

Malvern Hills District Council**Personal Details:****Name:** Jacqui Barker**E-mail:** clerk@leighandbransford.org.uk**Postcode:** [REDACTED]**Organisation Name:** Leigh & Bransford Parish Council**Comment text:**

Please see the attached document detailing Leigh & Bransford Parish Council's response to the Boundary Commission consultation.

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1646157031_Leigh+and+Bransford+Parish+Council+Bounday+Commision+Response.docx)

LEIGH AND BRANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

www.leighandbransford.org.uk

Review Officer (Malvern Hills)
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Draft Recommendations for New Electoral Arrangements for Malvern Hills District Council

Comments by Leigh and Bransford Parish Council on the proposed alteration to the current ward covering Leigh and Alfrick

The parish council is against the proposed changes to the current ward which would see the Bransford parish separated from the current ward and combined with the Rushwick parish to create a new ward.


The argument put forward is that Rushwick and Bransford have linked developments and look towards Worcester as commuter areas, while the rural parishes to their west were more oriented to Malvern for services. It is proposed that a single councillor should be elected to represent the proposed new ward and that Alfrick, Leigh and Suckley should also be a single councillor ward.

The Commission states that it aims to propose a pattern of wards for Malvern Hills which reflects the identity and interests of local communities and based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.

The proposal to link Rushwick with Bransford has no basis in fact, as the two communities have no common identity or linked developments. Bransford has a very close relationship with Leigh which is based on historical and current physical and cultural links. Many facilities are shared between Leigh and Bransford parishes:

Within the parish of Leigh the following facilities exist:	Within the parish of Bransford the following facilities exist:
Primary School	Nursery School
Pre School	Dining pub
Shop	Hotel
Post Office	Health Spa
Pub	Fold Café
Memorial Hall & recreation field	Farm Shop
Gym	Petrol Station
St Edburga's Church	Burial Ground
Chinese Take Away	Golf Club
Care Home	Care Farm
Garden Machinery Servicing	Craft Retail Outlets
Garden Plant Nursery	Fold Therapy Centre
Book Exchange	Craft Market
Farmers Market	Vehicle Servicing & MOT
Fishing Lakes	Hair Dresser

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The following organisations serve both Bransford and Leigh:

Women's Institute
Scouts
Guides
Badgers Football Club
Parochial Church Council of Leigh and Bransford
Indoor Bowling Club
Walking Groups

The largest employers in the two parishes are Webb's Bransford Plants and the Bank House Hotel & Golf Club.

Most of the residents of Bransford and Leigh Parish (apart from those living in Leigh Sinton) are served by the Knightwick GP Surgery.

The most convenient railway station for residents of both parishes is Malvern Link. Malvern Retail Park is easier to access than the centre of Worcester and provides a wide range of retail outlets.


The Leigh and Bransford parish boundary does not follow a precise and easily identified line. In Bransford there are several houses within the village which sit in the Leigh Parish, especially on the Suckley Road. In Leigh Sinton 3 houses in Stocks Lane are within the Bransford parish. To separate these into separate wards would cause confusion for the electorate and difficulty for district councillors to clearly identify where their responsibilities rest.

Bransford does not share any facilities with Rushwick and there are no cultural links between the two parishes. The two parishes are separated by the natural barrier of the river Teme which provides a strong and easily identifiable boundary.

Accepting that the Boundary Commission is seeking to provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors the Parish Council would recommend that a 2 councillor ward be created which includes Alfrick, Bransford, Leigh, Lulsley, Suckley and Rushwick. It further proposes that Knightwick and Doddenham parishes should be incorporated into the proposed new Martley & Teme Valley ward.

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