

# Swindon

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## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Castle Eaton

Please see attached Word document...

## Attached Documents:

- swindon-boundary-review-response.docx

# SWINDON BOUNDARY REVIEW RESPONSE

## Background

Castle Eaton is located on the northern-most boundary of the Swindon Borough Council map.

From a personal point of view, I have been a resident of Castle Eaton since 1987, ten years before the parish became part of Swindon Borough Council.

Castle Eaton has a great community spirit, as one would expect in a small but close-knit village.

## Castle Eaton

I am aware that the boundary commission, as part of this review, is looking to re-arrange the 57 Swindon wards in the best way that reflects the needs of the individual communities.

**The reason for responding, however, is that I no longer think it serves Castle Eaton well to be part of Swindon BC at all.**

From a parochial perspective, our church is part of a team ministry that includes, Castle Eaton, Kempsford, Marston Meysey and Meysey Hampton – our closest neighbouring villages.

Educationally, the majority of village children attend Kempsford Primary School before moving onto to Farmors Secondary School in Fairford.

All these neighbouring villages – the closest just over 1 mile away - reside in North Wiltshire or Cotswold District Council. In fact the boundary line for both North Wiltshire and Cotswold District is only a few hundred yards up the road, as is the border with Gloucestershire.

IMHO, this is where Castle Eaton should be, rather than being used as an arbitrary makeweight to level up the 'Swindon numbers' in whatever way the Boundary Commission feels is appropriate.

## Conclusion

The epicentre of our daily life is amongst our neighbouring villages to the north, not with Swindon.

Our relationship with Swindon BC is also not working on a day-to-day operational basis – too many examples to list. In fact, I rather suspect that Swindon BC would be relieved if we were to 'find another home'!

With extensive housing development now taking place in the Swindon area, I am hopeful that when the next opportunity comes along to level up the numbers, the Boundary Commission will not see Castle Eaton as the sacrificial cow and makeweight that it has obviously become.

I hope you are able to help bring to an end this rather awkward and misconceived 'marriage of convenience'?