

Malvern Hills District Council

Personal Details:

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Postcode:

Organisation Name: Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council

Comment text:

Please see attached the response from Little Malvern & Welland Parish Council

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1658323653_BOUNDARY+COMMISSION+RESPONSE.docx)

BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW - Malvern Hills District

Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council

1. Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council met on 18th July 2022 and resolved to make this representation to the current consultation.
2. The Parish Council comments only on the recommendations that relate to the ward in which these parishes are proposed to be located.
3. **The Parish Council objects to the proposal to create the large two member ward of Longdon and Welland.**
4. The Parish Council, in its response to the previous consultation, expressed support for arrangements that would deliver a single member representation for the Parish. That support was predicated on a very strong preference for single member wards, an arrangement that has served residents well for decades.
5. We strongly object to the proposed warding pattern that would unnecessarily rob our residents of the single member representation they have come to rely on and understand.
6. The area could readily be served by two single member wards without compromising electoral equality and without the creation of a ward that is geographically and community wise, sprawling and non-cohesive.
7. Subdividing the proposed two member Longdon and Welland Ward on the parish boundaries identified below would produce two single member wards with 2027 voter numbers within +7.8% and – 7.1% of the district average.
8. The inclusion of Little Malvern and Upper Welland in the recommended Welland ward would seem to be an entirely sensible proposal given the current Parish Council arrangements and the northern proximity with Upper Welland.
9. All of Upper Welland is within the AONB as is a large part of Welland's housing development and each has a similar housing density within the settlement. Much of the housing stock in both settlements was completed after the middle of the 20th century with the consequential similarities of typologies and demographics that suggests.
10. One of the unexpected consequences of the recent rapid growth in housing stock in Welland is that new affordable housing in the village is also serving the needs of neighbouring parishes in accordance with the Rural Lettings Policy. Significant numbers of families originating in Castlemorton and Upper Welland have housing opportunities in Welland, thereby strengthening the family and community connections within the proposed Welland ward.
11. Given that the two, single member wards arrangement is numerically feasible and is not offensive to established or future community, family and cultural connections and identities it also delivers two geographically more compact wards with a sensible distribution of the nine parish councils with whom the members would have to work.
12. Residents have expressed their support and the current local MHDC members who know the patch are in favour too. We strongly propose the two, single member wards as set out in para 7

Possible split of Longdon & Welland Ward – 2027 elector numbers.

		%variance
Upper Welland and Little Malvern	648	
Welland	1239	
Castlemorton	545	
Total	2432	7.8
Birtsmorton	241	
Berrow	297	
Bushley	252	
Eldersfield	492	
Holdfast	43	
Longdon	428	
Pendock	292	
Queenhil l	51	
Total	2096	-7.1