



New Oriel Hall
Brookleaze Buildings
Larkhall
Bath
BA1 6RA
01225 466606
info@neworielhall.org.uk
www.neworielhall.org.uk

February 15th 2018

The Review Officer (Bath and North East Somerset), The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to represent the views of New Oriel Hall, a community centre in the present Lambridge ward.

The proposed boundary changes - to abolish Lambridge ward and form a reduced one-councillor ward named 'Larkhall' - do not reflect your own key criteria for a council ward which should: "reflect community identity" and have "community links". The present ward, Lambridge, is an example of these criteria in action, with residential areas in Fairfield Park and Bailbrook situated around the centre of Larkhall with its schools, shops, community centre and church. To split up the present ward will lose community cohesion and also the two councillors needed to provide democratic representation for the whole community. There are too many activities in Larkhall – cultural, commercial and educational – for one councillor.

New Oriel Hall was created in 2004 from an unused school building, and is situated at the heart of the community, in Larkhall, at the centre of the geographical area, within which residents already shared facilities and worked together in community groups. New Oriel Hall provides additional opportunities for community cohesion in Lambridge ward, which the present two Lambridge councillors are involved in supporting, including: a community library; organisations which promote community issues – for example Larkhall Transition Group; groups which support individuals of all ages with particular needs; community events in New Oriel Hall – for example a Christmas festival and a summer arts festival; and running their own councillor surgeries within the centre.

We strongly hope you will reconsider your decision on ward boundaries in this area. Lambridge ward should not be broken up.

Yours sincerely

The Trustees, Management Committee and Administrators of New Oriel Hall

(David Lucas, Theresa Waterhouse, Michael Kelleher, Lin Patterson, Ann Fear, John Wood, Naomi Brown, Caroline Woodgate)

