



22 November 2012

Review Officer (Herefordshire)  
LGBCE, Layden House,  
76-86 Turnmill Street,  
London EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir

### **ELECTORAL REVIEW of HEREFORDSHIRE**

I support the Commission’s plan for a 53 member council made up of single member wards, and hope the Commission will resist any moves to make way for any multi-member wards. There were some gremlins however in your report – most notably mis-reading of compass bearings! Eardisley is firmly located in the west, whereas Colwall is the east (*page 15*), and Fownhope is east of Hereford (*page 17*). But the Commission is to be congratulated on steering through a workable solution despite all the constraints imposed both by the regulations and the socio-political geography of Herefordshire.

There does seem to be some problem with Holmer parish which has been included within adjacent areas of Hereford city without making this clear. This seems certain to meet with justified resistance from residents of Holmer parish. Otherwise I support the thrust of proposals for warding within Hereford city, as well as those for Ledbury and Leominster, and am content with the proposals for Ross on Wye. I support the bulk of the Commission’s proposals in rural areas but have some suggestions below which better match community links.

First some suggestions for **change of name** of proposed rural wards

<i>LGBCE Nov 2012</i>	<i>comment</i>	<i>preferred name</i>
Burghill	<i>long straggly ward from outskirts of Leominster to Hereford</i>	Queenswood
Bishops Frome	<i>potential confusion with other communities within Frome valley which aren't in this ward – prefer name of main parish in the ward</i>	Cradley
Walford	<i>prefer current name which implies links across River Wye</i>	Kerne Bridge
Ashperton		Frome valley
Clehonger	<i>name Madley as more central parish</i>	Madley & Clehonger
Kimbolton		Kimbolton & Brimfield

## **Colwall**

The Commission has suggested that Mathon be added to Colwall but Colwall ward is already large enough and Mathon has stronger ties with Cradley so inclusion with Bishop's Frome, renamed Cradley , would produce slightly more balanced electorates.

<i>LGBCE 2012</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>voters 2012</i>	<i>voters 2018</i>	<i>proposed change</i>	<i>voters 2012</i>	<i>voters 2018</i>
Colwall		2837	2910	without Mathon	2602	2672
Bishop's Frome		2532	2598	add Mathon rename as Cradley	2767	2836

## **Hereford hinterland rural east**

The Commission accepts the case for four wards in the rural triangle between Ledbury, Hereford and Ross on Wye. The make-up of the Lugwardine ward seems widely accepted but I would propose some changes to the make-up of the other, more rural wards, to better reflect the community ties in the area. There are particularly strong ties between Fownhope, Mordiford, Hampton Bishop, Woolhope and Brockhampton. The Commission has accepted the principle but placed Woolhope and Brockhampton with Much Marcle presumably in the interests of electoral equality and despite the pronounced community ties. Woolhope has few ties with Much Marcle. Roads between the two communities are narrow and tortuous and seem low on Herefordshire Council's repair programme whereas Woolhope does have two relatively well used roads to Mordiford and to Fownhope, the latter the only bus route, and which are secondary routes for winter gritting.

Woolhope and Brockhampton should be included in the Fownhope ward as shown below. Inclusion of Woolhope and Brockhampton with Fownhope would reflect strong community ties of voluntary organisations, church, school, and transport. The parishes of Stoke Edith and Tarrington should be included with the Frome Valley.

Ashperton, Putley and the Pixley group should join Much Marcle ward which would reflect community ties along the A417 and the A449. The Commission included Kings Caple with Much Marcle but most of Kings Caple's ties are with parishes to the south and west so it would be better included in Llangarron ward . To achieve electoral balance the parish of Marstow should move from Llangarron ward to Walford ward which should be re-named Kerne Bridge.

<i>LGBCE Nov 2012</i>	<i>voters 2012</i>	<i>voters 2018</i>	<i>proposed change</i>	<i>voters 2012</i>	<i>voters 2018</i>
Lugwardine	2940	3036	none	2940	3036
Ashperton	2743	2782	add Tarrington, Stoke Edith, move Ashperton, Putley, Pixley, rename as Frome	2438	2484
Fownhope	2306	2712	add Woolhope, Brockhampton, move Tarrington, Stoke Edith	2400	2800
Much Marcle	2577	2630	add Ashperton, Putley, Pixley, move Woolhope, Brockhampton, Kings Caple	2496	2544
Llangarron	2692	2746	add Kings Caple, move Marstow	2693	2741
Walford	2558	2612	add Marstow, rename Kerne Bridge	2849	2913
<i>LGBCE av</i>	<i>2681</i>	<i>2793</i>		<i>2681</i>	<i>2793</i>

### **PROPOSED FOWNHOPE WARD**

These six parishes have considerable community ties. Fownhope acts as a service centre for a wide area, with a shop/PO, butchers, hairdressers, medical centre, community library and leisure centre which serves adjacent parishes. The combination of parishes included here is broadly co-terminous with the area served by primary schools in Mordiford and Fownhope. Fownhope is the centre of a united benefice for church affairs which includes Mordiford , Woolhope and Brockhampton. The river Wye provides a natural boundary on the west, as does the crest of the Woolhope Dome to the east. The Fownhope bus serves these parishes. All these parish councils are involved in a series of partnerships to provide services, including three new bus services, and a community library .

<i>poll district</i>	<i>parish</i>	<i>joint council?</i>	<i>existing ward</i>	<i>voters 2012</i>	<i>voters 2018</i>	<i>total 2012</i>	<i>tot 2018</i>
N-ZB	Brockhampton w Much Fawley		Old Gore	197	199		
N-BA	Dormington	Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council	Backbury	144	150		
N-BB	Fownhope		Backbury	818	843		
N-BC	Hampton Bishop		Backbury	411	759		
N-BD	Mordiford	Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council	Backbury	438	450		
N-ZJ	Woolhope		Old Gore	392	399	2400	2800

Yours faithfully



David M Clark

### Attached

Database of existing polling districts, parishes ,existing and proposed wards and electorates in Hereford hinterland wards

