



7 September 2021

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Via Email

Dear Sir,

Review of Malvern Hills District Council Ward Boundaries

We would like to suggest a minor adjustment of the boundary between Guarlford Parish and Chase Ward.

The administrative boundary between Guarlford Parish and Chase Ward runs to the east of Chance Lane, while the ecclesiastical boundary of Guarlford Parish runs along Hall Green. There would be several merits to aligning the administrative boundary with the ecclesiastical boundary:

- The change would increase the size of the very small electorate in Guarlford Parish and reduce the large electorate in Chase Ward, thus achieving a better balance in terms of District Councillors per elector.
- Guarlford Parish is presently dominated by an aging population and the inclusion of Hall Green within Guarlford Parish would be a demographic improvement.
- The area which would be transferred from Chase Ward to Guarlford Parish, being comparatively sparsely built up, is geographically similar to the rural Parish of Guarlford. In contrast the area to the west of Hall Green is much more densely built up and urban. Electricity supplies are run underground to the west and are largely over ground to the east of Hall Green. Thus realignment would make Chase Ward more homogenous and would fit with the character of Guarlford.
- Those who live in Chase Ward to the east of Hall Green feel more associated with Guarlford than with the town. This is because Guarlford village hall is within easy walking distance and is far closer than any alternative within the town. Functions at the hall are regularly attended by residents in the area which would be transferred under this proposal.
- Historically the area which would be transferred to Guarlford Parish was part of that Parish and the village church is attended and supported by many from the area which would be transferred.
- Chase Ward and Guarlford Parish both elect Conservators (now termed MHT Trustees) and the proposed change would be a step in the right direction towards equalising the electorates in MHT elections.

Would the Boundary Commission please give serious consideration to realigning the administrative Guarlford Parish boundary so that those who live on Guarlford Road east of Hall Green, Hall Green and Chance Lane are included in Guarlford Parish?

Yours Sincerely

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