

Stratford on Avon District Council

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Comment text:

Hi, I have uploaded the consultation response on behalf of the Stratford Liberal Democrats as a file attachment. Regards, Toby Lee.

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1638789293_SOA+Boundaries+Draft+Proposal+Response+-+Liberal+Democrats+06.12.2021.zip)

Stratford-upon-Avon Liberal Democrats
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6th December 2021

To The Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Review of Stratford On Avon District Council Wards

In response to the need identified by the Local Government Boundary Commission (the "LGBC") to increase the number of ward councillors from 36 to 41 in the Stratford-on-Avon District will need wholesale review of the entire district. It will not be possible to simply adjust the existing wards.

The Liberal Democrats, whose elected councillors represent 12 of the existing 36 wards, completed a full review of the district in order to feed into the first part of the consultation. Now that the LGBC have published their draft proposals, the Liberal Democrats have completed a comprehensive review of the proposed wards, which is detailed in this response letter and supported by Appendix A and Appendix B.

Liberal Democrat Summary Position

In summary, the Liberal Democrats object to draft proposals as they currently stand. Though the majority of the single member wards proposed by the LGBC are largely acceptable, subject to adjustment in some cases, the Liberal Democrats are opposed to the multiple member wards which have been proposed. We believe that the electorate in Stratford On Avon District will be best served by single member wards, as is currently the case, allowing their respective communities clear representation. In particular, the large rural two member wards proposed will be very difficult in practice for elected councillors to effectively serve as span a large number of different communities.

This consultation response details four positions taken by the Liberal Democrats:

- LGBC proposed single member wards supported by the Liberal Democrats;
- LGBC single member wards supported in principle by the Liberal Democrats, subject to minor adjustment as detailed;
- LGBC two member wards which should be split into two single member wards using the wider proposed by LGBC; and
- New proposed wards, principally to aid the removal of the large rural two member wards.

Single Member Wards Supported by the Liberal Democrats

The following single member wards proposed by the LGBC are fully supported by the Liberal Democrats.

Proposed Ward	Number of Councillors
Tanworth-in-Arden	1
Henley-in-Arden	1
Wootton Wawen	1
Alcester West	1
Alcester East	1
Kinwarton	1
Claverdon & Snitterfield	1
Salford Priors & Alcester Rural	1
Welford-on-Avon	1
Long Marston	1
Quinton	1
Tredington	1
Brailes & Compton	1
Tysoe	1
Stratford Guildhall & Bridgetown	1
Stratford Welcombe	1
Wellesbourne South	1

Single Member Wards Supported In Principle by the Liberal Democrats Subject to Minor Adjustment

The following single member wards proposed by the LGBC are supported in principle by the Liberal Democrats subject to minor amendment as detailed in the table below.

Proposed Ward	Number of councillors	Proposed Adjustment
Stratford Avenue	1	The south west boundary of this ward should be adjusted to follow the canal instead of the rail way. This will enable part of proposed canal quarter development (which has outline consent) to fit within this ward. This in turn will increase the forecast electorate of the existing Stratford Avenue ward and lower the forecast electorate of the Hathaway ward, which already has a number of new housing developments under construction.
Stratford Clopton	1	A small boundary adjustment is proposed so that the ward encompasses all of St Andrews Close and the Willows, currently proposed to be within the Shottery ward.

Proposed Ward	Number of councillors	Proposed Adjustment
Stratford Shottery	1	As well as the adjustment noted to the Clopton ward, a small boundary adjustment is proposed so that the ward encompasses Church Lane and Cottage Lane. This will enable the Shottery village to remain fully intact and will reduce the forecast electorate in the existing Hathaway Ward.
Stratford Orchard Hill	1	A small boundary adjustment so that all of the houses along the Loxley Road are included in the Stratford Tiddington Ward, thereby better balancing the electorate numbers.
Stratford Tiddington	1	A small boundary adjustment so that all of the houses along the Loxley Road are included in the Stratford Tiddington Ward, thereby better balancing the electorate numbers.
Wellesbourne North & Rural	1	Removal of the Lighthorne Parish so it can be used in a new ward proposal.
Wellesbourne East & Rural	1	Removal of the Combrook and Compton Verney Parishes so that they can be used in a new ward proposal.
Harbury	1	Removal of the Ladbroke Parish so that it can be used in a new ward proposal.
Long Itchington and Southam North	1	Adjustment of the southern boundary to encompass a little more of the north part of Southam, enabling a new proposal to be made for the Southam wards.

LGBC Two Member Wards Which Should be Split In to Two Based Upon the Wider Area Proposed

The proposals split some of the two member wards proposed into single member wards.

Proposed Ward	Number of councillors	Proposed Adjustment
Studley with Sambourne	2	This should be split into two single member wards. The existing EEA polling boundary with a small extension to the east would form the 'Studley South Ward'. The remaining parts of the area would form the 'Studley North with Sambourne Ward'.
Bidford-on-Avon	2	This should be split on a largely east/west basis to form two single member wards, 'Bidford East' and 'Bidford West'.
Shipston-on-Stour	2	This should be split into two single member wards. This can be achieved using a north/south split principally following the Campden Road. This would form a 'Shipston North' ward and a 'Shipston South' ward.

Proposed Ward	Number of councillors	Proposed Adjustment
Stratford West	2	Noting that adjustments are proposed to the adjacent Avenue and Shottery Wards which result in a reduction in the forecast electorate, two single member wards should be formed, largely following the make up of the existing Bishopton and Hathaway wards. These would be named as the Bishopton ward and the Hathaway ward. The Bishopton ward would retain the shops and community facilities along Drayton Avenue.

New Proposed Wards

New wards are proposed as follows.

Proposed Ward	Number of councillors	Proposal
Kineton	1	<p>This would include the following parishes to form a single member ward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butlers Marston • Chadshunt • Combrook • Compton Verney • Kineton <p>This would maintain these linked communities with a single member to represent them.</p>
Gaydon Lighthorne	1	<p>This would include the following parishes to form a single member ward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaydon • Lighthorne • Upper Lighthorne <p>This would maintain these linked communities with a single member to represent them.</p>
Dassett	1	<p>This would include the following parishes to form a single member ward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon Dassett • Burton Dassett • Farnborough • Fenny Compton • Hodnell and Wills Pastures • Radbourn • Shotteswell • Warmington • Watergall • Wormleighton <p>This would maintain these linked communities with a single member to represent them.</p>

Proposed Ward	Number of councillors	Proposal
Stockton and Napton	1	<p>This would include the following parishes to form a single member ward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Napton on the Hill • Priors Hardwick • Priors Marston • Stockton • Stoneton • Upper and Lower Shuckburgh <p>This would maintain these linked communities with a single member to represent them.</p>
Southam East	1	<p>This is a single member ward using the eastern part of the Southam parish. This uses the boundary of the Long Itchington and Southam North boundary (as adjusted) and then a boundary on the east following Coventry Street, High Steet, Market Hill, Oxford Street and Banbury Road. The southern boundary would follow the A425.</p>
Southam West	1	<p>This is a single member ward using the western part of the Southam parish, following the western boundary as described for 'Southam East'.</p>
Bishops Itchington with Southam South	1	<p>This would include the following complete parishes plus the southern part of Southam below the A425:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop's Itchington • Chapel Ascot • Ladbroke <p>This would form a single member ward.</p>

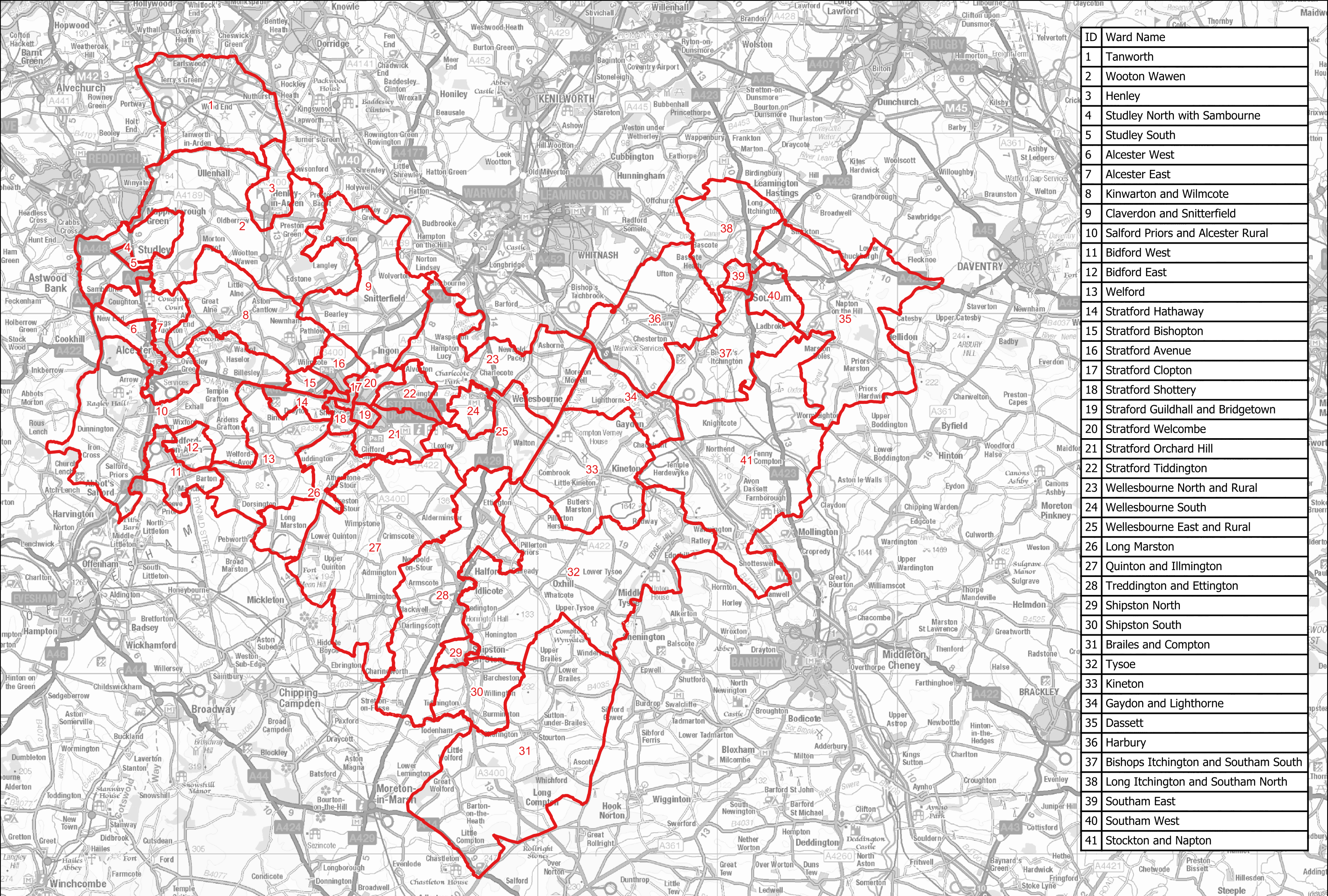
Overall Proposed Ward Pattern

Appendix A sets out the Liberal Democrat's overall preferred pattern for 41 single member wards. Appendix B provides a GIS file detailing these wards.

We would be happy to respond to any queries that you may have on this submission,

Toby Lee,

On behalf of Stratford District Council Liberal Democrat Group



ID	Ward Name
1	Tanworth
2	Wooton Waven
3	Henley
4	Studley North with Sambourne
5	Studley South
6	Alcester West
7	Alcester East
8	Kinwarton and Wilmcote
9	Claverdon and Snitterfield
10	Salford Priors and Alcester Rural
11	Bidford West
12	Bidford East
13	Welford
14	Stratford Hathaway
15	Stratford Bishopston
16	Stratford Avenue
17	Stratford Clopton
18	Stratford Shottery
19	Straford Guildhall and Bridgetown
20	Stratford Welcombe
21	Stratford Orchard Hill
22	Stratford Tiddington
23	Wellesbourne North and Rural
24	Wellesbourne South
25	Wellesbourne East and Rural
26	Long Marston
27	Quinton and Illmington
28	Treddington and Ettington
29	Shipston North
30	Shipston South
31	Brailes and Compton
32	Tysoe
33	Kineton
34	Gaydon and Lighthorne
35	Dassett
36	Harbury
37	Bishops Itchington and Southam South
38	Long Itchington and Southam North
39	Southam East
40	Southam West
41	Stockton and Napton