North Somerset

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Ivan Jackson
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Organisation Name: Kewstoke Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Parish of Kewstoke, North Somerset – Proposed warding of Kewstoke – Creation of a separate East Ward – Anson Road/Mountbatten Close area.

Summary of Position
Kewstoke Parish Council objects to the proposed boundary changes affecting the eastern area of the Parish, including Anson Road and Montbatten Close. The proposals do not reflect established community identity and would create unnecessary administrative and financial impacts for residents.

Community Identity and Cohesion
The affected properties have formed part of Kewstoke Parish for over 45 years and are firmly integrated within the existing community. Previous parish and ward boundary review proposals affecting this area have been consistently opposed by residents and the Parish Council and were not implemented. There is no evidence of any material change in local circumstances or community identity to justify the current proposal.

Impact on Residents
The proposed changes would introduce avoidable administrative complexity and potential financial implications for residents. In particular, recent purchasers who reasonably expected to be part of Kewstoke may experience a loss of community identity and potential detriment. The Parish Council does not consider that these outcomes support effective and convenient local government.

Electoral Arrangements

The creation of a separate ward with different unitary representation within the Parish risks fragmenting an otherwise cohesive community. This is unlikely to enhance local representation or improve democratic engagement.
Future Development and Boundary Stability
With additional housing planned between the eastern area and the centre of the village, there is concern that approving the proposed change could set a precedent for incremental boundary adjustments. This would risk further weakening the integrity of the Parish over time.

Alternative Position
If the wider ward changes within Kewstoke are approved, the Parish Council supports retaining the eastern area (Anson Road and Montbatten Close) within a single Kewstoke ward. The Council does not object to representation by a single unitary councillor, which reflects historic arrangements.

Conclusion
The Parish Council requests that the existing parish boundary is maintained for the eastern area of Kewstoke. The proposal does not improve electoral arrangements, does not reflect community identity, and would impose unnecessary impacts on residents.

Attached Documents:

None attached