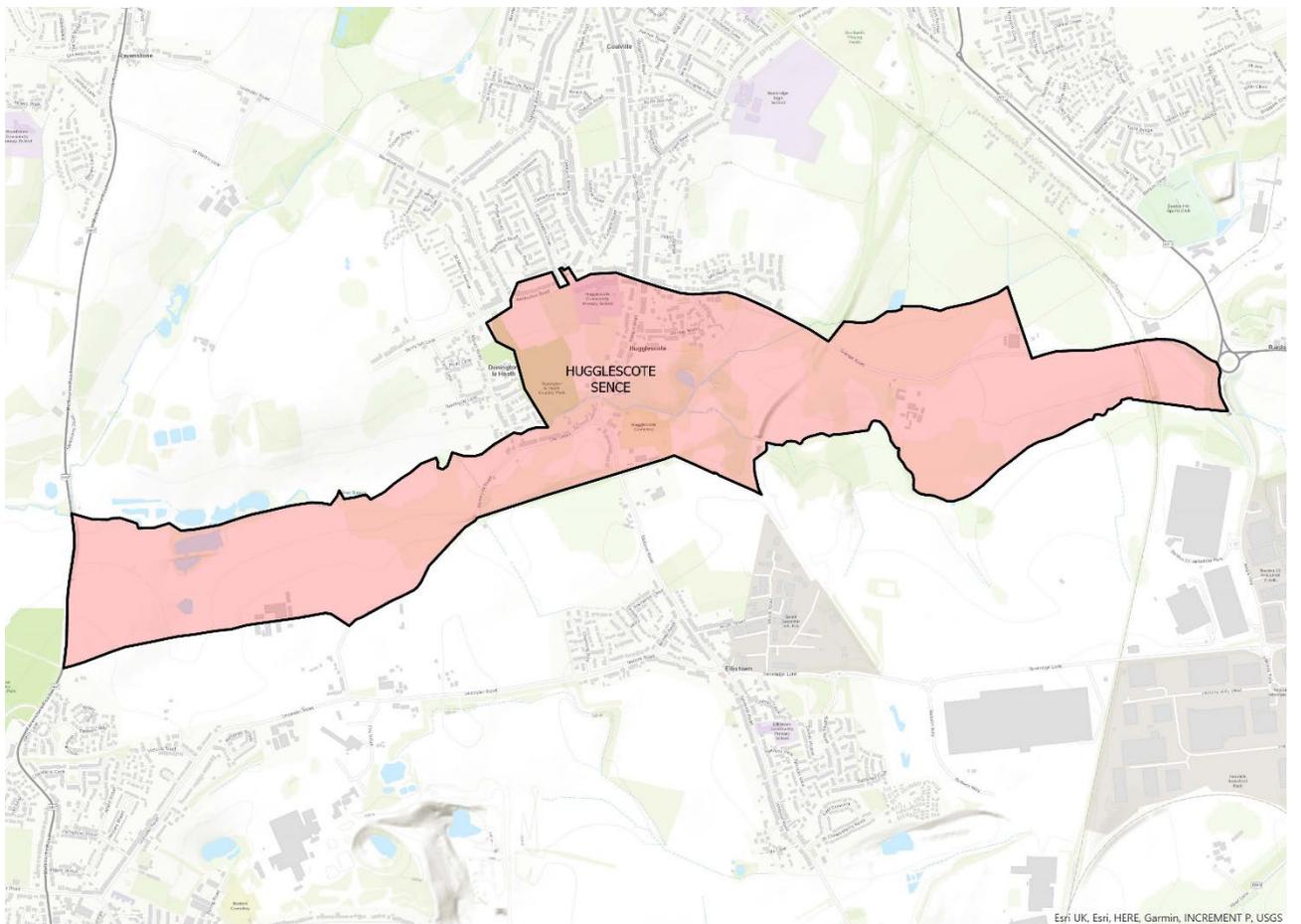
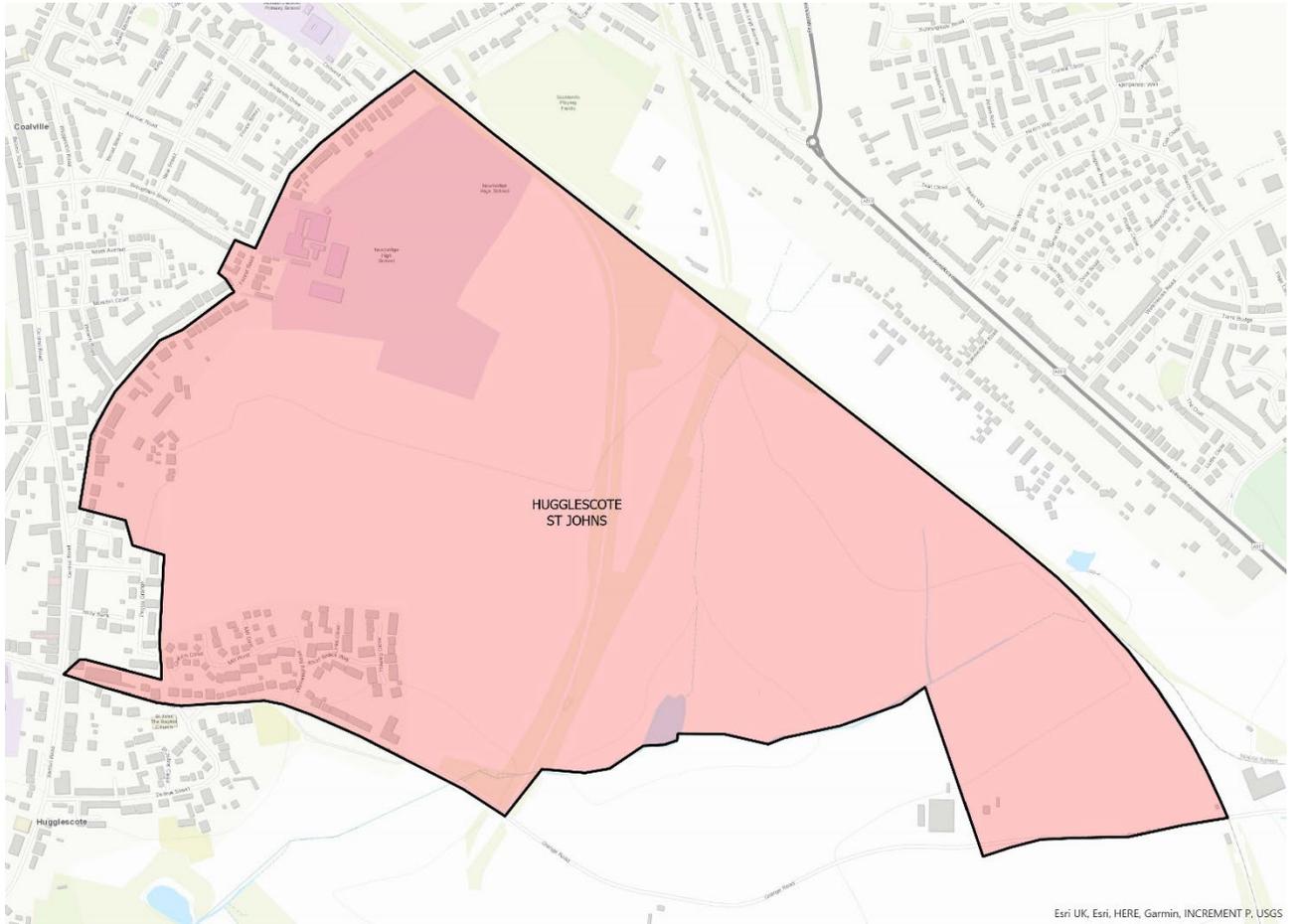
Following an all-Member briefing, further consideration was given to the area and the Member Working Group agreed that a One three-member ward to cover the whole of this area. This avoids splitting any of the communities.

Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Appleby	Cllr Richard Blunt
Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe	Cllr Mike Ball
Ashby Woulds	Cllr Doug Cooper
Blackfordby	Cllr Andrew Woodman

GROUP: HUGGLESCOTE

Ward	Electorate 2023 *	Variance	Electorate 2030	Variance
HUGGLESCOTE ST MARY'S	2278	5%	2502	5%
HUGGLESCOTE ST JOHN'S	2916	35%	2408	1%
HUGGLESCOTE SENCE	n/a		2620	10%





As a whole, Hugglescote will be served by three Councillors. The existing ward of Hugglescote St Mary's requires a small additional group of electors in order to achieve electoral equality. This is achieved by including Manor Road and roads off it, north of the river, within this ward (currently in Hugglescote St John's). This also better reflects the communities, and uses the river as a natural marker between the two wards.

The remaining part of Hugglescote includes a very large residential development. Taking this development into account, the balance of the parish is proposed to be split into two parts. The first, comprising all properties to the north/east of Grange Road (excluding Forest Road, Fairfield Road and roads directly from them (Holly Bank, Peggs Close, Harper Lane and Lowe Street) becomes Hugglescote St John's ward. The remainder, following the River Sence in the south, becomes Hugglescote Sence ward. These two wards have good internal connectivity, and cohesive communities. The new St John's ward, for example, includes several phases of new development, which whilst part of the parish are not yet established as an integrated part of it; thus keeping this as a separate new ward better reflects local interests and identities than splitting the older and more established communities of Hugglescote, which would be the alternative.

Discussions with some local Members have questioned the electorate projections. However, these have been developed using a robust methodology, and submitted and agreed by the LGBCE. They are based on the best evidence available at the time of creation and, whilst we recognise there will be some deviation from the timetables due to a range of factors, this is not unique to this review area and the wards are based on the electorate projections available.

A local Member suggested parts of the proposed Sence ward did not make sense from a community perspective. To rectify this, whilst maintaining electoral equality, a number of changes have been made, taking Member views into account. These alter all three proposed wards as follows:

- (1) The Manor Road area, initially proposed to move to St Mary's, is now proposed to be in Sence ward. This retains the current boundary (currently between St Mary's and St John's in this area)
- (2) Fairfield Road, Central Road, Peggs Grange and Baron Close, originally proposed to be in Sence, are now proposed to be in St Mary's. This brings the boundary to the east of Peggs Grange, ensuring the whole of Fairfield Way is now in the same ward.
- (3) Forest Road and roads and developments from it are now proposed to be in St John's ward, rather than Sence.
- (4) The southern part of the 'Davidsons' area of development (including Usherwood Way and Catlow Street) are now included in Sence ward.

These changes deliver electoral equality, and a more convenient local governance whilst reflecting existing and future local communities.

An alternative option was to include the whole of the proposed St John's and Sence ward in one two-member ward. The Member Working Group noted that Council requested a preference for single member wards wherever possible, and the new development in St John's is not yet built out and so is not closely aligned with the rest of the ward.

Current ward	Current Councillor (for information)
Hugglescote St Mary's	Cllr Dr Terri Eynon
Hugglescote St John's	Cllr Russell Johnson

Full list

WARD	Cllrs	Electorate	Variance	Electorate	Variance
HEATHER & PACKINGTON	1	2458	14%	2458	3%
RAVENSTONE & SNIBSTON	1	2187	1%	2224	-7%
WORTHINGTON & COLEORTON	1	2355	9%	2355	-1%
BREEDON & BELTON	1	2545	18%	2580	8%
CASTLE ROCK	1	2229	3%	2359	-1%
BARDON	1	2256	4%	2440	2%
KEGWORTH SOUTH & LONG WHATTON	1	2662	23%	2573	8%
KEGWORTH NORTH &DALEACRE HILL	1	1960	-9%	2552	7%
CASTLE DONINGTON CASTLE	1	2040	-6%	2161	-10%
CASTLE DONINGTON CENTRAL	1	1916	-11%	2298	-4%
CASTLE DONINGTON PARK	1	2104	-3%	2198	-8%
MEASHAM NORTH	1	2067	-4%	2177	-9%
MEASHAM SOUTH	1	2031	-6%	2387	0%
ASHBY KNIGHTS CHASE	1	2325	8%	2576	8%
ASHBY CASTLE	1	2387	10%	2387	0%
ASHBY WILLESLEY	1	2073	-4%	2282	-4%
ASHBY HOLYWELL	1	2504	16%	2441	2%
ASHBY IVANHOE	1	2601	20%	2462	3%
ASHBY BLACKFORDBY					
ANNSWELL	1	1191	-45%	2611	9%
GREENHILL	1	2099	-3%	2241	-6%
BROOM LEYS	1	2702	25%	2460	3%
COALVILLE	1	2074	-4%	2546	7%
SNIBSTON NORTH	1	2620	21%	2684	12%
SNIBSTON SOUTH	1	1993	-8%	2607	9%
ELLISTOWN EAST	1	0	-100%	2344	-2%
ELLISTOWN WEST	1	185	-91%	2292	-4%
IBSTOCK EAST	1	3182	47%	2612	9%
IBSTOCK WEST	1	2378	10%	2378	0%
HUGGLESCOTE ST MARY'S	1	2278	5%	2502	5%
HUGGLESCOTE ST JOHN'S	1	2916	35%	2408	1%
HUGGLESCOTE SENCE	1	0	-100%	2620	10%
SWANNINGTON	1	1065	-51%	2273	-5%
HERMITAGE	1	2672	24%	2224	-7%
THRINGSTONE	1	3244	50%	2151	-10%
HOLLY HAYES	1	1932	-11%	2319	-3%
APPLEBY AND THE FOREST	3	6878	6%	6912	-4%
TOTAL	38	80109		91094	

* Where existing towns are split, the 2023 electorate is based on current ward boundaries, not revised.