

Gloucestershire

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Comment text:

Related subject: Proposal to move Owlpen Parish from Dursley Division to Wotton-under-Edge Division

Dear Sirs,

As residents of Owlpen, we would like to object most strongly to the proposal to move Owlpen from Dursley Division to Wotton-under-Edge Division. The current adult population of Owlpen is 35 and it is hard to believe that the transfer of such a small group of voters will make any significant difference to electoral equality. It would however seriously disenfranchise Owlpen if it were to become a satellite of a distant Division with which it has nothing in common.

Owlpen Uley and Dursley are close neighbours situated within the Ewelme Valley. Immediate local services for Owlpen are provided by Uley i.e. shop, pub, primary school and doctors' surgery. The residents of Owlpen and Uley work closely together across a wide spectrum of community activities. Dursley provides the nearest large supermarket, leisure centre, secondary schools, hospital and associated health services such as opticians, chiropodists, and physiotherapists. Not surprisingly there is a regular bus service along the B4066. In 2018 the churches in the valley were combined as the Ewelme Benefice reflecting this natural neighbourhood. Thus, the majority of interests and concerns of these communities are linked and the involvement of a single County Councillor gives us effective and convenient local government. The proposal would necessitate the duplication of issues with two Councillors and would be wholly impractical and unnecessarily time consuming.

A proper understanding of the local geography would show the Commission why these three settlements have grown to be so interlinked and conversely why Wotton-u-Edge (six miles away in another valley) has no links with them whatsoever. The only thing Owlpen has in common with Wotton is their boundary along a small stretch of the A4315 and across a few fields.

We sincerely hope that you will reconsider the proposal and give full credence to the strong links Owlpen has within the Ewelme Valley. Local government is important but it only works where it supports and accurately represents local populations. Moving Owlpen to Wotton-under Edge

Division would remove it from the Division which best represents its interests and location.

Attached Documents:

None attached