

ELMLEY CASTLE, BRICKLEHAMPTON & NETHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Review Officer (Wychavon)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

8th August 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Wychavon Ward Proposed Boundary Changes

The Parish Council would like to formally oppose the further draft proposals of the Boundary changes that effect the Parish of Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton and Netherton in the district of Wychavon.

The Parish of Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton and Netherton sit on the footings of Bredon Hill, Bredon Hill has a number of close Villages around its perimeter. Our Parish has particularly close relationships with our neighbouring Parishes of Little Comberton and Great Comberton.

The proposed changes will split Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton and Netherton Parish into the newly named Ward of Elmley Castle & Childwickham, Great Comberton will be placed into the Ward of Fladbury along with Little Comberton. This will effectively split us up into 2 separate wards.

We are in the same Ecclesiastical Parish, with one Vicar, since 2001, one Parochial Church Council. Even prior to 2001, the ties were very close with Elmley Castle and Bricklehampton having been a single Parish since 1948. Parishioners from all 4 villages worship together and jointly serve the local community and people further afield.

All three Parishes share a joint 'Parish Magazine' entitled 'The Link'. This is produced by the Church and also covers a wide range of non-religious interest and is hand-delivered by volunteers, free of charge to every household in the effected Parishes.

Furthermore, Elmley Castle and Bricklehampton share the same Village Hall (located in Elmley Castle), it is jointly owned and administered, with placing Bricklehampton into the Fladbury Ward parishioners from Bricklehampton would be unable to vote in their local Village Hall in Elmley Castle and would have to make the unnecessary trip to Fladbury, increasing their carbon footprint. It is clear to see that it would make much more sense to place the entirety of Bricklehampton into the same ward as Elmley Castle.

Our Parishes also have a long history of supporting one another whilst working between our Parish Council, whether that be a contentious Planning Application within our AONB or just outside or matters relating to traffic safety concerns. We have always worked together and having the same supportive Ward Councillor has always been an important part of the procedure.

The Communities also share facilities such as the Cricket Club, the First School and the only Village Pub, all based in Elmley Castle.

It is noted on the published 'Draft Recommendations' that these changes aim to:

1. Provide good electoral equality.
2. Reflect community interests and identifies and include evidence of community links.
3. Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.

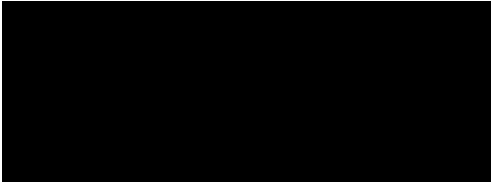
These proposals do the complete opposite of the above, it will separate, divide and even sever the links in our community.

Parish Clerk Mr Andrew Robinson
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We hope that the Boundary Commission will carefully look at the evidence provided and conclude that Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton and Netherton, Little Comberton and Great Comberton should be within the same ward and that the community can continue their historic close links.

Yours faithfully,



Andy Robinson
Clerk to Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton and Netherton Parish Council
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