

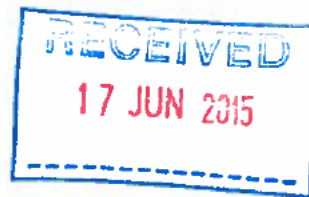
ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH TOWN COUNCIL

Jack Fargher, M.A., M.L.C.M.
Town Clerk



Review Officer (Leicestershire)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

15th June 2015



Dear Sir/ Madam

Re: Electoral Review of Leicestershire

At the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting of Ashby de la Zouch Town Council held on 1 June 2015 the correspondence received concerning the electoral review of Leicestershire was considered. The Town Council believes that the current electoral division of Ashby de la Zouch should be retained in its current composition.

The Town Council understands the need to ensure a balanced representation with similar number of voters in each Division. However the pattern of a division also needs to reflect the interests and needs of the local community. Ashby de la Zouch is a distinct settlement with a strong local identity and this is reflected in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the electoral division of Ashby de la Zouch.

Even with the anticipated growth set out in the Boundary Commission's consultation document giving an electorate of 11,209 the overall electorate would be less than other neighbouring divisions of Coalville (11,406) and Forest and Measham (11,530).

It is recognised that the electorate in the Valley Division is significantly lower than in the other neighbouring divisions however the Town Councillors feel strongly that splitting the town of Ashby in two, with the inclusion of one Ashby Ward with Valley would be wrong. Castle Ward covers the historic castle and St Helen's Church, important areas of open space and the Leicester Road site of Ashby School. Whilst the Money Hill Ward includes both the Nottingham Road site of Ashby School and Ivanhoe College, a significant part of the conservation area and the main shopping centre. If either of these wards became part of the Valley Division then Ashby School would have buildings in different County Council divisions.

The Valley Division is a collection of small villages and hamlets, at some distance from Ashby and with no direct relationship or synergy with Ashby.

Yours faithfully



PP Councillor S.J. Hout
Chairman Planning and Transportation Committee, Ashby de la Zouch Town Council
Cc. Graham Wardle, Member Support and Developmental Services Manager, LCC