

[REDACTED]

From: Councillor Tom Baker-Price <tom.baker-price@redditchbc.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 May 2022 09:46
To: reviews
Subject: Redditch BC Review - Ward pattern consultation
Attachments: Proposed ward pattern RBC Final.docx

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Hello,

Please find attached the Redditch Borough Council Conservative group submission for the consultation Running from 22/2/22 to 31/5/22.

Many thanks,
Tom Baker-Price

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Proposed ward pattern for Redditch Borough Council

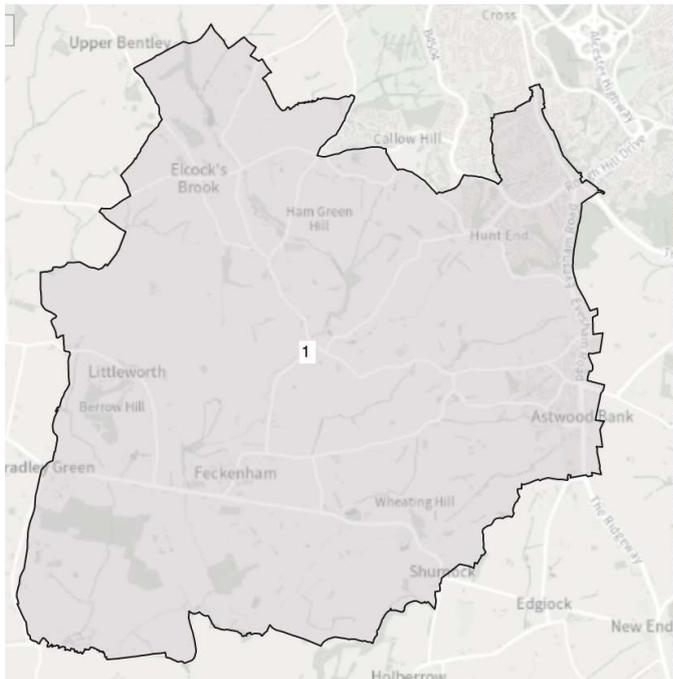
	Ward name	Total number of electors	Number of electors per councillor	Page number
1	Astwood Bank and Feckenham	6879	2293	2
2	Headless Cross and Oakenshaw	7242	2414	3
3	Webheath and Callow Hill	7122	2374	4
4	Central	7161	2387	5
5	Batchley and Brockhill	7566	2522	6
6	Greenlands and Lakeside	7473	2491	7
7	Matchborough and Woodrow	7545	2515	8
8	Winyates	7116	2372	9
9	North	7455	2485	10
	Target number	7212	2404	

The numbers of electors have been derived from information provided by Redditch Borough Council electoral services and are based on projected number of electors 5 years after the review to ensure lasting electoral equality. Under this proposal all wards elect 3 councillors reflecting the council's electoral cycle of thirds. There are 9 wards meaning the council will have 27 councillors in accordance with the recent Local boundary commission's recommendation. All wards are under 5% of the target number reflecting a high degree of electoral equality.

Redditch as a new town was designed focussing on creating distinct communities known as districts. These districts are identifiable communities with community facilities such as schools and district centres located in the midpoint of the communities. These districts are well known to residents, designed to be co-terminus easy to walk across and prominently feature on every road sign in the town. This makes these areas convenient for local government with their own distinct characteristics, establishing borders reflected in the proposed ward pattern. We have therefore used the districts as the basis for our submission and have kept districts and communities together as far as possible in the new wards to reflect the distinct parts of Redditch.

The ward pattern attempts to use identifiable boundaries in as far as possible, including dual carriageways, woods, rivers and the Arrow Valley Park, especially the lake to create natural boundaries where possible.

1. Astwood Bank and Feckenham



Astwood Bank and Feckenham

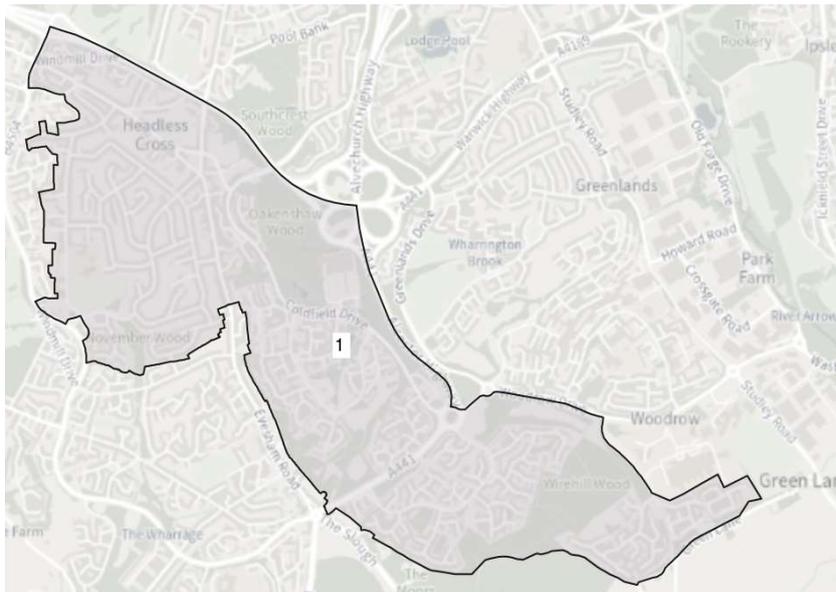
Councillors:	3
Property count:	3916
Total Electorate:	6879
Cllr electorate:	2293
Electorate Status:	Balanced
Electorate Target:	
Date/Time	2164 - 2644
Submitted:	27/05/2022 18:21

This ward is largely based on the current Astwood Bank and Feckenham ward with the addition of the majority of Crabb's Cross. The entire parish of Feckenham is in this ward as are the communities of Astwood Bank, Hunt End and the rural parts of Redditch which share a unique characteristic in Redditch.

The boundary between Crabb's Cross and Astwood Bank is ill defined without an easily identifiable boundary with continuous houses on Evesham Road and pedestrian routes. Crabb's Cross residents already use community facilities in Astwood Bank including Astwood Bank first school, Ridgeway high school and shops. Feckenham, Astwood bank and Crabb's Cross share a bus route linking the communities together. Equally many children in Feckenham and Astwood Bank are educated at St Augustin's high school showing a high level of community interconnectedness with children from both communities walking to school in the other.

This wards boundary follows that of the Borough of Redditch in the East, South and West. Its Boundary with the proposed Webheath and Callow Hill ward is distinct as it represents the point that rural Redditch becomes semi-urban in nature. The boundary with Headless Cross and Oakenshaw ward is clear through current signage and local knowledge, as they have been designed as separate communities for generations.

2. Headless Cross and Oakenshaw



Headless Cross and Oakenshaw

Councillors:	3
Property count:	4323
Total Electorate:	7242
Cllr electorate:	2414
Electorate Status:	Balanced
Electorate Target:	2164 - 2644
Date/Time Submitted:	27/05/2022 18:21

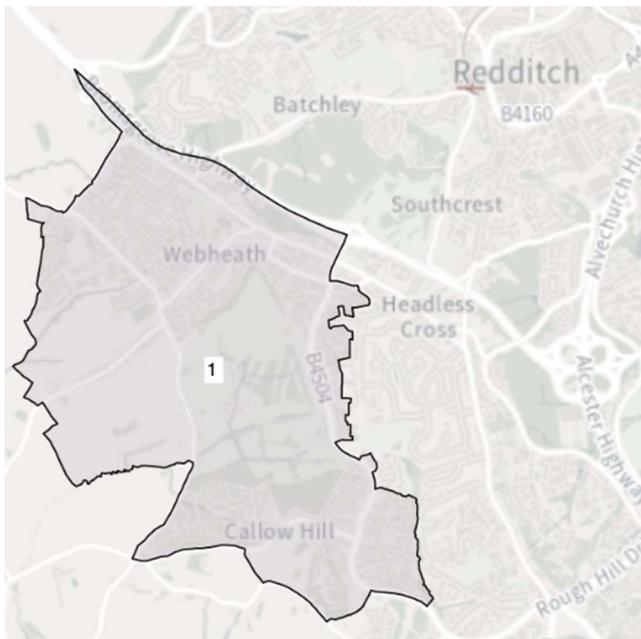
This ward is based upon the current ward of Headless Cross and Oakenshaw with the addition of Wirehill.

The shops at Headless Cross provides for most of Oakenshaw's local shopping needs with takeaways, hairdressers, corner shop and pubs within easy walking distance. Similarly, the large Tesco and Oakenshaw community centre is often used by residents of Headless Cross becoming community focal points. Both Vaynor and Walkwood schools in Headless cross educate a significant number of children from Oakenshaw which has no schools of its own.

The south of Oakenshaw shares Wirehill woods with the Wirehill district of Redditch. This part of the proposed ward shares the characteristic of being a green and wooded area being on the edge of Redditch close to the countryside which is only a short walk away. This part of the town not only shares the woods but also fields which many residents use recreationally including dog walkers, linking the communities together though a shared public facility.

This ward has a natural boundary following the A448/Bromsgrove highway, Alcester highway and Woodrow Drive to the north. In the East and part of the South is the Redditch Borough Council boundary with the remaining boundary the Crabb's Cross district boundary, which is separated by gardens, connecting paths and significantly different elevations.

3. Webheath and Callow Hill



Webheath and Callow Hill

Councillors:	3
Property count:	3936
Total Electorate:	7122
CLLr electorate:	2374
Electorate Status:	Balanced
Electorate Target:	
Date/Time	2164 - 2644
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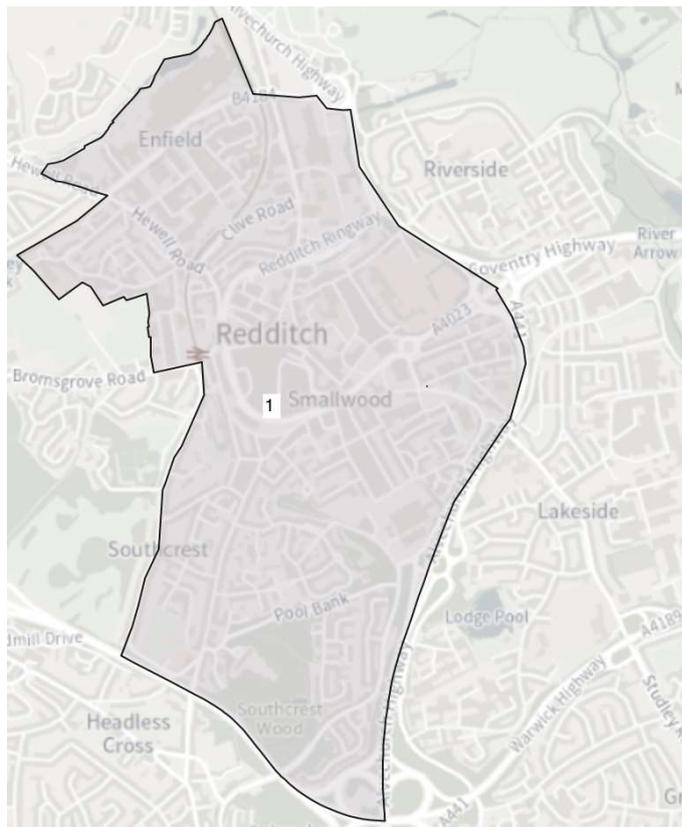
This ward is based upon the current West ward, centred on the Redditch district of Webheath with the addition of Callow Hill which used to form part of the defunct Crabb's Cross ward.

The Morton Stanley Park is a uniting feature and shared interest of this ward being used by all communities in the local area next to the Redditch golf club. Residents also share common facilities including Biddle's shop, the Rose and Crown pub, Webheath village hall and Webheath primary school showing the interconnectedness of these communities.

The ward shares common characteristics in the design of the estates and houses being very typical for a suburban area created through the Development Corporation. Both Callow Hill and Webheath represents the rural urban fringe between Redditch town and the rural parts of the borough. All parts of the ward can easily be walked with good transport links and established road networks.

This ward has the naturally distinct boundaries of the A448/Bromsgrove Highway to the north, Redditch Borough Council boundary to the west and rural Redditch to the south.

4. Central



Central

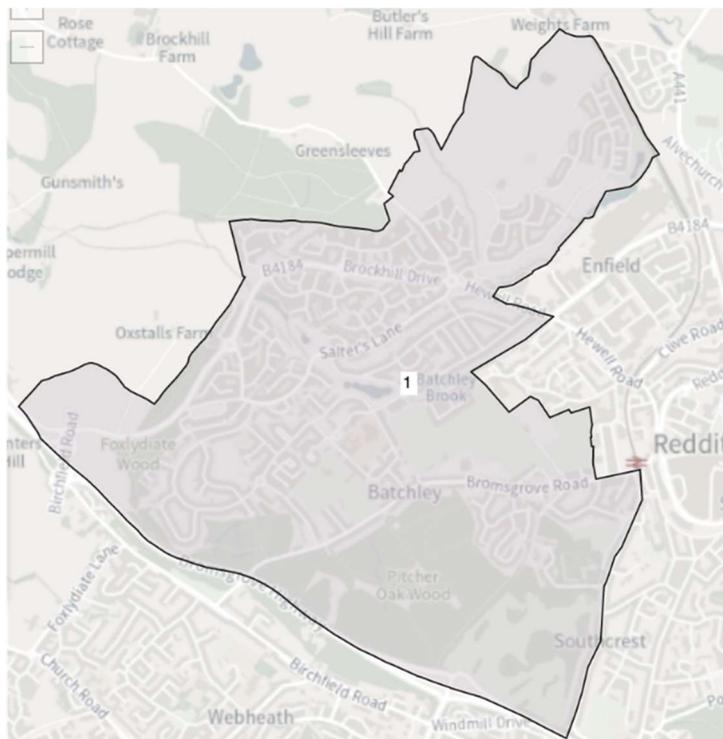
Councillors:	3
Property count:	4128
Total Electorate:	7161
Cllr electorate:	2387
Electorate Status:	Balanced
Electorate Target:	
Date/Time	2164 - 2644
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This ward includes the whole of the current Central ward and significant portion of the southern part of the current Abbey ward including the town centre and Enfield.

This proposed ward shares interests representing the urban core of Redditch, centred around the town centre where most of the community facilities are located including the Kingfisher shopping centre, Trafford retail park, Sainsburys and ASDA. With a significant number of GP's surgeries and community facilities such as the Palace theatre, this community has a unique shared interest in the town centre given it provides most community facilities for residents in this proposed ward. All residents of this ward are within short walking distance of the town centre.

This ward has naturally distinct boundaries with the A448/Bromsgrove Highway to the south, A441/Alcester Highway to the east, Enfield industrial estate to the north and Pitcher Oak golf course to the west.

5. Batchley and Brockhill



Batchley and Brockhill

Councillors:	3
Property count:	4221
Total Electorate:	7566
CLLr electorate:	2522
Electorate Status:	Balanced
Electorate Target:	
Date/Time	2164 - 2644
Submitted:	27/05/2022 18:21

This ward includes the current Batchley and Brockhill ward with minor additions.

Batchley represents an historic district of Redditch with a history stretching much further than the Development Corporation. Brockhill contrastingly has been slowly constructed using what was the urban/rural border of Batchley/Redditch creating a high degree of interconnectivity between these communities.

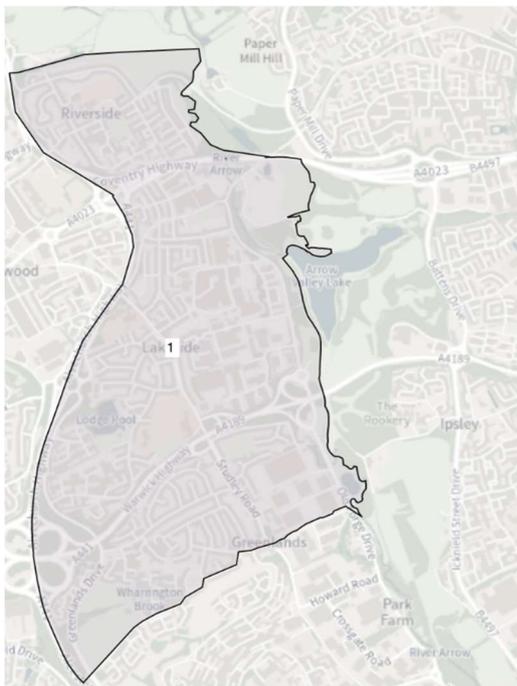
The design of Brockhill means that walking to any part of Batchley is easy and convenient. Both communities are serviced by the same bus routes. The communities also share many community facilities such as 2 shopping parades meeting the local services needs of both communities, particularly the Batchley Road shops.

Brockhill park is at the centre of the ward creating a green thread North of the Batchley Pool. This unifies both districts not only in a shared facility but a common identity and interest.

Birchensale middle school is the local school for the children of both communities.

This ward has distinctive boundaries with Redditch Borough Council boundary to the north, Train line separating communities to the east, A448/Bromsgrove Highway to the west, B4160 and the Pitcher Oak golf course to the south.

6. Greenlands and Lakeside



Greenlands and Lakeside

Councillors:	3
Property count:	4328
Total Electorate:	7473
Cllr electorate:	2491
Electorate Status:	Balanced
Electorate Target:	
Date/Time	2164 - 2644
Submitted:	27/05/2022 18:21

This ward includes the whole of the current Lodge Park ward with the addition of two polling districts from the present Greenlands ward. This ward would include the Redditch districts of Lakeside, Lodge Park, Abbeydale and Greenlands in their entirety.

The proposed ward crosses the A4189/Warwick highway however given the underpass for both pedestrians and cars this is not a dividing feature for the communities of Greenlands and Lodge Park. Studley Road which provides the spinal road for both communities in which all other roads connect off, continues under the highway without interruption.

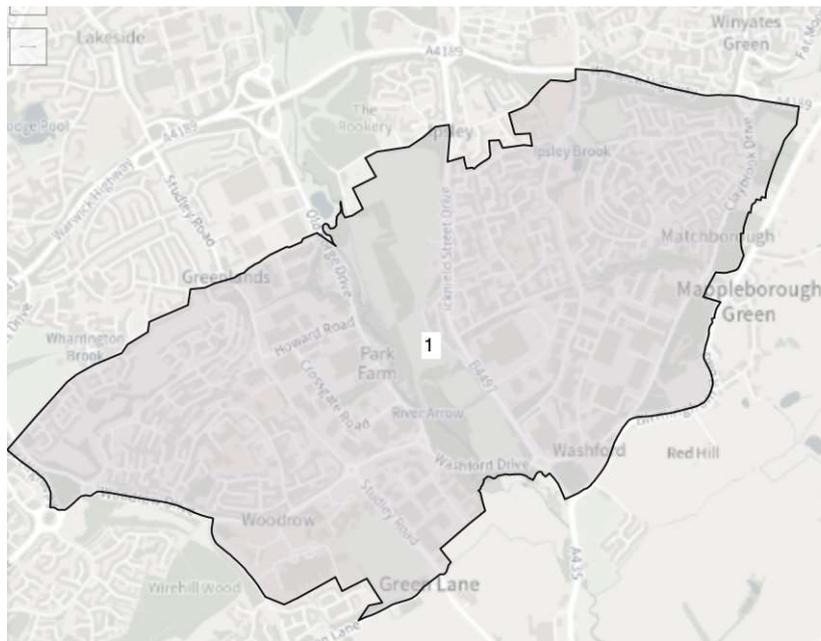
Many children in the proposed ward attend Woodfield middle which is around the geographical centre of the ward opposite the Studley Road Social club. Local shopping needs are catered for by the Lodge Park shops which is used by all communities, with the Mayfly pub also attracting many residents in Lodge Park into Greenlands.

This ward shares common characteristics of both Redditch old town and new town housing blended. The principal recreation space for the whole ward is Arrow valley Park which is a unifying community facility.

All the communities in this ward are connected through the same bus route, cycle route and walking links.

The wards eastern boundary is divided through the Arrow Valley Park where the lake is clearly a natural break point in communities. The river Arrow creates the northern boundary and the A441 the western boundary. The current polling district boundary of Woodrow N is used to form the southern boundary.

7. Matchbrough and Woodrow



Matchbrough and Woodrow

Councillors:	3
Property count:	4392
Total Electorate:	7545
Cllr electorate:	2515
Electorate Status:	Balanced
Electorate Target:	
Date/Time	2164 - 2644
Submitted:	27/05/2022 18:21

This ward comprises of the current two Redditch districts of Matchbrough and Woodrow. The majority of the present Matchbrough ward and the southern part of the Greenlands ward form this new ward.

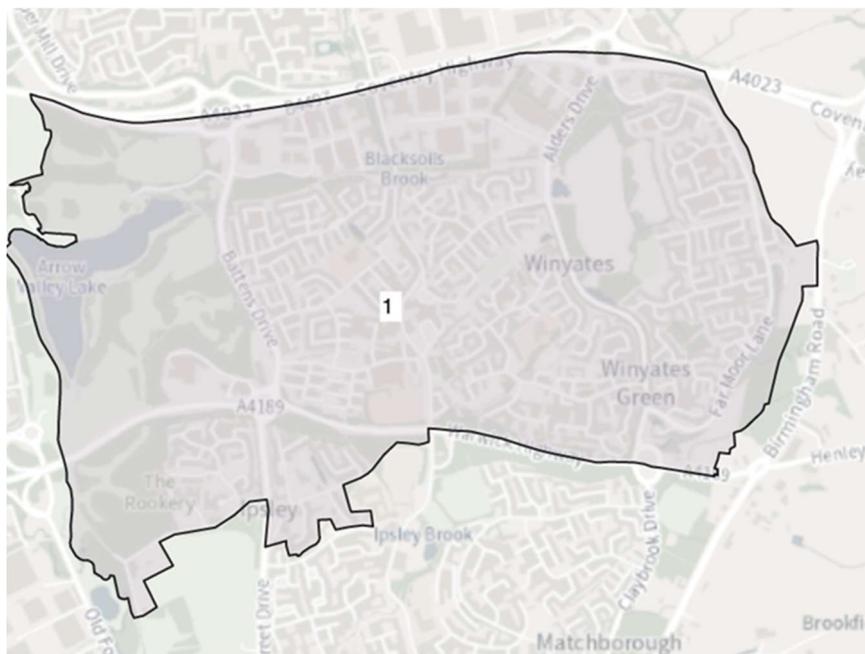
As new town districts both have a district centres which are easily accessible from all houses in the area providing shopping, takeaways, hairdressers, community groups and even a library in Woodrow. This creates a distinct and identifiable community within those areas.

Both estates were developed at the same time including the same design of housing and layout of closes. This means they have shared interests when it comes to issues arising from the design of the new town estates such as parking, regeneration, and communal spaces.

The 57 and 58 bus routes connect Woodrow and Matchbrough together with established walking routes though a small part of the Arrow Valley Park.

This ward has a natural boundary to the East coinciding with the Redditch Borough border. The north of the ward is demarcated largely by the A4189/Warwick Highway, the Greenlands playing fields and Arrow Valley Park. The southern boundary of the ward being Woodrow Drive and the border of Redditch. The western boundary is the Alcester Highway/A441.

8. Winyates



Winyates

Councillors:	3
Property count:	3918
Total Electorate:	7116
Cllr electorate:	2372
Electorate Status:	Balanced
Electorate Target:	
Date/Time	2164 - 2644
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The proposed ward keeps similar boundaries to the current ward's boundaries with the addition of Ipsley and houses off Ipsley lane. The ward comprises of Winyates East, Winyates West, Winyates Green and Ipsley. It was designed by the Redditch Development Corporation to be a distinct community which can easily be walked through, and public services accessed easily from all parts of the district.

Winyates Centre is at the centre of this ward providing shops, health centre, a pub, takeaways, hairdressers, and several community groups including REACH CIC and Inspire. Ipsley middle school is also at the heart of the ward becoming a central community focal point.

Ipsley is a community with a distinctive identity and long history sitting separate from the rest of Matchborough. Houses here and off Ipsley Lane are from a differing time periods surrounded by significantly more greenery, unlike Matchborough which was created by the Development Corporation with features like communal car parks; with Ipsley being historic in nature it does not share the new town characteristics of Matchborough.

This ward has the naturally distinct boundaries of an industrial estate to the north, the Arrow Valley Park including the lake to the west and the Warwick Highway/A4189 to the south which separates it from surrounding communities.

9. North



North

Councillors:	3
Property count:	4534
Total Electorate:	7455
CLLr electorate:	2485
Electorate Status:	Balanced
Electorate Target:	
Date/Time	2164 - 2644
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This ward includes the current Church Hill ward with the addition of Church Hill north and Hither Green Lane which previously formed part of Abbey ward.

Church Hill Centre provides the local surgery, two schools, convenience store and takeaways being the local hub of community facilities used by the whole area. As part of the new town developments Church Hill including Church Hill North was designed as one community sharing transport links as well as local facilities making them a natural fit in the same ward.

Hither Green Lane as an area shares many characteristics with Church Hill North given their proximity to the countryside just over Redditch borough Council borders. Hither Green Lane is surrounded by a golf course and the Arrow Valley Park linking it to Church Hill.

The community group Church Hill Big Local is very active within this ward building community identity and local community distinct from other parts of Redditch.

This ward has the distinct boundaries – the Redditch borough council boundaries to the North and East. The A4023 and the river Arrow create the southern boundary with the western boundary formed by the trainline.