

# Nuneaton & Bedworth

## Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Postcode: [REDACTED]  
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

Please see the attached document.

## Attached Documents:

- LGBCE response Nuneaton.docx
- Griff\_2.gif

Review Officer (Nuneaton and Bedworth)

April 2023

*Via email*

To whom it may concern:

**Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary review**

I responded to the earlier consultation. The reference number for my submission was 83957.

At the earlier stage my address was [REDACTED] in the Stockingford area of Nuneaton. I have since moved to the Chilvers Coton area of the town.

I restrict my comments to the town of Nuneaton, except in general terms, as I did at the earlier stage.

**Division of the borough**

The Commission's draft proposals continue to respect the existing boundary lines between the town of Nuneaton (proposed to have thirteen wards), the town of Bedworth (proposed to have five wards), and the village of Bulkington (proposed to have one ward).

I support this approach as I did at the earlier stage. However I would continue to raise the issue of whether Quincy Close would be better placed in Whitestone ward, with which it has clear links along Lutterworth Road, than in Bulkington ward, with which it has few ties. Other than this I support the Commission's approach.

**Schemes put forward**

The Commission had three full schemes for the borough before them:

- 1) Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council;
- 2) The Labour Group; and
- 3) The Green Group.

I **welcome entirely** the rejection of the Labour Group scheme. This scheme did not reflect or respect the communities of Nuneaton in any way. Although the scheme reflected the divide of the town by the West Coast Main Line, in the west of the town it bore no relation to the communities of the area. It split the Grove Farm area between the Arbury and Galley Common

wards, it split the Camp Hill area in order to add a part of that area to the Barpool ward, it split the Heath End area three ways, it removed streets just to the north of Attleborough village centre from the Attleborough ward in order to add them to the Abbey ward. The proposed Stockingford ward linked Whittleford with part of Stockingford where there is only one road (Whittleford Road at Stockingford station) connecting the two areas. The proposed Galley Common linked Galley Common with part of Grove Farm where there is only one road (Park Lane) connecting the two areas.

In the east of the town, the scheme split the Horeston Grange area between the St. Nicolas, and Longshoot & Crowhill, wards.

Although I appreciate the Commission start from a 'blank slate' approach, the current pattern of wards in the west of Nuneaton reflects the communities reasonably well. The Labour Party scheme ripped up this pattern, not to improve it, but to make it considerably worse in terms of community ties.

I therefore urge the continued rejection of this scheme at the revised proposal stage.

The Green Party scheme was much more sensible. However, it would have split the Whittleford area in order to add a small part round Stockingford station to the Kingswood ward. I feel the railway line here is a much clearer boundary. It would also have added an area around Oaston Road to the St. Nicolas ward. The West Coast Main Line and the Coventry to Nuneaton railway line make much clearer boundaries here.

Far worse was their proposals for Weddington and Watling wards which both ran east-west containing part of the Weddington area and part of the St. Nicolas Park area. Although it is clear there is going to be major development here, at the moment the two areas are quite distinct. The Weddington area consists of the A444 and the streets leading off it. The Green Party proposals split Weddington when, as the draft proposals show, the area can be kept together.

The Commission's draft proposals are almost entirely based on the Council's submission and I largely welcome them. They conform far more clearly with my idea of what the areas and communities of Nuneaton are than either the Labour Party or the Green Party scheme.

I **strongly support** the boundaries and most of the names of the draft proposals.

#### Griff and Coton ward

I **object in the strongest possible terms** to the name 'Griff and Coton' for the ward covering Chilvers Coton and Red Deeps. The ward is almost exactly the same as the current Wembrook ward. The name 'Griff and Coton' was proposed in the Council's submission.

The name 'Griff and Coton' is not one in use by local residents for the area in any way.

The **only** organisation in the town, of any kind, which bears the name 'Griff and Coton' is the Griff and Coton Sports and Social Club. **No other** organisation - whether charity, voluntary group, government agency, registered company, or any other sort - bears the name 'Griff and Coton'.

- 1) The Griff and Coton Sports and Social Club plays host to cricket, rugby, football, bowls, and netball, and has a bar and function room for social events. Warwickshire County Cricket Club played matches at the ground between 1930 and 1989. Interesting as all this is, I suggest it is hardly appropriate to name a local government ward after a sports club unless it was one of particular prominence (c.f. Arsenal ward in the London Borough of Islington). I would suggest the Griff and Coton Club is not of particular prominence.
- 2) The Griff and Coton Sports and Social Club is located on Heath End Road. The club is presently in the Arbury ward and is proposed to remain there under the draft proposals. The club would therefore not be in the Griff and Coton ward. I suggest it is unusual to name a local government ward after a landmark or feature that is not contained in that ward.
- 3) The history of the Griff and Coton Cricket Club starts with the Chilvers Coton Cricket Club, whose first ground was behind the Hare and Hounds pub. The Hare and Hounds only closed earlier this year, and was located at the junction of Heath End Road and the Raywoods - again in the Arbury ward. The club moved to the current ground in 1906 and the ground was known as the Chilvers Coton Ground.<sup>1</sup>

The club changed its name to Griff and Coton in 1929 when it was bought by the miners of the Griff Collieries. Therefore, while the 'Coton' part of the name of the club is firmly associated with Chilvers Coton, the 'Griff' part is associated with the Griff Collieries.

I attach a map of the Griff Collieries.<sup>2</sup> As can be seen the Griff pits ran from an area to the west of Bermuda Village (Griff Clara pit) through the Heath End area (Griff No. 5 pit). All of this area is currently in the Arbury ward and remains there under the draft proposals.

In turn the Griff Collieries are named after the Griff area. Roughly speaking Griff stands at the border between Nuneaton and Bedworth but has never been a densely populated area. Mary Ann Evans (the novelist George Eliot) grew up at Griff House, which still stands at Griff Roundabout, where the A444 meets the B4113 (Coventry Road). Part of Griff Roundabout falls into the proposed Griff and Coton ward, but it also falls in the Arbury and Slough wards. Griff House itself is in the Slough ward.

---

<sup>1</sup> For more on the history of the Griff and Coton Cricket Club, see page 454, *The Wisden Guide to Cricket Grounds* by William Powell. Stanley Paul & Co (1992). ISBN 0-09-177188-9. Accessed at <http://archive.org/details/wisdenguidetocri0000powe/>

<sup>2</sup> Taken from *Griff Collieries* by M.J. Lee. The Industrial Railway Record, no. 47 (April 1973). pp 1-19. Accessed at <https://www.irsociety.co.uk/Archives/47/Griff.htm>

At a push, the ward name might be associated with Griff Hollows, a small woodland area at the very southern edge of the proposed ward. But this woodland is (if you travel south on Coventry Road) to the south of, and therefore beyond, all the housing in the area. No-one would refer to any residential area of the ward as 'Griff Hollows'.

I therefore suggest to the Commission that Griff and Coton is not a suitable name for the proposed ward. The ultimate derivation of the word 'Griff' is from the Griff area, which does not fall in the proposed ward; and the Council's naming of the ward appears to come from the sports club, which is not located in the proposed ward.

At the previous consultation stage I tried to highlight what I believe to be the communities of Nuneaton. One such community I described was Chilvers Coton and I highlighted a number of organisations named for the area. I repeat the list from my previous submission:

All Saints Church, Chilvers Coton, Avenue Road  
Riversley Road Surgery, Riversley Road  
Griff and Coton Sports Club, Heath End Road  
Coton Sports and Social Club, Henry Street  
Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre, Avenue Road  
Chilvers Coton Community School, Fitton Street  
Chilvers Coton Conservative Club, Bridge Street  
Coton Arches, Coventry Road

Although the Griff and Coton Sports Club was included in this list, as it is in the Chilvers Coton area, I have already indicated above why 'Griff and Coton' is an inappropriate name for the ward.

I believe the ward should instead be called Chilvers Coton. In my previous submission I indicated areas called Hill Top, and Red Deeps (otherwise Caldwell), which also fall into the proposed ward. But these names are of no great antiquity as the entire area was only developed after the Second World War.

By contrast Chilvers Coton is a historic area and for a long time was separate from Nuneaton itself. The parish appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Cilverdestoche', which must surely be evidence of antiquity, and the name is of Saxon origin.<sup>3</sup> Chilvers Coton formed a separate parish from Nuneaton; this is not something that can be said of every part of Nuneaton. Stockingford, for example, was from the start part of the parish of Nuneaton, despite being separate from the town itself.

---

<sup>3</sup> See page 79, *The Place-Names of Warwickshire* by J.E.B. Gover, A. Mawer and F.M. Stenton. Cambridge University Press (1970). Accessed at <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/epns/documents/warwickshire.pdf>

Chilvers Coton's status as a separate civil parish survived its incorporation into the urban district of Nuneaton in 1894 and the urban district's incorporation as a borough in 1907. The civil parish was only amalgamated with that of Nuneaton in 1920.<sup>4 5</sup>

As I indicated in my previous submission, Chilvers Coton was the name of a ward prior to the 2002 boundary review conducted by the Commission's predecessors.<sup>6</sup> The former Chilvers Coton ward contained the Chilvers Coton area but did not contain Hill Top or Red Deeps, instead containing Bermuda and part of Heath End.

Chilvers Coton is certainly the name in the use for the area, whereas 'Griff and Coton' is not.

Although I do not like praying in aid representation 83958, which is brazenly political, I note it states "*The proposal of the name Griff and Coton does not identify with local residents. If unchanged the ward could be called Hilltop and Chilvers Coton. Though I have serious concerns about the proposed ward.*" I agree with the first sentence insofar as it states Griff and Coton is a name not used by residents for the area. I do not share any concern as regards the composition of the ward.

I therefore **strongly suggest** the Commission name this ward Chilvers Coton. If, for whatever reason, they do not accept this suggestion, I suggest they retain the name Wembrook, as the ward is hardly changed from the current ward of that name. As stated, I strongly object to the name Griff and Coton.

#### Manor ward

I **object** to the name 'Manor' for the ward covering the eastern part of Stockingford. I do not object as strongly as I do to 'Griff and Coton'. The ward covers most of the current Barpool ward, with the addition of part of Nuneaton to the east of the Coventry Canal.

The name 'Manor' was proposed in the Council's submission. That submission references three separate organisations or landmarks as grounds for naming the ward so, namely:

- 1) "the now closed Manor Park School";
- 2) "Manor Park Road which will partly be included in the new ward"; and
- 3) "Manor Park Stadium, former home of Nuneaton Borough Football Club."

---

<sup>4</sup> The Ordnance Survey map of 1900 gives a clearer view of the parish of Chilvers Coton. It was bounded by the Wem Brook to the east and by Queens Road and Arbury Road to the north. See [https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/maps/sheet/os\\_maps\\_1900/Warwickshire\\_1900](https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/maps/sheet/os_maps_1900/Warwickshire_1900)

<sup>5</sup> Further detail on the history and extent of the parish of Chilvers Coton can be found at pages 173-178, *The Victoria History of the County of Warwick* (Volume 4: Hemlingford hundred), edited by L.F. Salzman. Oxford University Press (1947). Accessed at <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol4/pp173-178>

<sup>6</sup> *Final Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for Nuneaton & Bedworth in Warwickshire*. Local Government Commission for England (November 1999). Accessed at <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20221201172309/https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/warwickshire/nuneaton-and-bedworth>

Manor Park School, which was located on Beaumont Road, is indeed closed.<sup>7</sup> Manor Park football ground (it was never a stadium) was also closed in 2007,<sup>8</sup> and was subsequently demolished; the site is now occupied by Borough Way, residential housing located off Queens Road just north of Wash Lane Bridge.

Manor Park Road will not just be partly, but entirely, included in the proposed Manor ward; I suspect the author meant that the more significant Manor Court Road, which is only partly included in the ward; the entire eastern side of the road is included in St. Mary's ward, and even a number of the houses on the western side of the road are in that ward.

I therefore suggest:

- 1) That it is not appropriate to name a ward after three landmarks, two of which have now been closed for over ten years and one of which has been demolished.
- 2) That if we consider Manor Court Road, rather than Manor Park Road, it would be confusing to name the ward 'Manor' when the majority of the local residents of Manor Court Road would be in St. Mary's ward. If a local resident assumes that, because they live on Manor Court Road they must live in Manor ward, it would cause confusion and may lead to them e.g. trying to vote at the wrong polling station or contacting the wrong councillors.
- 3) The Council's submission omits to mention the former Manor Hospital, located on Manor Park Avenue, which is just as great a landmark and as well known by local residents as Manor Park School or the Manor Park football ground, and which is still standing, which is located in the proposed St. Mary's ward.
- 4) That all three of the landmarks the council has named the ward after are presently in the Abbey ward, are to the east of the Coventry Canal, and are in the far eastern part of the proposed Manor ward. As the ward is overwhelmingly made up of the current Barpool ward which lies to the west of the Coventry Canal, the name is not representative of the majority of the ward.
- 5) The Council's submission states that Manor "is also a previous name of a ward covering this area." If this is the case, it must be before local government reorganisation in 1973. I can find evidence only of a ward called 'Coton and Manor' which was contested in 1973 and 1976, although the name suggests 'Manor' would have covered the area around the

---

<sup>7</sup> For more information on Manor Park School, see <http://manorparkgrammarschool.co.uk/> The school was converted from a grammar school into a comprehensive in 1977, and closed entirely in 2010. The buildings now home the Discovery Academy, a school for children with special needs, see <https://www.thediscoveryacademy.org/>

<sup>8</sup> "End of an era at Manor Park". Coventry Evening Telegraph, 30 April 2007. Accessed at <https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/end-era-manor-park-3114314>

town centre if it was combined with Chilvers Coton.<sup>9</sup> I suggest this is not a good reason to name this ward 'Manor'.

I would suggest that a more appropriate name for this ward would be Stockingford East (this would require the proposed Stockingford ward being named Stockingford West). All of the area to the west of the Coventry Canal is indisputably part of Stockingford. From the list that I enclosed in my previous submission, Stockingford Congregational Church and Stockingford Medical Centre lie in the proposed Manor ward.

Local residents of the area, certainly the area to the west of the Coventry Canal, would certainly say that they live in Stockingford. They would not associate with the name 'Manor'. At a push the residents living east of the Coventry Canal might associate the area as 'Manor Park'.

I would therefore **suggest** Stockingford East as the name for this ward (and the renaming of Stockingford ward to meet it).

I look forward to reading the final proposals.

[REDACTED]

---

<sup>9</sup> *Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council Election Results 1973-2012* by Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher. Elections Centre, Plymouth University (2012). Accessed at <http://www.electionscentre.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Nuneaton-Bedworth-1973-2012.pdf>



