

Gloucestershire

Personal Details:

Name: Mrs Leah Beech

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Ashchurch Rural Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Ashchurch Rural Parish

Hello,

Please find attached feedback regarding the boundary and community of Ashchurch Rural Parish from Ashchurch Rural Parish Council.

Kind regards

Leah Beech
Assistantt Clerk
Ashchurch Rural Parish Council

Attached Documents:

- Gloucestershire Boundary Review - Feedback_reviewed.docx

Gloucestershire Boundary Review Feedback from Ashchurch Rural Parish Council (ARPC) regarding the Ashchurch Rural Parish (ARP) Community and Boundaries

Where do people in your area go to access local facilities, such as shops and leisure activities?

- Aside from a coffee shop, a new garden centre and a petrol garage there are no shops in our Parish – only industrial business parks
- Leisure activities come in the form of public rights of way walks, classes held at Ashchurch Village Hall and new play park is located at Barleyfields
- Parishioners tend to use shops and facilities in Tewkesbury town centre or Bishops Cleeve, and further afield such as Cheltenham, Evesham and Gloucester

What facilities do people share, such as parks, leisure centres or schools and shopping areas?

- Ashchurch Primary School have a large intake of pupils from Northway
- ARP residents use the Tewkesbury Comprehensive School
- ARP have the new garden centre and upcoming outlet centre in our parish which is used by the wider community
- ARP residents use the facilities in Tewkesbury town centre based leisure centre and shopping
- ARP is home to Tewkesbury's only railway station

Which areas do you identify as your local community?

A community tends to have social cohesion and regular interactions however, as a geographically widespread Parish of rural hamlets that are not easily accessible to one another without the use of a car, ARPC struggle to bring together a sense of one community. Having no bus services in the Parish means it is hard for other communities to reach us and vice versa, and therefore our parish community could be thought of as a complete vacuum in certain respects.

However, when looking at other villages and hamlets around ARP, whom share the same issues and sometimes the same resources, you could associate the following villages as our local community:

- Tewkesbury town centre
- Northway
- Teddington
- Tredington and Stoke Orchard - whom are similarly rural with a busy road running through their centre and having had recent new housing developments become established.

What issues do neighbouring communities face that they have in common, such as high numbers of visitors or heavy traffic?

All villages within ARP have direct links to the A46 road and suffer with traffic issues. Those hamlets directly on the A46 experience mass disruption due to high volumes of traffic that cause tail backs and the villages that are sat slightly further back (but have a direct link to the road) suffer hugely from vehicles rat running as a result of drivers attempting to avoid the A46 traffic.

- Northway suffer heavy traffic due to a combination of traffic backing up from the A46 and vehicles rat running through the neighbourhood to avoid the M5 A46 junction
- Teddington village (like Ashchurch and Aston Cross) does not have high numbers of visitors but it does have the A46 and the A435 running alongside it which experiences high volumes of high speed, in transit, traffic.
- Northway and Teddington share the issue of rubbish, noise pollution and air pollution from trucks and vehicles passing through.
- ARP and Teddington share a lack of any bus service to connect our Parish with other local communities.
- Wheatpieces estate (known locally as Walton Cardiff) do not appear to suffer as badly with traffic as they are not located on the A46 and have access via a bypass.

Have there been new housing or commercial developments that have changed the focus of communities?

Our parish is a mixture of rural villages and a number of more highly populated areas, however we identify as a rural parish. There is currently only one new housing development established of approx. 120 houses. However, there are multiple in the planning / early build phase in Fiddington and Ashchurch. This is likely to increase the population of our parish vastly and could significantly change the focus of much of our parish from rural to suburban. However, the planned new housing developments do include community centres which are likely to bring together residents in our parish and could reinforce ties with other local communities by attracting people from further away such as Tredington and Teddington.

There are also upcoming commercial developments in our parish (the new outlet centre) that will likely add to the suburban feel and draw mass visitors from both north and south UK due to the proximity to the M5 Junction 9.

Are there roads, rivers, railways or other features that people believe form strong boundaries between neighbourhoods?

- The railway line acts as a natural boundary between Ashchurch and Northway (at the over rail bridge in Ashchurch). It also acts as a boundary between Northway's eastern edge and the land north of the MOD site / west of Aston on Carrant
- The A435 forms a boundary with the village of Oxenton
- The M5 forms a boundary to Wheatpieces estate (Walton Cardiff)

The Commission is interested in views on which communities should be part of the same division.

Although ARPC do not have any strong feelings on the placement of current boundaries we have the following points to raise:

- They should not be moved unless there is a plan to distribute rates payable more fairly
- Boundaries should be easy for people to understand.- presently they appear muddled and any legacy reasons for their standing is unclear / has been lost over time.
- Boundaries should be clear using roads and railways to define the parishes so that they are easy to see on a map.