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From: L.I. Parish Council <parishcouncil@longitchington.com>
Sent: 11 October 2021 12:55
To: reviews
Subject: Local Government Boundary Review

Categories: [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

Please find the response below to the boundary review from Long Itchington Parish Council.

The proposal to change the title of the current ward of Long Itchington and Stockton in the recent review by the commission causes the Parish Council and number of serious concerns. The new title of Southam North and Long Itchington we feel does not reflect the nature of the ward nor the demography of the area. The criteria of ensuring a 'strong community identity' is we feel much diluted by this title, especially when the current population of the ward is so close to the number that is according to your criteria so close to the ideal.

Whilst separated by no more than two miles, the communities of Southam and those within the Long Itchington and Stockton ward are distinctly different in nature, lifestyles and identity. Southam is a valued local market town, the facilities are essential to the wider area and the development of the town is vital to support the outlying communities that are distinctly more rural in nature and expectation. In addition, both Long Itchington and Stockton provide a more local support for a number of outlying smaller hamlets and communities, for example Bascote, Bascote heath and Tomlow close to Stockton amongst other smaller and more dispersed communities. Indeed, to the south of the village of Long Itchington is the 'Model Village', itself a strong community with its own identity developed over many decades from its construction as a dormitory for many of the employees of the nearly cement quarry and factory. We cannot emphasise more strongly the strength of community identity that these localities feel, much related to their separateness from Southam, the local market town.

We strongly argue that definition is given to the wider area by keeping separate and strong identities for Southam Town as well the local villages and communities within the current ward. We respectfully request that whatever changes are brought to the Secretary of State that the perceived amalgamation of the outlying rural villages with Southam is not brought about. Names are vital in determining definition of place, to title a place that it is not destroys the strength of identity that more than a millennium in place.

Kind Regards

Liz Bonney

