

Bassetlaw

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Comment text:

Related subject: Proposed changes to the make up of Sturton Ward

I am very concerned about the proposal to move the Parish of North & South Wheatley from Sturton Ward to Clayworth Ward.

One of the defining characteristics of the Sturton Ward for over 60 years has been the proximity of its constituent villages and hamlet to the West Burton Power Station site. This has resulted the development of a strong and very collaborative relationship between the Parish Councils within the Sturton Ward, and with Sturton le Steeple specifically, across a range of energy related issues past, present and future. Including recent consultations about the STEP project, the National Grid changes and Solar farm developments. One of the Solar projects covers agricultural land located equidistantly between Sturton and South Wheatley and will be seen by residents of South Wheatley. Having acknowledged this, Sturton PC would be prepared to cooperate on joint initiatives, using any CIL money which would be awarded as a result – for the benefit of both parishes.

Socially, North & South Wheatley has strong links within its current Ward, particularly with Sturton le Steeple and North Leverton. For example 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 Leverton Ladies Rounders Club which is training, recruiting members and playing matches in Wheatley, illustrate these historic social links within communities in the current Ward, which may be affected by a change.

The development of the proposed STEP project will have a massive impact on local communities including North & South Wheatley which is located just 3km from the West Burton Power Station Site. I therefore consider it critical that our community retains a strong voice in all

consultation and other matters relating to this project on behalf of residents through North & South Wheatley Parish Council and this will undoubtedly be diminished or lost if it is no longer in the same ward as the site.

In terms of the physical geography, the other villages in the proposed ward, namely Clayworth, Hayton, Wiseton, Clarborough and Welham are separated from Wheatley by the 'ridge'. Those villages share a similar feel and have a relationship via the Chesterfield Canal. By contrast, North & South Wheatley are much more similar to Sturton-le Steeple and North and South Leverton, sharing a proximity to the River Trent valley.

The movement of Nth & Sth Wheatley into a different ward, separated from parishes with similar concerns and facing upcoming significant change (both positive and negative) will adversely affect the democratic voice of the community.

Attached Documents:

None attached