

Carlsson-Hyslop, Dan

From: Andrew Thompson (Councillor) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 February 2018 16:50
To: reviews
Cc: Graham Leach
Subject: LGBCE Review Consultation - Warwick District

Dear Review Officer for Warwick District boundaries,

I am writing as a District and Town Councillor for the existing ward of Newbold in Royal Leamington Spa. I endorse the proposal submitted by the Licensing Committee of Warwick District Council for their proposed Newbold ward (and which they have detailed visually as a map), which expands the current ward slightly in a sensible manner, and produces a ward that is only 4% variant from the average number of electors.

The current ward of Newbold makes a lot of sense in terms of community. It contains within it the two churches of Holy Trinity Church of England Church, and St. Paul's Church of England Church, both of whom attract their congregations from a large part of the area in the current existing Newbold District Council ward and whose parishes predominantly sit within the proposed ward boundary.

The changes proposed by the Licensing Committee address the current anomaly that some areas within Leamington that contain the name 'Newbold', including a number of roads and Newbold Comyn, are left out of the Newbold ward; from a community point of view, it makes sense that Newbold Terrace East, Newbold Terrace, and Newbold Street, as well as Newbold Comyn itself which they all look towards, are part of the Newbold ward – this will also help alleviate some confusion that exists amongst voters.

Within the ward there is an historic area known as the Beeches, which comprises of Champion Terrace, Upper Holly Walk, Princes Street, Comyn Street, Leicester Street, Holly Street, Newbold Beeches, and streets surrounding these; currently the Beeches area is split between Newbold for the majority part, with Newbold Beeches in Clarendon. The proposal from the Licensing Committee makes much more sense to re-unite the Beeches area, restoring a historic grouping of streets which organisations such as the Neighbourhood Watch currently use to define their area of cover.

The proposed Newbold ward recognises that the communities it comprises are very different to those found within the town centre with its large retail, dense population, and centre of town issues. From my perspective as a Councillor the new proposed boundary would make significant sense in terms of the issues people would be likely to raise and the support they would need.

With active resident committee groups at the Maltings and Audley Binswood, a primary school (Arnold Lodge), Villiers Street recreation ground and the Leamington Cricket Club on Arlington Avenue, the Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre and leisure activities, alongside a myriad of pubs, the proposed Newbold ward has at its very heart a community ethos. It is an area with a shared identity, and is intrinsic to the history and heritage of the town. Comprising of parts of the former Willes Estate, Campion Hills, Newbold Comyn and the historic Lansdowne Road, and Beauchamp Road and Kenilworth Road areas, the proposed ward ties together Leamington's heritage with the needs of an active and diverse community.

Whilst the River Leam provides a natural and sensible boundary, the addition of Welches Meadow is a sensible proposal based on its attachment to Newbold Comyn. It is also right that Jephson Gardens remains in Clarendon as it provides a main entrance from the Town Centre. Likewise, it is eminently sensible for Regent Grove and Hamilton Terrace to remain part of the Town Centre.

As a Councillor with the honour to represent this ward, I am pleased that the proposal by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee recognises the important sense of identity and community that currently exists, and sensibly incorporates other areas that at present anomalously sit in other wards.

Yours sincerely,

Clr Andrew Thompson
Warwick District Councillor - Leamington Newbold
Portfolio Holder for Health and Community Protection