

## **PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES IN WYCHAVON**

### **Response from Peopleton Parish Council**

Peopleton Parish Council consider that the proposal to put Peopleton into a ward with Drakes Broughton is a poor one. We prefer to stay in the Upton Snodsbury ward. Several parishioners have also expressed this view in communications with us and at our most recent meeting.

The proposed boundary changes appear to be an exercise in number crunching and do not reflect the social geography of the area.

1. Peopleton is a relatively small village with predominantly rural and agricultural interests. Drakes Broughton is a large and growing village with many characteristics and issues of a small town. Therefore, the interests of the two communities are quite different. Drakes Broughton has a population of over 1,395 which is increasing rapidly with all its new development, while Peopleton has a fairly stable 590. This gives rise to a real concern that there would be a disproportionate workload for the local ward councillor between the two parishes. Drakes Broughton has potentially much larger issues ahead such as the proposed Parkway Development of initially 5,000 homes rising to 10,000 homes eventually with its associated infrastructure and local upheaval for many years to come. Part of this development is within the Drakes Broughton parish. Very much a significant and time consuming issue for Drakes Broughton but much less so for Peopleton
2. Peopleton has much more in common with the villages in the current Upton Snodsbury (US) ward. Villages like Upton Snodsbury, Churchill, White Ladies Aston and Peopleton are all clay land villages with similar identities and issues. The demographics of Peopleton show a large percentage of 60 to 84 year olds, which is similar to the rest of the US ward. Drakes Broughton has a much younger and wider demographic with many young families and first time buyers. There is also a much more social housing and a higher crime rate. This makes for very different social and economic cultures.
3. The current US ward is made up of small rural communities that work closely together and share a similar history, culture, outlook and many religious and social activities. Similar problems and issues are shared throughout the ward and it currently benefits from working them through together and sharing local knowledge and solutions through their joint district councillor.
4. Peopleton has many facilities which are used by residents of other villages including the post office and shop, the playing field and children's play park and the village hall. For example, fitness classes, cubs and brownies use the village hall and are used by people from the surrounding villages.
5. Peopleton is one parish in the Bowland Benefice. The other parishes are: White Ladies Aston, Churchill, Upton Snodsbury, Spetchley and Broughton Hackett, all in the new and old Upton Snodsbury ward. The vicar of Peopleton is responsible for all of the parishes.
6. Children from Peopleton go to the First Schools in either Upton Snodsbury or Pinvin, not Drakes Broughton.
7. Peopleton WI meets in the village hall and welcomes ladies from local small villages, just as the Mothers' Union in Upton Snodsbury welcomes ladies from Peopleton. The MU sometimes meet in the Peopleton village shop tea room.
8. White Ladies Aston is an active village and villagers from Peopleton join in these activities including the singing group.
9. The A44 road forms a natural boundary between the US ward and Drakes Broughton. The proposed new boundary is odd as it seems to show Peopleton tacked on the Drakes Broughton by a narrow strip across the A44.

**Tim Mason**  
Chairman, Peopleton Parish Council