

## Malvern Hills District Council

### Personal Details:

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**Organisation Name:** Grimley Parish Council

### Comment text:

Further to the original submission in response to the first consultation on this matter (copy included below for reference), Grimley Parish Council is dismayed to understand that both of our preferred options have been entirely disregarded. Grimley parish - an entirely rural neighbourhood, is to be integrated for the purposes of district councillor representation with Broadheath parish - an urban neighbourhood, with no existing social networks, historical connection or economic affiliations to Grimley. Broadheath is, and always has been, much closer aligned to the Worcester urban area, being as it is an ever-growing residential satellite of the city. There can be NO benefit to Grimley parish (or to the existing Hallow Ward) in being joined with Broadheath and these proposals are highly detrimental to the service and support that any future MHDC Councillor could provide to this area. This is because the emphasis placed on Broadheath in the forthcoming South Worcestershire Development Plan (due to be approved at ministerial level in 2023) will mean that Grimley will be entirely neglected in the rush to focus funding, infrastructure and development on Broadheath. As stated in our previous response (below for information), Grimley has a long-standing fit with Holt, in terms of social interaction, the shared primary school, the shared parochial church council, shared bus services and highways infrastructure (the A443 runs through Hallow, Grimley and Holt). Hallow, Holt and Grimley have the shared ecosystems and environment of the River Severn and all the accompanying river infrastructure and economies, along with shared challenges of regular flooding with its threat to, and inundation of houses and businesses. Furthermore Grimley Parish has no shops, nor a post office. Grimley is economically linked with both Holt and Hallow being used as local hubs by our residents. Holt for its post office/store and two farm shops. Hallow for its post office/store and its village store/garden centre. Grimley parish councillors ask that you reconsider and that joining with Holt is the best option for both Grimley and Hallow please. If integration with Holt cannot proceed, then Grimley Parish Councillors strongly reiterate their original second option, which was a fit with Wichenford parish, through which Grimley shared a secondary school and elderly care services. Thank you Lisa Stevens Parish Clerk Grimley Parish Council 07950256363 clerkgrimleypc@gmail.com

Original submission below Grimley Parish Council is pleased to note that rather than proposing changes, the Local Government Boundary Commission is willing to hear from parish councils what they think of the current wards and where new ones should be. The current ward boundaries already excellently serve Grimley Parish. If change is prescribed however, then Parish Councillors would prefer it to be accomplished without splitting the current well-suited and frankly much treasured match of Grimley with Hallow. Cllrs have considered two seemingly obvious options for change, as below. Cllrs have not looked at population numbers in their deliberations. Cllrs similarly have no knowledge of how the below proposals would impact Wards further afield. Instead, Cllrs simply indicate what changes they would welcome and what they believe would work for the local communities. Option 1 - Grimley and Hallow with Holt Parish Residents of Grimley parish have extremely close historical and present days ties with both Hallow and Holt parishes. All three communities share Church of England facilities and pastoral ministry services and have worked hard to preserve these. The River Severn, from Holt in the north, to Hallow in the south, provides a north south page margin along which run (without exaggeration) family ties, business and agricultural connections, all transport links and the school catchments. At present, there are no planning policy authorisations for the number of properties in Grimley parish to increase - a contentious matter which contributes to the children of the parish being forced to move away in order to find their own homes. Hallow parish is being permitted to expand and it is to this area that both Grimley and Holt families are looking for the future. For the foreseeable future all three parishes are inexorably tied. Option 2 - Grimley and Hallow with Wichenford and Kenswick To the west, Grimley has good historical and ongoing ties with Wichenford parish. That community provides in particular an invaluable service to Grimley by offering key social and elderly care facilities (an excellent example being the Nora Parsons Day Centre). However the unusually

elongated and semi-split shape of Wichenford also would make integration with Hallow a difficult one. Therefore, whilst a reorganisation of Martley ward, (with for example Wichenford and Kenswick parishes joined with Hallow and Grimley) would be very welcome to Grimley, it is felt that this would impact on the ability of the representing district council to effectively represent all. Options that Cllrs feel would not work. - Cllrs do not feel that Broadheath could not be sensibly divided in order to be joined to Hallow and Grimley. Thank you for taking the time to consider our submission  
Grimley Parish Council 09/09/2021 v1.2

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded