

Gloucestershire

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: The (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: OWLPEN

I am writing as Chairman of the charity “The Uley Society” to object to the proposal to move Owlpen from the Dursley Division to Wotton-under-Edge division. The Uley Society Constitution states that the Society was established for the public benefit in the area comprising Uley with Owlpen. Our membership includes residents of both Owlpen and Uley. The villages of Uley and Owlpen are geographically situated in close proximity and there are extremely close community ties.

Owlpen and Uley both sit within sight of each other in the Ewelme Valley, a short walk apart separated by just a few fields and the river Ewelme. The roads into Owlpen start in Uley. Owlpen has no amenities of its own except for a small church and the residents of Owlpen use the amenities in Uley such as the village shop, post office, Junior school, playground, doctors’ surgery, church, pub and Village Hall. They can catch a bus in Uley to the nearby towns of Dursley and Stroud. The town of Dursley, at the end of Ewelme Valley is just some 3 miles Owlpen travelling along the B4066 from Uley following a historical and natural route. Residents of Owlpen would normally travel into Dursley for services not available at village level such as shops, supermarkets, secondary school and minor injuries hospital. The churches of Owlpen, Uley and Dursley are combined into one “Ewelme Benefice.” By virtue of the geographical proximity and community links, matters affecting Dursley and Uley also therefore have a significant impact on Owlpen.

Owlpen has no community links with the town of Wotton-under-Edge which lies over the hill some 6 miles away and can only be reached after a 20-minute car journey. There is only a short length of shared boundary between Owlpen and Wotton-under-Edge. There is nothing of common interest, no public transport links and no community services in Wotton-under-Edge of benefit to Owlpen residents. Whilst matters of local interest

to residents in Owlpen, Uley and Dursley are inextricably interlinked, it is hard to see what relevance matters in Owlpen could have for Wotton-under-Edge and indeed what relevance matters in Wotton-under-Edge could have for Owlpen.

The scanned OS map image attached below nicely illustrates the proximity of Owlpen (at the right-hand margin near the top) to Uley and the natural road links to Uley and Dursley. It also shows that Wotton-under-Edge at the bottom of the image is the other side of a significant hill up and onto the Cotswold Plateau and then down again into Wotton-under-Edge. There are no natural transport routes between Owlpen and Wotton-under-Edge.

With Uley and Owlpen so closely linked geographically, by community ties and by common interests the democratic interests of Owlpen residents are arguably best served by the current arrangement with Owlpen combining its voice with the larger Parish of Uley in the Dursley Division. Taking Owlpen out the Dursley Division in which it has so many geographical, historic, community ties and shared facilities is neither logical nor serves the needs of the Owlpen residents. Given that there are only some 35 adult residents in Owlpen it is hard to see how much attention will be given to their needs and requirements when local government is considering issues of importance to the many residents of Wotton-under-Edge.

On behalf of the Uley Society and its members I urge you to abandon the proposal to move Owlpen into the Wotton-under-Edge Division and leave it where it naturally and logically fits – in the Dursley Division.

Attached Documents:

- [img20231211_12020659.jpg](#)

