

WARWICK TOWN COUNCIL



Jayne Topham
Town Clerk

2nd February 2018

Boundary Commission

Dear Sirs

Warwick Town Councils Boundary Response

With reference to the Boundary Commission Consultation of 28th November now that the Warwick District Council Licensing and Regulatory Committee have agreed their submission Warwick Town Council wish to respond accordingly. The Boundary proposals have been discussed at two meetings and our submission was formally agreed at the Economic & Tourism Meeting on the 1st February 2018, following the discussions and recommendations of a small working party.

This Council recognises the importance of boundary arrangements that roughly aim to deliver electoral equality, where each WDC vote is of equal value within the District. However, this Council also places an even **greater value** on Wards reflecting the interests and known identities of specific community areas and not just ensuring Wards are of equal numbers if this creates non-identifiable communities.

In supporting the WDC Licensing & Regulatory recommendations this Council accepts that co-terminosity of WDC wards with the WCC Divisions within Warwick Town just does not work. Either by equality of electoral numbers or known communities, even though ideally this would be the outcome of any Boundary review and we would urge that any future Boundary reviews **MUST** take place simultaneously to avoid the continued difficulties that this current review is facing, particularly from a Town and Parish Council perspective.

Warwick Town Council therefore accept that the Wards proposed by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee of Warwick District Council represent more accurately the communities within the town of Warwick. Therefore, Warwick Town Council supports the recommendations of the WDC Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

To further support the recommendations, we would like to submit the following comments: -

Woodloes & The Percy Estate areas

- Regarding the Woodloes, the communities of Eastley Crescent, Warmington Grove, Lyster Close, Wilmhurst Road, and Goode Close, are re-united with the rest of the Woodloes and Warwick North Community, which they are a part of, but were arbitrarily separated from in the County Council Divisions. This area will happily form a new Town Ward of a sensible working size. The Woodloes estate, the Percy Estate and the All Saints parish areas around the Emscote Road are well-defined communities, where many residents have lived and grown up or have long standing family connections with the Estates and identify as the Warwick North part of our town. For these residents, Warwick North is how they identify only being split at the last WDC/WCC change so to go back to a WDC Ward know as Warwick North will seem only logical and welcomed. The small-Town Ward created by the non-co-terminosity of the WDC and WCC ward/divisions will present a workable Town ward so would be acceptable to the Town Council.

The Aylesford Ward

- The Aylesford Ward again re-joins parts of a recognised community that looks towards both St. Mary's Lands, and to Castle Park. The current County Divisions splits this community down the Stratford Road, leaving the east side of the Stratford Road in a division where the Castle Park area divides them from most of the rest of the other voters in Warwick South. The proposed Aylesford Ward reunites the residents on the east side of the Stratford Road with the rest of the community that looks towards St. Mary's lands. This makes a much more logical Warding and unites what is known as the Stratford Road area within the Town, which certainly does not identify with Warwick South which residents see as the area south of the river Avon.

Town Centre

- Within the vibrant centre of Warwick there are communities that exist around the Town Centre and Market Square, as well as Warwick Hospital. The Licensing and Regulatory Committee proposals re-join these two parts of the beating heart of Warwick's centre. This makes a much more recognisable Town Centre ward, and would also contain St. Nicholas Park and Leisure Centre which is used by many resident who live within the centre and continues the link with the main tourist area of the town. The Town Council welcomes this change and feels it is time that the centre was truly identified and not just part of a wider arbitrary ward. There was a Warwick Town Central Ward in the past, and now that electoral numbers justify such Warding, we are sure town residents will be very pleased to be better represented.

Warwick South

- In the Warwick South area, there are currently two communities – one that exists in and around the Myton Road that is historic and long established alongside Warwick School and Bridge End, and one in the Heathcote area that is

newer. These two areas will merge over the next five years, with thousands of houses being built in the area in-between at Gallows Hill and the Asps.

- Over the next two election cycles, the Councillors for this area are going to have to help look after these two settled communities and at the same time help with the community building of new, large settlements that bridge the gap of the two existing communities. We feel therefore that for the present time we should be keeping this was a single multi Councillor ward so that relationships can be developed as the two communities merge.

-
We trust that the Boundary Commission will take into consideration our comments as community cohesion with our historic town is of great value and these proposals do try to acknowledge clearly identifiable communities; which the Town Council is therefore keen to support.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Jayne Topham
Town Clerk