

Bassetlaw

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Headon-cum-Upton, Grove and Stokeham Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

See attached submission

Attached Documents:

- lgbce.docx

HEADON-CUM-UPTON, GROVE AND STOKEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Cllr Sean Whelan

Clerk: Dr Joan Clarke

28th April 2024

To the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Bassetlaw District Council boundary consultation.

The Parish council welcomes this opportunity to take part in the Commission's consultation on the ward boundaries for Bassetlaw. In particular, it would like to comment on the official submission from Bassetlaw District Council and raise some objections.

If the proposals of the district council were accepted, Headon-cum-Upton would move to East Markham Ward, Grove to a new Ward called Leverton and Stokeham to a new Ward called Trent. This would mean this parish would be represented by three different councillors. The Boundary Commission in its guidelines says that the wards proposed should promote effective and convenient local government, which is effective, both in representation and enabling the local authority (BDC) to conduct its business effectively. Having three separate councillors for what is a relatively small parish would cause confusion and would leave the community without a clear, coherent voice.

The Boundary Commission also desires that wards should reflect the interests and identities of local communities. The four hamlets of Headon, Upton, Grove and Stokeham are historically linked by their shared farming heritage, with the same families tending the land for generations. Relationships have grown up between the communities, reflected in the parish having many long standing members from all four settlements who have worked together over many years.

There is a common meeting space in the village hall at Headon, where the communities come together to meet, and hold activities like a cinema club, talks and several groups meet there such as the vintage tractor club. It is the only community space in the parish as there are no pubs or church halls, so it serves as a social space and bar at the weekend. There are no food outlets in the parish so mobile food vendors often visit the village hall car park and residents come from all four villages to buy.

The four villages share a monthly newsletter, Heads Up, distributed to all homes within the parish.

The parish has a neighbourhood plan which is currently being updated, and the parish has worked across all four villages to provide common assets such as defibrillators and noticeboards.

The recently renovated war memorial at Grove serves as a focus for the parish's Remembrance commemorations.

As a small parish, the four communities struggle to have a voice in the wider community of Bassetlaw. If the Bassetlaw DC proposals to cut the parish into three were accepted, it would

further diminish that voice and inevitably result in a diminution of representation and democratic deficit.

Joan Clerk

Parish Clarke and RFO

On behalf of Hadon-cm-Upton, Grove and Stokeham Parish Council