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From: Jack Satterthwaite [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 September 2021 23:26
To: reviews
Subject: Malvern Hills
Attachments: LGBCE Submission - Jack Satterthwaite - 20-09-2021.pdf

Categories: [REDACTED]

Good evening

I was told on the phone that I could submit a response to the consultation by email if the portal wasn't working until midnight of the day of the consultation ends. I've attached it onto this email as I was unable to get the portal to work on the website.

Thank you for considering my submission.

All the best

Cllr Jack Satterthwaite

First, I would like to endorse the submission made by Malvern Town Council, to which I contributed as a Town Councillor. The current ward boundaries within the parish of Malvern split the communities surrounding the various smaller 'town centres' that comprise Malvern, including Barnards Green and Link Top. I believe the Town Council submission rectifies this and reflect community identities in Malvern much better.

Instead of repeating those proposals, I will instead dedicate most of this submission to putting forward a proposal for the Malvern Wells and Welland area, along with the surrounding parishes of Castlemorton and Little Malvern, part of which I serve as a County Councillor.

Castlemorton, Little Malvern, Malvern Wells, and Welland **Proposal for two one-member wards**

This submission argues that that the creation of a two-member ward covering the parishes of Castlemorton, Little Malvern, Malvern Wells, and Welland (as potentially suggested by some Malvern Hills District Councillors in their submissions) does not recognise the distinct differences between these parishes. Therefore, the creation of such a ward would run contrary to the aim of "reflect[ing] the identities and interests of local communities."

Whilst a two member Malvern Wells and Welland ward might fall within the electoral quota, Malvern Wells is part of Great Malvern's built-up area whereas Welland is in its own built-up area. A two-member ward would serve the divergent interests of these semi-urban and rural communities poorly compared to two one member wards, each centred on the villages of Malvern Wells and Welland.

Further evidence of these separate community identities is evident in Welland and Malvern Wells' separate community groups and organisations. Welland and Malvern Wells have explored their own separate Community Speedwatch schemes, have their own post offices, own Village Halls and own community fetes/events.

There is no public transport service between the two settlements, demonstrating the poor links between the two communities. Neither Castlemorton nor Welland have a regular, publicly available direct bus service to the Great Malvern built up area which the bulk of a two-member Wells and Welland ward's population would live.

Welland's bus route terminates in Worcester whilst the bus service serving the north of the Malvern Wells parish serves Great Malvern and Malvern Link. This demonstrates that Malvern Wells and Welland gravitate towards different towns and require different approaches in their representation.

I raised the possibility of Malvern Wells and Welland sharing a two-member ward at a Malvern Wells Parish Council meeting and, despite a good relationship between the villages, it was described as an unsuitable pairing because of divergent community identities.

Changes in Current Boundaries Required

However, I note that the existing two member Wells ward (Little Malvern and Malvern Wells parishes) would have 1,368 electors per councillor (a -39% variance from the 2027 average) and thus still needs changes to its boundaries. A single member Wells ward on the current boundaries would have 2,736 electors per councillor (a variance of +21%). I recognise that either parishes must be added to Malvern Wells to bring a two-member ward up to quota or that a section of Malvern Wells and Little Malvern parishes must be removed from the existing ward and added to another ward.

As I have demonstrated above adding parishes would create a two member ward without strong community ties, leaving the necessary alternative of removing a small portion of Malvern Wells parish to join another ward.

A section of the north of Malvern Wells parish being removed and added to Malvern parish would necessitate splitting the Wyche/Fruitlands area in half which is undesirable as it is the most densely populated part of the Malvern Wells parish. A boundary which removed the entirety of either the Wyche or the Fruitlands areas would also not easily allow the remaining single member ward in Malvern Wells parish to fit within a 10% variance from the electoral quota.

The other alternative, which I support, is that the southern portion of the Malvern Wells parish be added together with the Castlemorton, Little Malvern and Welland parishes to create single member ward.

The Upper Welland area, centring on Upper Welland Road, has a distinct identity from the remainder of Malvern Wells, which allows for it to be separated with less damage to community ties in the Malvern Wells Parish. Many Upper Welland residents live closer to the post office, village hall and other amenities in Welland than they do to most of the Malvern Wells/Wyche areas in the rest of the parish. I am also very conscious that Upper Welland has, when campaigning

on planning matters, arranged its own community group separate to the rest of the parish (The Upper Welland Action Group). Other areas of the parish have their own groups instead that perform similar functions such as an active group on Wood Farm Road.

Little Malvern and Welland parishes share a joint parish council. Little Malvern is a small parish with only 33 electors. Any district councillors who represent Malvern Wells and want to engage with their parish councils' work in their ward would have an additional parish council to work with despite there only being 33 electors to represent which is far from efficient. This would likely persist as the 2027 projected electorate is still only 37 electors.

In part due to Little Malvern and Welland sharing a parish council, Little Malvern looks to Welland for many of its community facilities as well.

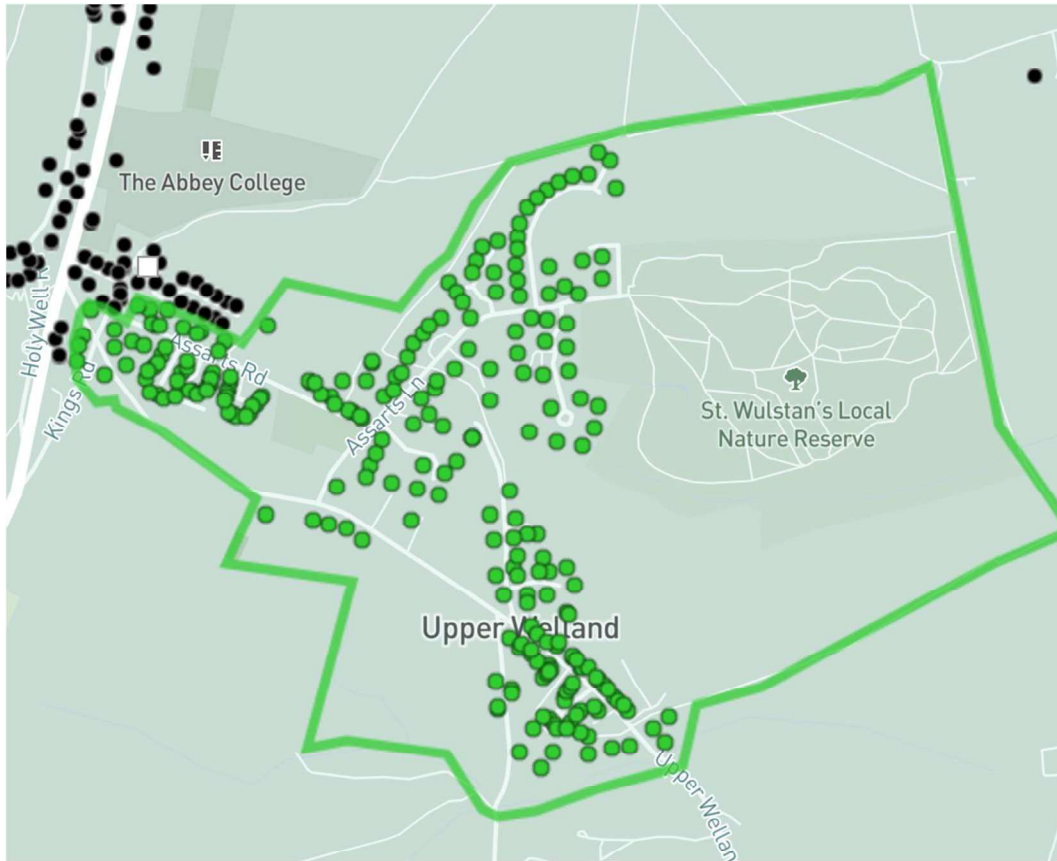
I therefore recommend that Little Malvern parish joins the new 1 member 'Welland' ward that I am proposing.

Boundary Change Specifics

The Welland, Castlemorton and Little Malvern parishes are projected to have 1,821 electors between them in 2027. They would therefore require being joined with at least 210 additional electors to meet the 10% variance.

Malvern Wells Parish is projected to have 2,699 electors in 2027 and would therefore need to lose at least 218 electors in order to meet the 10% variance.

With this in my mind, I am proposing that the following area of Upper Welland be added to a ward with Welland, Castlemorton and Little Malvern parishes.



I use a simple and easily identifiable definition of Upper Welland, identifying it as Upper Welland Road and residential streets that run from it.

I do not have access to the same mapping software as district councillors so am only able to produce estimates for electorate numbers where I have split polling districts as in this case. The area identified in green is all within the MWL2 polling district.

As of August 2021, there are 500 electors in the green area identified*. Assuming population growth is uniform across the polling district this would be 536 electors by 2027.

The green area in the map being transferred from Wells ward to Welland would result in approximately 2,357 electors for the Welland ward and 2,163 electors for the Malvern Wells ward. Both would fall within the 10% variance in 2027.

Ward Naming

The ward that I am proposing covering the Castlemorton, Little Malvern and Welland parishes, as well as the Upper Welland section of Malvern Wells Parish, is unable to continue to use the ward name of 'Morton' that was used by the majority of the new ward's previous ward. The removal of Birtsmorton from the

ward means that not all areas relating to the 'Morton' name would be in this new ward.

We are, therefore, proposing that this new ward be named 'Welland' after it's largest settlement, as well as other settlements in the area including Little Welland and Upper Welland.

We are proposing the ward name 'Malvern Wells' for the ward covering the remainder of the Malvern Wells parish, continuing the use of the name used by its predecessor ward.

Councillor Jack Satterthwaite

Worcestershire County Councillor for Malvern Chase
Malvern Town Councillor

20th September 2021

Further Information

*Full List of addresses that would move from MWL2 polling district into a new Welland ward:

Assarts Lane (all), Assarts Road (all), Benton Close (all), Blackhill (all), Cambridge Close (all), Chase Road (all), Heathlands Close (all), Kings Road (no. 15 and Seatstone Lodge), Merebrook Close (all), St Peter's Close (all), St Wulstans Drive (all), The Crescent (all), Upper Welland Road (all that are within the MWL2 polling district), Watery Lane (all), Wells Close (all), Woodland Close (all), and Yew Tree Lane (all).