In reference to the divisional review being undertaken in Warwickshire, and the changes proposed in Nuneaton.

We would ask that the commission to reconsider its draft proposals and adapt those proposed originally by the county council. The draft proposals by the commission are unsupported by any evidence or consideration of community identity and have nothing to recommend them in terms of coterminosity when reducing them from 13 to 7.

The county proposals were superior in all respects. All the divisions proposed by the council fell within the forecast electoral tolerance with evidence of community identity and how these naturally operated within the borough. The county proposals did take account of all three statutory criteria including the Commissions advice that coterminosity was important. To help in electoral participation and a sense of belonging the county proposals make more sense in the achieving that aim.

The Commissions proposals do not appear to have regards to the three statutory criteria, only one of them. There is no commentary in the report which addresses either of the other two statutory criteria, and that there is no significant gain the terms of electoral equality, but considerable loss of community identity.

It is also felt that the suggested recommendations are not correct given the new development within the borough, therefore the figures do not indicate the true growth by 2020, and will soon be out of date and in need of further expensive reviews.

The naming of the divisions suggested does nothing to enhance community belonging. Nuneaton central may be geographically acceptable, but “Manor Park Division” would be far more acceptable to the residents in the enlarged area. Manor Park was the home to Nuneaton football club in the ward and the name of the local secondary school before it was closed. There are main roads named Manor Park,
Manor Park Avenue, Manor Court road, etc. this would make more sense in cultivating identity than Nuneaton Central.

regards

Cllr Neil J P Phillips

Abbey Ward District Councillor Nuneaton on behalf of Nuneaton Labour CLP