

Ettington Parish Council

13 October 2021

APPENDIX 6

Boundaries Commission Draft Recommendations for Stratford District Council Reorganisation of Wards. (Comments to be submitted by 08/11/21)

Ettington Parish Council rejects the recommendation for a new Treddington Ward.

The present Ettington Ward consists of a cluster of rural villages most of which share boundaries with Ettington Parish itself, the exceptions being (in descending order of remoteness) Barcheston, Preston on Stour, Honington and Idlicote.

The communities in the parishes of Alderminster, Halford and The Pillertons have a particular bond with that of Ettington as they are feeder villages for Ettington's primary school. There is considerable merit in this group being represented at District level by the same Councillor.

The Parish of Ettington has about as much in common with Stretton on Fosse as it does with Cirencester which is also on the A429. That Halford, which actually straddles the A429, is not included in the proposed Treddington Ward but finds itself in Tysoe Ward is baffling.

A slimmed down version of the existing Ettington Ward shedding Barcheston (better off with Shipston) and Preston on Stour (diverted to Quinton) would have by 2020 AD reckoning an aggregate of 2648 electors. This would preserve the objective of electorate numerical equality, the proposed Treddington Ward yielding the not dissimilar total of 2711.

Ettington Parish Council is supportive of the District Council's proposal which advocated a large rural ward. The Boundaries Commission's consistent leaning throughout its recommendations towards a plan devised by the Liberal Democrats smacks of political bias and is unhealthy.

The concept of a rural grouping with one parish at its nucleus is more sensible geographically for its ward member than that of a long ribbon involving greater travel needs.