

Submission to LGBCE in respect of Warwick District Council boundary review in February 2018

Overall I support the revised warding as proposed by Warwick District Council's Licensing and Regulatory Committee as amended by the Warwick and Leamington Conservative proposals.

As ward councillor for Budbrooke, as well as a resident in Wasperton, I wish though to raise my concerns about a specific aspect of an alternative plan put forward by Labour and the Liberal Democrats in respect of the proposal for the warding of the village of Wasperton. I refer to the following paragraphs in that proposal:

By placing the small (132 voter) Wasperton polling district into the Bishop's Tachbrook half there is closer electoral equality, raising the latter from minus 2% to exact equality by 2023 and the Budbrooke half falling from plus14% to plus 12% over the District average.

Wasperton is a community distinct from both Barford and Bishops Tachbrook, though closer to Barford (about 1.5 miles against 3 miles) and part of the joint parish council of Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton. Roads link it to both villages, albeit that to the latter runs along the edge of the polling district. On balance therefore we believe this is the best compromise between the first two principles of the review.

On behalf of the villagers of Wasperton I would strongly oppose this proposal for the following reasons:

- 1) Wasperton village represents about 95% of the electors in the Parish of Wasperton.
- 2) Wasperton village is south-west of the village of Bishop's Tachbrook.
- 3) Wasperton village is also south-west of the village of Barford.
- 4) There is no direct road between Wasperton village and Bishop's Tachbrook.
- 5) All routes to Bishop's Tachbrook either go through the adjoining village of Barford or via Wellesbourne.
- 6) Wasperton, contrary to the proposal above, is over 5 miles by road from Bishop's Tachbrook when going through Barford and 8 miles through Wellesbourne
- 7) The road between Barford and Bishops Tachbrook which indirectly connects the villages of Wasperton and Bishops Tachbrook is a two mile long narrow single track unlit road
- 8) There are strong connections between the villages of Wasperton and Barford:-
 - a. The Barford Community Village Shop is the nearest local shop and regularly used by residents of Wasperton
 - b. The nearest pubs to Wasperton are both in the village of Barford
 - c. The local primary school is in the village of Barford
 - d. The local sports facilities at the King George's Playing Fields are in Barford
- 9) Wasperton Parish Council is a member of the Joint Parish Council of Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton. It does not make sense for split WDC representatives on the JPC.
- 10) There is no community connection between the village of Wasperton and Bishops Tachbrook
- 11) Bishop's Tachbrook ward is focussed to the north towards Warwick and the major new housing developments along Harbury Lane.

- 12) By joining Wasperton Parish to Bishop's Tachbrook there is a significant risk that the 130 electors in Wasperton will be effectively sidelined as any Bishop's Tachbrook councillor's priority will naturally focus on Bishop's Tachbrook and the challenges of growth in the ward.
- 13) The proposals doesn't fundamentally change the number of wards that are unequal as it still leaves Budbrooke ward at greater than 10% away from the average – at 12%.

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Budbrooke Ward
Warwick District Council