Dear Sir,

Responses to Local Government Boundary Commission Draft Recommendations

New Electoral Arrangements

General

The Council notes that the draft proposal recommends 57 single electoral divisions. Although the Council supports the principles behind single member divisions it is disappointed that the Commission has not allowed for dual member divisions in the areas previously recommended by Warwickshire County Council.

Nuneaton and Bedworth

The Council would ask the Commission to reconsider its draft proposals and adopt those proposed originally by Warwickshire County Council. The current draft proposals of the Commission are unsupported by any evidence or consideration of community identity, and have nothing to recommend them in terms of coterminosity which is reduced from 13 to 7. All the divisions previously proposed fell within the forecast electoral toleranc, and evidence was provided to the Commission of community identity and how these naturally fell within the Borough. Warwickshire County Council’s proposals took account of all three statutory criteria including the Commission’s advice that coterminosity was important.

Unfortunately, the Commission’s proposals do not appear to have had regard to the three statutory criteria, only one of them. There is no commentary in the draft report which addresses either of the other two statutory criteria other than to report the adverse impact on coterminosity. As a result, the Council requests that the Commission reconsiders its draft recommendations in regard to the Borough, as it believes that there is no significant gain in terms of electoral equality under the draft proposals. However, there is a considerable loss of community identity.

Yours faithfully,

Alan Franks