

# WELFORD-ON-AVON PARISH COUNCIL

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Review Officer (Stratford-on-Avon)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
76-86 Tummill Street  
London  
EC1M 5LG

20<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Dear Sir

## **Electoral Review of Stratford-on-Avon**

We write in response to the current consultation on the ward boundaries for Stratford-on-Avon. This consultation was discussed at our Parish Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013.

The current Welford ward includes the villages of Welford-on-Avon, Weston-on-Avon, Dorsington, Clifford Chambers and Milcote. All of these villages are typical rural Warwickshire villages, all relying on the town of Stratford upon Avon for services such as doctors, pharmacies, secondary schools and supermarkets. There is little local employment and most residents commute to work elsewhere in the county or further afield. Welford-on-Avon is the largest village in the ward and has been classed as a "Local Service Village" in the latest version of the District Council's Core Strategy as it has a primary school, convenience store and limited bus service.

Councillors understand that the number of wards is being reduced and that the wards will therefore need to increase in size. We do feel that our ward at present works well as the councillor represents similar communities and we would therefore suggest that similar rural villages are added to our ward rather than it being added to a larger community.

Looking at our immediate neighbours, the obvious addition would be the village of **Long Marston** (parish of Marston Sicca). This village has previously been within the Welford ward and the housing in the parish of Welford-on-Avon actually extends right up to the boundary with Long Marston. Many of our residents use the post office in Long Marston as it is our nearest post office. Please note that we do feel that any extension in this direction should be restricted to the area of Long Marston up to the railway line and not include the proposed 500 house development on the former MOD army camp which we believe should remain within Quinton ward.

The village of **Barton** is currently within the parish of Bidford-on-Avon. We would suggest that this village might be better served within the Welford ward than within a new Bidford ward. Bidford has been increasing in size over recent years and is likely to continue to do so and it now resembles more of a market town than rural village.

We have just received a copy of the Stratford DC Audit Committee report for the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013. We note that this report also suggests the addition of **Atherstone on Stour** to our ward. We believe that this village is similar in nature to ours but it is some distance from us and we have no further knowledge of this community.

The SDC report also suggests the addition of **Luddington** to the Welford ward. Whilst this village is geographically very close to us, it is importantly north of the river and we have little contact with this community. Our understanding is that it is much more of a working agricultural community than ours and we wonder whether it might better be included in a ward with other similar communities north of the river such as Binton, Temple Grafton and Ardens Grafton.

In summary our preferred option would be for an expanded Welford ward to include the villages of Long Marston, Barton and perhaps Atherstone-on-Stour so that the ward boundary remains the river Avon. If this does not produce a large enough ward, our next suggestion would be the addition of Luddington or Binton.

Yours faithfully



Vanessa Lowe (Mrs)  
Clerk, Welford-on-Avon Parish Council