

Malvern Hills District Council

Personal Details:

Name: Jo Adams
E-mail: clerk@uptonuponsevern-tc.org.uk
Postcode: XXXXXXXXXX
Organisation Name: Upton upon Severn Town Council

Comment text:

Please see the response of Upton upon Severn Town Council in the attached document.

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1647856354_Boundary+-+Draft+recommendations+response+Upton+upon+Severn+Town+Council.pdf)

Comments from Upton upon Severn Town Council on the draft recommendations for new ward boundaries across Malvern Hills District Council

Upton upon Severn Town Council has reviewed the draft recommendations for electoral arrangements for Malvern Hills District Council but does not support the changes.

Despite the original consultation asking communities to put forward their preferences based on their local knowledge, the draft recommendations appear to be mainly based on numbers of residents, with lesser regard for community identity.

The council accepts that there is no perfect grouping but the draft recommendations for Upton upon Severn are less suitable than the current grouping.

The Town Council believes that the draft recommendations will not benefit the representation of residents for the following reasons:

1. The proposal splits the parish of Upton upon Severn in two, meaning that the parish's rural residents will have a different District Councillor to the residents of the town. The Town Council makes efforts to unite the rural and urban parts of its parish; to separate them at district level is not helpful. The council does not agree with the assumption that the rural residents to the west of Upton have closer links to Welland than to Upton; they have no reason to, and do not.
2. On the first consultation, Upton upon Severn Town Council put forward the suggestion that it should be grouped with the parishes to the east rather than Welland to the west. This is because the residents in the relatively large settlement at Ryall have a close connection with the town and have close proximity to enjoy its amenities. Residents of Ryall are frequently included in events happening in Upton. We accept that the rural part of Ripple parish has less in common with the town itself but the council would not like to suggest that Ripple parish should be divided.

The Town Council requests one of the following outcomes:

- That the whole parish of Upton upon Severn be grouped, with one District Councillor.
- That the whole of the parish of Upton upon Severn be grouped with Ripple parish under two District Councillors.

The Town Council believes that the above recommendations would:

- Provide a reasonable match for equality of voter numbers
- Represent community identity as far as is practicable
- Provide practicality for effective and convenient local government.