

Cheshire East

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Organisation Name: Over Alderley Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Prestbury Ward

Over Alderley Parish Council wish to re-iterate their objection to the proposal to move Over Alderley parish from the Prestbury Ward to the Chelford Ward.

Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.

Over Alderley Parish Council believes that the analysis of elector numbers is flawed.

The projected elector number for 2030 is understated. Development has been approved (Application 23/3619M – Symphony Park) which will increase the population of the Parish by 236 residents. (Using projected occupancy levels provided by the applicant at paragraph 3.28 of Supporting Planning Statement.)

The existing electoral population is stated as 363, therefore, following completion of the development the population of the Parish will be 599 (excluding any other development or increases). This is 193 greater than the figure quoted in the 'Electorate figures' document accompanying this consultation which appears to project an increase of only 43 electors by 2030. Assuming that the projected increase does not include Symphony Park, the total projected elector number would be 642.

When considering Symphony Park along with the adjacent residential development (Morris Drive, Pitfield Way and Broadstone Close) which

accounts for 90 residents, it is clear that there is a high population density within the section of Alderley Park which lies within Over Alderley Parish.

It is, therefore, requested that in order to offer a compromise between the recommended proposals (as put forward by the Council and the Liberal Democrats) and the wishes of the parish of Over Alderley the following proposal be considered:

Over Alderley Parish be split into two Wards:

Ward 1 – Over Alderley – Rural Ward

Ward 2 – Over Alderley – Alderley Park Ward (To contain only properties within the Alderley Park campus and with a boundary immediately adjacent to the development plots.)

Ward 1 be retained within the Prestbury Ward in order to maintain the existing links with Prestbury and Mottram St. Andrew and provide effective representation.

Ward 2 be included within the new Chelford Ward to recognise the links between the development in this area and the remainder of the Alderley Park site which lies in Nether Alderley Parish.

The above proposal will lead to a negligible change to the proposed elector numbers for the new Prestbury Ward, allowing it to remain within the acceptable tolerance level, whilst meeting the needs of electors in this area.

Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.

Over Alderley Parish Council consider that the above proposal, to create Parish Wards, will allow electors of the proposed Rural Ward to retain their identity. The strong sense of community contained within the distinct rural area of Over Alderley will not be eroded by ineffective representation which would be strongly influenced by communities with which Over Alderley has no connection, e.g. Chelford, Over Peover and Plumley. The proposal reflects the habits of the rural residents of Over Alderley to use Prestbury, the neighbouring parish, for services and amenities e.g. shops, healthcare, sports facilities, etc. and supports effective representation.

The Alderley Park Ward would reflect the links that these electors have with Nether Alderley Parish, through the wider Alderley Park campus, affording this section of the community to also benefit from representation which reflects their habits and sense of community.

Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

Over Alderley Parish Council consider that the proposal to create Parish Wards will benefit the two Ward Councillors (Prestbury and Chelford) by providing them with coherent communities to represent.

The Prestbury Ward Councillor would benefit from continuing to represent the Rural Ward which has existing links to the parishes of Prestbury and Mottram St. Andrew and common issues e.g. lack of broadband services, highway issues on a shared road network.

The Chelford Ward Councillor would benefit from being able to represent the whole of the Alderley Park campus, however, would not be required to balance the competing priorities of the Rural Ward of Over Alderley with those of the remainder of the Chelford Ward e.g. Over Alderley Rural Ward does not share highway issues with Chelford Ward parishes, broadband services to Over Alderley Rural Ward are not within the same service area as Chelford Ward parishes.

Conclusion

Whilst Over Alderley Parish Council are disappointed that the views of the Parish Council, expressed during the first consultation, were not taken forward in the draft recommendations it is considered that the above compromise position allows sufficient flexibility to enable electorate numbers to be balanced whilst protecting the rights of Over Alderley electors to be fairly and appropriately represented within local government.

Attached Documents:

None attached