

## Warwickshire County

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### Comment text:

Because our submission includes tables which cause formatting complications when pasted we have attached as a docx file

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

## Response of Kenilworth Town Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission Consultation on Warwickshire County Boundaries.

June 2014

Following the revision of the District Ward boundaries in March 2013 which brought the three Kenilworth Wards of Warwick District Council into almost complete agreement with the existing County Divisions we had hoped that this current review would enable them to be made totally coterminous with obvious benefit to the electorate in their dealing with the different tiers of local government.

The reduction in the number of county councillors and trends in population means that this may unfortunately no longer be possible though this would be our ideal solution..

In calculating the Wards and Division sizes we have attempted to relate the 2012 and 2018 figures used for the District Review with the 2014 and 2020 figures provided for the County Review. We find that although the totals for the three wards is consistent the split between Abbey and St John's is not and we suspect that the County figures have not been adjusted for the move of an area in the centre of Kenilworth from Abbey to St John's which was part of the District Review. We assume that coterminous boundaries in the town centre would ideally be established and have therefore adjusted the figures by moving 750 electors from Abbey to St John's in the 2020 numbers. This figure is an extrapolation of the 2018 figure used in the District calculations.

Using the stated target figures of 6848 electors per councillor in 2014 and 7780 electors per councillor in 2020 retaining the three Divisions would result in the representation shown in the Table 1.

Table 1	2014	elec/cllr	%	2020	elec/cllr	%
Abbey	7637	7637	12	7273	7273	-7
Park Hill	6728	6728	-2	6594	6594	-15
St John's	6025	6025	-12	6845	6845	-12
TOTAL	20390	6797	-2	20712	6904	-11

Based over the total of the three Divisions the Town is currently very fairly represented though the need for the adjustment between Abbey and St John's is very obvious. In 2020 it will be under the target particularly in Park Hill. We note that the electoral numbers in Park Hill are shown as declining. We know of no reason for this and indeed question whether it is correct. The balance between the three wards was acceptable in the 2013 District review. We appreciate that the overall variation is just outside that normally allowed but wonder whether an exception could be made to retain the community coherence within the town of Kenilworth. Likely housing development in the town will tend to correct the figures as it will affect the St John's and Park Hill Divisions.

Should continuing the current arrangements not be acceptable we have to try and identify the next best solution. The current County Division of Abbey extends beyond the Kenilworth town boundary to include Burton Green and the University wards. By extending Park Hill to include Stoneleigh, Ashow and Baginton parishes (Addition A) and by extending St John's to include Leek Wootton &

Guy's Cliffe and Beausale, Haseley, Honiley & Wroxall parishes (Addition B) would result in the representation shown in Table 2.

Table 2	2014	elec/cllr	%	2020	elec/cllr	%
Abbey	7637	7637	12	7273	7273	-7
Park Hill	6728			6594		
+ Addition A	1294	8022	17	1347	7941	2
St John's	6025			6845		
+ Addition B	1295	7320	7	1240	8085	4
TOTAL	22979	7660	12	23299	7766	0

As will be seen this produces a near-perfect solution numerically and also reflects relationships between communities in rural and urban areas. We therefore propose it as the alternative to maintaining the existing arrangement.

It might be thought that a possible alternative approach could be to restrict the County representation to within the Town Boundary and thus to only two councillors. Assuming that the rump of the then vastly reduced Abbey was split between Park Hill and St John's to produce two equally sized Divisions in the town, the result is as shown in Table 3.

Table 3	2014	elec/cllr	%	2020	elec/cllr	%
Abbey	5373	5373	12	0	0	
Park Hill	6728	6728	-2	9114	9114	17
St John's	6025	6025	-12	9115	9115	17
TOTAL	18126	9063	32	18229	9115	17

This scheme produces an unacceptably large number of electors per councillor.

We would also not favour it because the County Division boundaries within the town would have to be radically different from those which have come to be accepted and understood for Town, District and County for a number of years and the coterminous boundaries recently achieved would be lost.