



THE TOWN COUNCIL OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA

Email: [REDACTED]

10th October, 2014

Dear Sirs,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WARWICKSHIRE: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

I refer to your letter dated 9TH September regarding the review of Electoral arrangements in Warwickshire.

The Town Council has considered the draft recommendations and is opposed to the introduction of arrangements for the Parish of Royal Leamington Spa that will result in the division of the Parish into 13 Wards. The reasons for the Council's objection to this part of the review recommendations are as follows:-

- 1) The proposed Wards would create anomalous electoral areas that have little or no connection to existing communities and natural patterns of movement within the Town.
- 2) The electorates of these areas will vary widely. This will result in a significant degree of under or over representation and produce a situation at elections for the Town Council of electoral unfairness between one Ward and another.
- 3) The Town Council notes that the recommendations continue to support the principle of coterminosity between District Wards and County Divisions. However this principle has been abandoned in respect of Wards at Parish level which will result in confusion among Candidates and Voters alike when combined District and Parish elections are held.

The Town Council therefore strongly advocates that Leamington Spa is divided into 8 Wards, those Wards being exactly co-terminous with the wards approved as part of the Commission's review of boundaries of Warwick District in 2013. The Council was also intrigued by the Commission's interpretation of Schedule 2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act, 2009 which states that "if a Parish is to be divided between divisions or wards, it must also be divided into Parish Wards so that each Parish Ward lies wholly within a single division or Ward." This definition does not seem to require Parish Wards to be within both a single Division *and* a single District Ward.

I trust that these observations will be of assistance to the Commission's further review of these matters.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Robert Nash
TOWN CLERK

Review Officer (Warwickshire),
Local Government Boundary Commission
Layden House,
76-86 Turnmill Street
LONDON
EC1M 5LG



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