

New electoral arrangements for Warwickshire County Council

Consultation response by Kenilworth & Southam Liberal Democrats

This submission is made on behalf of the Kenilworth & Southam local party of the Liberal Democrats. Our areas of interest are those electoral divisions within Warwick District, Stratford District and Rugby Borough which fall within the boundaries of the Kenilworth & Southam parliamentary constituency.

We support in full the submission made by Warwickshire County Council as agreed at its meeting on the 28th October 2014, and also that made by the Liberal Democrat Group of members of Warwickshire County Council.

We believe that there is a powerful case for asking the LGBCE to re-consider its draft recommendations for Warwick District, as proposed by the Council and by the Liberal Democrat Group.

Kenilworth would be disproportionately disadvantaged by the draft recommendations. In particular, residents of the old historic centre of the town (within the current Kenilworth Abbey county division) would be confused and upset to find themselves part of a large, diverse mostly rural division such as the Lapworth & West Kenilworth division as recommended.

There is a strong case for total co-terminosity within the boundaries of Kenilworth Town Council between town, district and county boundaries. This has already been partially achieved by the LGBCE review of Warwick District ward boundaries and the Warwick District Community Governance Review, and would be completed by the County Council's proposals.

We also consider that it would be illogical to move the University parish ward (KWD) out of Kenilworth Abbey into Park Hill, when the Warwick District boundary review has only just moved it from Stoneleigh into Abbey Ward.

Kenilworth is the third largest town within Warwick District. It is surrounded by a number of rural villages, all of which have strong linkages with the town. The proposal by the County Council for three new Kenilworth divisions, each based on an appropriate "slice" of the town together with its immediate neighbouring rural area, would represent an outstanding "fit" both electorally and in terms of community links and cohesion.

David Johnston

Chair – Kenilworth & Southam Liberal Democrats