



**MARK GARNIER MP**  
*Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest*



Review Officer (Wyre Forest)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
London  
EC1M 5LG

18<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Dear Sir,

**RE: Mark Garnier MP Submission to the Boundary Review on Pattern of Wards**

I agree with the proposals put forward by Wyre Forest Conservative Group to the Boundary Review of Ward Patterns. Overall I think that there should be 12 wards broken down into:

- Six three member wards in Kidderminster
- One three and one two member wards in Bewdley and Rock
- Two three, one two and one one member ward in Stourport on Severn
- One three member ward for the rural part of the district

By providing mainly 3 member wards confusion to the electorate will be minimised. I also agree with the proposal that a single two and a single one member ward will deliver equality to voters and ensure that the diversity of the community is reflected.

***Kidderminster:***

***Kidderminster South- Total electors- 7783 Average Electors per Councillor- 2594***

This ward should include the community of the housing estate of Spennells. I agree that with the proposal made by the Conservative Group that the A449 should be used as a boundary to divide the polling district and that the rest of the ward should be made up of existing polling districts and use main roads as boundaries. Overall this would mean that there are strong easily-identifiable boundaries and voter equality.

***Kidderminster Central- Total electors- 7123 Average Electors per Councillor- 2374***

I agree that this proposed ward should encompass Kidderminster Town Centre, Birchen Coppice, the Rifle Range, Foley Park and Hoobrook and should use the A449 as a boundary. This ward should have the development at the former British Sugar site at its central focus. This site will include a new link road, so will be well connected and will have a range of facilities within it which would provide for effective local government.



**Kidderminster North East- Total electors- 7532 Average Electors per Councillor- 2511**

I also agree that this ward should be based on the existing Broadwaters ward owing to the large number of residences in this area. The natural boundaries of Chester Road North should be used and centre around St Georges Primary School and Nursery on Plane Tree Close ensuring that the community is not split by the A456.

**Kidderminster East- Total electors- 7922 Average Electors per Councillor- 2641**

This ward should be focused on the communities of Offmore and Comberton. I once again agree with the Conservative Groups proposal that the A448, the Town Centre ring road and the A458 should act as natural boundaries. These proposals will ensure that the ward is based around community facilities in Lorne Street, George Street and have a primary and a secondary school guaranteeing that the community identity is maintained.

**Kidderminster North- Total electors- 7990 Average Electors per Councillor- 2663**

This ward has the same boundaries as the County Council Division of St Barnabas and should contain Franche, Marpool, Puxton and Habberley all of which have distinct faith and education centres, once again meaning that distinct communities will be maintained. I agree with the proposals to use Baxter College as the natural boundary to the south, the Kidderminster boundary to the north and west as a boundary and Puxton Marsh to the east.

**Kidderminster West- Total electors- 7184 Average Electors per Councillor- 2395**

This ward should have the same boundaries as the Worcestershire County Council division of St John's. I agree that the communities of Sutton Farm, Franchise Street, Summerhill Estate and communities to the south of St. Johns Avenue and Pineridge Drive should be included in this ward. There will be facilities provided to residents of this ward on Greatfield Road, Lister Road and Sutton Park Road and the ward will have Sutton Park Primary School at the centre. This will lead to effective local government and maintained communities.

**Bewdley:**

**Bewdley and Rock- Total electors- 6947 Average Electors per Councillor- 2316**

This ward should include the Parish of Rock, the parish of Bewdley to the west of the River Severn and the unparished area of Ribbesford. I also agree that parish boundaries and the wards within them should be respected in the interest of community identity.

**Wribbenhall and Arley-Total electors- 4758 Average Electors per Councillor- 2379**

This proposal will use the parish of Bewdley to the East of the River Severn in the Parish of Upper Arley. The areas of Wribbenhall and Upper Arley both have distinct communities and facilities including community centres and churches. I agree that the population of this area is too small to justify an additional councillor without breaking parish boundaries.

**Stourport:**

**Severn- Total electors- 7160 Average Electors per Councillor- 2387**

I agree with the Conservative Groups proposal that this ward should combine the communities of Arley Kings with central Stourport, respecting the wards of the Stourport Town Council. There would be excellent transport links and facilities in this ward including a primary school and a number of community centres. The excellent transport links mean that the Town Centre and Arley Kings would



function effortlessly as a three member rather than a two member ward, providing effective local government.

**Lickhill- Total electors- 2538 Average Electors per Councillor- 2538**

A single member ward should be created to the east of the town centre using the natural boundary of Lickhill Road and the river to the south and the parish boundary to the west, focusing on areas associated with Bewdley Road and Bewdley Road North. Stourport should have 7 councillors based on average electors per councillor which means that a single member ward does need to be created. A single member ward needs to be created in Stourport if the breaking of parish boundaries is to be avoided, which would mean the breaking up of a very definite community.

**Mitton- Total electors- 7762 Average Electors per Councillor- 2587**

The majority of the east of Stourport should be made into one single ward. Complex boundaries in the past have led to confusion of the electorate. This new ward would have several facilities including educational and faith facilities again meaning that effective local government would be provided.

**Rural:**

**Wyre Forest Rural- Total electors- 7208 Average Electors per Councillor- 2403**

This brings together the parishes of Wolverley and Cookley, Churchill and Blakedown, Stone, Broome, Rushock and Chaddesley Corbett. This ward is a rural ward to the north and east of Kidderminster and would have good transport links being served well by the A449 and the A448. There are a considerable number of remote communities within this proposed ward however all of the communities in this ward have their own community and faith centres meaning that community identity would be upheld.

Overall I agree with the Conservative Group's proposals that parish boundaries should not be broken and that using existing districts as guidelines will cause the least disruption to the electorate. I also agree that there should be better alignment with Worcestershire County Council Divisions, Parish Boundaries and the wards within them. I think that their proposals will achieve electoral equality for voters and are well within the 10% guidance and the proposals give equity to the number of electors per councillor. The proposals will also align wards with individual communities and ensure that all wards have community facilities and transport links which will lead to effective local government.

However I am very disappointed that the council resolved to continue to have elections in thirds and not to move to all out elections every 4 years. There is a cost to the electorate by holding elections in this manner. It also changes the dynamics of how the council is run so instead of having a four year strategy, electioneering is likely to occur.

Yours sincerely

Mark Garnier MP