

Worcester City Council

Personal Details:

Name: Andy Taylor
E-mail: andy.taylor@warndonparishcouncil.org
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: Warndon Parish Council

Comment text:

My comments are within the uploaded document: "Submission to LGBCE from ATaylor.pdf"

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1658756789_Submission+to+LGBCE+from+Cllr+ATaylor.pdf).

Worcester City Council Boundary Review

Submission focussing on Warndon Parish (aka Warndon Villages)

Introduction:

Having considered Worcester City Council's proposal in respect of the city ward boundaries, I have some suggestions regarding the arrangements in respect of city wards in Warndon Parish.

Unfortunately, there hasn't been sufficient time to share and discuss this document and explain the rationale behind it with my colleagues on Warndon Parish Council, and for them to be able to fully consider the full ramifications of it. On that basis, this proposal is submitted on a personal basis - to meet the deadline!

Section 1: Background/issues:

In the last Boundary Review, conducted in 2002, St Martin's ward was split into three wards - Warndon, Warndon Parish North (WPN) and Warndon Parish South (WPS).

At the time, it was also decided to transfer part of Nunnery ward into WPS ward to equalise numbers across the two "Warndon Parish" wards - as the development of WPS had not then been completed.

Twenty years on, the Warndon Villages development has long been completed, and the WPS city ward is now oversized compared with WPN.

To address this issue, Worcester City Council has proposed that the boundary between the WPN and WPS wards should be moved further South, to transfer part of WPS into WPN. However, in my view, there are problems with that approach.

Under that proposal, transferring Quisters into the north of the parish would split the "hamlet" of Lyppard Hanford between the two wards; moving Turbary Avenue from north to south would split the Lyppard Kettleby "hamlet" between the two wards. This could start to undermine the integrity and cohesion of the parish, as it was laid out in the Warndon Local Plan and as it developed over three decades. The Warndon Parish Neighbourhood Plan - currently at the draft stage - is very firmly geared towards maintaining the ethos of the Warndon Villages design and layout. For that reason, I strongly oppose such a change within the parish.

It is worth noting that the number of electors within the parish itself is roughly evenly split between the North and South wards, and that the numerical difference between the two city wards is roughly equivalent to the number of electors who are in the city ward but not in the parish ward. Hence, to me there is a simple solution...

It would make more sense to transfer the electors who are currently in the city ward but outside the parish (in Polling district Q2) back into Nunnery ward, from WPS. The changes in elector numbers arising from this proposal are set out in Section 2 of this document.

Meanwhile, a slight change to the boundary line between the North and South wards may be helpful. At the moment the boundary between the two goes along the line of the back gardens of the properties on the North side of Trotshill Lane (East and West) and Middle Hollow Drive. By

moving the boundary to the centre line of those roads, the separation between the two wards would be clearer. Also, this would have the effect of moving approximately 37 electors from the South ward to the North - even closer to "electoral equality". (See map at the end of this document.)

There is another issue which could be addressed by this Boundary Review - the confusion arising from the ward names.

It has long been recognised that the name "Warndon Villages" is a term which with which most residents of Warndon Parish readily identify. That is perhaps not surprising, as it was the name given to the major development of the area between the late 1980s and the early 2000s, so it has been in common usage for over 30 years. It is also well recognised across the city and beyond, whereas the term "Warndon Parish" has never really gained traction, and its identity is often confused with the neighbouring "Warndon" ward. In his submission, Cllr Andy Roberts (Worcester City Council) has eloquently set out his personal, practical experiences as a local City and County Councillor, encountering such confusion, over the years.

The presence of the word "parish" in the Warndon Parish South city ward - where some electors are not within the parish - has also contributed to the confusion.

There have been many suggestions for alternative names for the wards, and indeed alternative names for the parish itself. These include Trotshill, Aconbury, Swinesherd - or some combination of them - which all have a historic connection to the area. Whilst each has its own merit, to my mind none of them conveys sufficient of the identity of whole parish area without requiring a complicated formula encompassing various of them - such as "Warndon, Aconbury, Trotshill and Swinesherd Villages". A bit of a mouthful...

To me, it would make more sense for the ward names to be changed to "Warndon Villages North" (WVS) and "Warndon Villages South" (WVS) - simple and readily identifiable to most people.

So, arising from the above, there are three elements to this proposal:

- 1. Transfer Polling District Q2 electors (579) from Warndon Parish South into Nunnery ward;**
- 2. Align the boundary between the north and south wards in Warndon Parish to the centre line of Middle Hollow Drive, Trotshill Lane East and Trotshill Lane West; this would transfer approx 37 electors from WPS to WPN; (See map at the end of this document.)**
- 3. Change the ward names to "Warndon Villages North" and "Warndon Villages South".**

The impact of this proposal on elector numbers is set out in the following section, overleaf.

Section 2: Impact on elector numbers in WPN, WPS and Nunnery wards:

The figures used below have been derived from:

- The Electoral Forecasting spreadsheet - 2028 figures (Feb 2022)
- Worcester City Council's Boundary Review proposal (July 2002)
- My own estimate of the number of electors on the north side of Middle Hollow Drive/Trotshill Lane (East and West), but in WPS ward. *(Please check!)*

	This proposal (Electors)
Warndon Villages North:	
Electoral Forecasting spreadsheet estimate for 2028	4223
Transfer Trotshill Lane/Middle Hollow Drive (northside) from WP South	+37 [my estimate]
Total:	4260
Warndon Villages South:	
Electoral Forecasting spreadsheet estimate for 2028	4963
Transfer of Polling district Q1 to Nunnery	-579
Transfer Trotshill Lane/Middle Hollow Drive (northside) to WP North	-37 [my estimate]
Total:	4347
Nunnery:	
WCC proposal figure for 2028 (assuming transfer of 70 to Fort Royal)	6999
Transfer of Polling District Q1 from Warndon Villages South	+579
Total:	7578

The following figures indicate the impact of this proposal on electors/Cllr, compared with the Worcester City Council proposal, and the relative "variance from perfect electoral equality" - which has been set at 2371 electors/Cllr for 2028:

	WCC proposal (Electors)	This proposal (Electors)
Warndon Villages North:	4324	4260
Electors/Cllr:	2162(-9%)	2130(-10%)
Warndon Villages South:	4860	4347
Electors/Cllr:	2430(+2%)	2174(-8%)
Nunnery:	6999	7578
Ave electors/Cllr: (3 Cllrs)	2333(-2%)	2526(+6%)

The above variances appear to be within acceptable tolerances for all three wards.

Under this proposal, the number of electors in both "Warndon Villages" wards would be slightly down on "perfect electoral equality" - at -8% and -10%. So, consideration should be given to whether "Warndon Villages" would be adequately served as a single three-member ward - perhaps in order to accommodate the extra Councillor in Cathedral ward. The figures below/overleaf show the impact of such a change.

(Electors)

Total "Warndon Villages" electorate (2028):	8607
Ave Electors/Cllr: (4 Cllrs - as now)	2152(-9%)
Ave Electors/Cllr: (if 3 Cllrs)	2869(+21%)

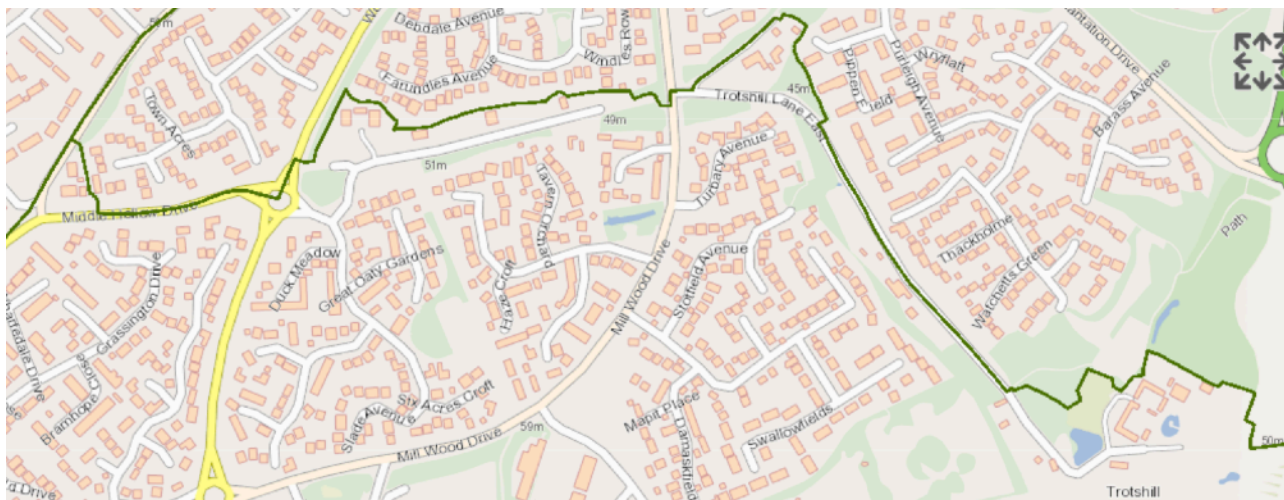
Thus, a single three member ward for the whole of Warndon Villages - assuming the removal of Polling District Q2 - would result in a +21% variance from perfect electoral equality in respect of the number of electors/Cllr. This appears to be well outside acceptable tolerances, and so I would not propose or support such a change.

Conclusion:

This proposal aims to achieve the following:

- Restore a reasonable balance of electors between Warndon Parish North and Warndon Parish South, by:
 - Re-aligning the boundary between WPS and Nunnery ward, thus transferring 579 electors from WPS into Nunnery ward;
 - Re-aligning the boundary between WPN and WPS, thus transferring 37 electors from WPS into WPN ward;
- Address the confusion which has arisen from the composition, alignment and naming of the two city wards in Warndon Parish, over the course of the last twenty years, or so, by:
 - Renaming the wards as "Warndon Villages North" and "Warndon Villages South".

Councillor Andy Taylor
(Warndon Parish Council)
24th July 2022



The existing boundary line between WPN and WPS, which shows the locations of properties on the north side of Middle Hollow Drive and Trotshill Lane (East and West) which are currently in WPS, and which are proposed to be transferred to WPN. (Map: Worcestershire County Council GIS)