

## Warwickshire County Council New Electoral arrangements.

### Response by Warwick and Leamington Liberal Democrats to the LGBCE Consultation.

We acknowledge that the Commission no longer support their findings in the previous review for 2 member divisions which in some instances better reflected the communities to which they serve.

We support in full the submission made by the Council as agreed at its meeting on the 28th October 2014.

With particular respect to the north of Leamington proposed Divisions of Milverton, Clarendon and North we strongly support the minor changes proposed within the County Council submission which we believe truly reflect the evidence of attendance, interests and natural communities of the public who have attended the North Leamington Community Forum over the past 6 years.

The Forum changes its location for its meetings across Leamington north of the river Leam, there is clear evidence that the attendance and discussions held in community discussions is dependant upon where the particular Forum is held. Residents of Milverton for instance have little or no direct knowledge of either issues, areas or roads in the proposed Leamington North (the extremes of the Forum area) and have no reason to go there and rarely, if ever, travel west to east. Similar can be said for the residents of the proposed Leamington North. The residents of the proposed division of Clarendon have some knowledge of the closest fringes of either Milverton or North which adjoin them, but no knowledge of the extremes.

The North Leamington Forum has clearly demonstrated that the natural communities across north Leamington have little in common at the local level with each other.

The minor changes proposed by the County Council, provide better coterminosity with the recently approved District Council Boundary Review and achieve a better fit with natural local communities, than the LGBCE proposals, and although relatively minor achieve a change to a north – south focus within the Divisions rather than the LGBCE east – west focus and reflects the evidence of natural communities reflected by the Community Forum.

Overall the minor amendments put forward by the County Council would achieve variances of -4%, 3% and -0% from average, compared with the draft recommendations' - 9%, -2% and 4%.

Heather Calver, Chair, Warwick and Leamington Liberal Democrats  
Cllr Alan Boad, Warwick District Council Group Leader