

Bassetlaw

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Comment text:

Related subject: North and South Wheatley

I am concerned about the proposed changes to the ward boundaries in Bassetlaw, which will affect North and South Wheatley. I believe the movement of Wheatley to a ward with Clayworth, Wiseton, Clarbrough, Hayton and Welham might well be any easy fix but it is not to my mind a logical solution or a solution that is going to represent the people of Wheatley effectively.

In terms of the physical geography, the other villages in the proposed ward, are separated from Wheatley by the ridge. Those villages have a similar feel and have a relationship via the Chesterfield Canal. Wheatley is much more similar to Sturton-le Steeple and North and South Leverton.

Socially, Wheatley has strong links in its current ward. This is evident in attendance at village events and membership of village organisations. The Clays Gardening Club, has a combined "Open Gardens" event with Sturton. Clays Cloggers, a walking group, has members in both villages. The Wheatley and Leverton Cricket Club and the new relationship with Leverton Rounders Club suggest social links between these communities are strong.

Politically, I believe there are historically strong relationships between the villages of Wheatley, Sturton and Leverton. There seems to have been some good cooperation and communication between parishes in recent consultations about the STEP project, the National Grid changes and solar developments. The movement of Wheatley into a different ward, separated from parishes with similar concerns, I believe will affect the democratic voice of our community adversely.

Finally, the STEP project will have a massive effect on local people. I believe the voice of Wheatley will be weakened by this boundary change. We are located just 3km from the site and will no doubt be impacted by this development. We need to maintain a strong voice in the consultations and I fear this will be lost if we are no longer in the same ward.

Attached Documents:

None attached