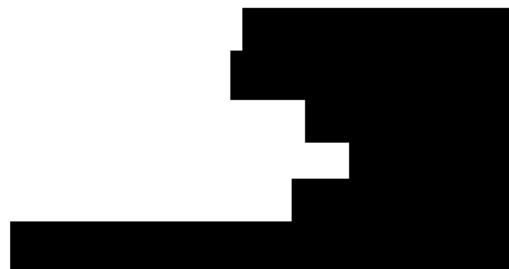


Ashby de la Zouch Civic Society



Leicestershire Proposed Boundary Changes and Local Government Boundary Commission Submission For Ashby de la Zouch

We wish to strongly object to proposal for new electoral divisions as proposed by Leicestershire County Council July 2015 and wish to submit our alternative proposal to the proposed changes to Ashby de la Zouch boundaries.

Despite the County Council's public consultation on its initial proposals lasting only 14 days it attracted 14 objections to the proposal for North West Leicestershire. The proposal to transfer Moneyhill Ward from Ashby to Valley has been replaced by Castle Ward to Valley in their final submission. This new proposal is equally unacceptable.

Ashby is a important successful market town, growing rapidly and voted 8th best market town in which to live in the Guardian survey.

The commission says that as well as having approximately the same number of voters in each division , " the pattern of division should reflect the interests and identity of the local communities as well as promoting effective local government". This currently is what we have.

The proposal put forward by LCC (remove Castle Ward from the town and replace it with Blackfordby village) will destroy the identity of Ashby and render local government totally ineffective, contrary to the boundary commission principles.

Blackfordby is a nearby village to Ashby but has little interest or identity with Ashby town.

The Town Council , NWLDC, and the Neighborhood plan all consider Ashby as a coherent town represented and operating as a whole entity. Although Blackfordby is governed by the Ashby Town Council, it is as a matter of convenience. Currently Blackfordby is represented at district level by their own district councillor and at county level level by the Forest and Measham Councillor.

LCC propose to move Ashby Castle Ward to the Valley division which is a collection of small villages and hamlets distant from Ashby and bearing no relationship or synergy with Ashby.

To have Castle Ward and it's key resources stripped away from the rest of the town and be represented together with numerous tiny hamlets is clearly nonsensical.

We would ask you not to adopt this submission , leave Ashby as one congruent division until such time as it grows to size which demands division.

The County Council proposals are based around the need to adjust the Valley Ward and the mathematics of equalising wards. they do not consider the integrity and identity issues involved.

The Ashby Division is currently 107% of target size and growth will increase this to 110% by 2021.

The growth predicted for Ashby is very optimistic and although it will be achieved eventually is very unlikely to happen by 2021.

We would therefore propose that no changes are made to the Ashby wards until the next boundaries review.

Below are set out the statistics of the LCC and Ashby Civic Society Proposals.

WARDS	CURRENT 2014.	LCC PROPOSAL. 2021.	ASHBY CIVIC PROPOSAL 2021
Moneyhill.	1806.	2340	2340
Holywell.	907.	1183	1183
Holywell.	1058.	1303	1303
Ivanhoe.	737.	762.	762
Ivanhoe.	1129.	1215.	1215
Willesley.	1593.	1666.	1666
Willesley.	378.	417.	417
Castle.	1917.		2020
Blackfordby.		1331	
TOTAL.	9534.	10276.	10965
% TARGET.	107%.	103%.	110%

In the period considered the current Ashby division is within the maximum variation. The civic society proposal for 2021 is still within the 10% limit.

For simplicity if Blackfordby ward was exchanged for the Castle ward in the LCC plan then the Valley division would have a deviation of -13% instead of -6% but would still be a large improvement of the 2014 variation of -21%

Regards

C.Tandy:

Vice Chairman, Ashby de la Zouch Civic Society