



The Civil Parish of

## Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe

21<sup>st</sup> May 2018

The Boundaries Commission for England and Wales

Dear Sirs,

### **Proposed Changes to Warwick District Ward Boundaries.**

I am writing to express this Council's strong objection to the proposed changes to the Ward Boundary and the amalgamation of Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe with the Parish of Cubbington for electoral boundary purposes.

The proposals, as framed, do not "recognise the communities within the District", as suggested in paragraph 3.3 of the recommendations. They represent, instead, an effort to force fit the electoral wards to the criteria of electoral equality and coterminous boundaries, without regard to community interests and identity.

The Parish of Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe has little or no relationship with Cubbington (other than a shared boundary), which is more an extension of the urban community of Leamington, than a rural parish.

The alleged strong link of "shared issues" over air traffic and the impact of HS2, included in the District Council's recommendations (paragraph 3.7), is spurious. The route for HS2 has no direct impact whatsoever on the parish of Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe and the issue of air traffic is common to the entire Warwick District, since aircraft flight paths vary and have no bearing on parish or ward boundaries.

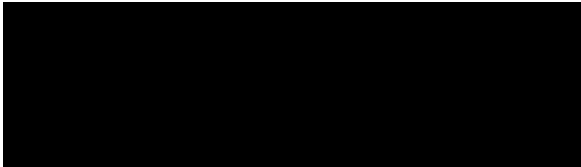
Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe, on the other hand, is a distinctly rural parish and shares many common interests and needs with adjacent Lapworth and the parishes of Hatton and Budbrooke to the south.

It is an explicit objective of the Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Neighbourhood Plan to maintain its separation from the nearby towns, especially Leamington Spa and Warwick. Amalgamation with Cubbington would, by extension, increase the linkage with Leamington Spa.

**Clr Colin Smith | Chairman**

The Council, therefore, strongly maintains that there are alternative solutions that should be considered, which place greater emphasis on local community interests and commonality of purpose, rather than an attempt at statistical elegance.

Yours faithfully



Colin Smith  
Chairman