

Oxfordshire County Council Electoral Review – Liberal Democrat proposals for Kidlington

We have reviewed the Boundary Commission's draft proposals for Kidlington and would make the following comments.

The commissions draft proposals create two urban / rural wards, one to the North and one to the South. This results in the centre of Kidlington being combined with rural areas which was a criticism of earlier proposals from Kidlington parish Council. While we recognise that a part of Kidlington needs be combined with rural villages in order to achieve electoral equality, we believe it is desirable that the urban nature of Kidlington be recognised by ensuring that one division lies wholly within Kidlington parish.

The retail centre of Kidlington is concentrated in High Street and Oxford Road, and lies partly within Orchard parish ward and partly within St Mary's parish ward. Exeter Hall (effectively the Civic Centre) and the Medical Centre lie on the opposite side of Oxford Road within Exeter parish wards. Ideally, these should be combined in a single electoral division.

We note also the concern that the County Council proposal contained few road links between the composite parishes. The Commission's proposals partly address this concern in that a road link across the River Cherwell has been provided at Enslow between Bletchington and Shipton-on-Cherwell & Thrupp parishes. However, the river crossing at Gosford Bridge does not provide any additional link, as the road passes from Hampton Poyle parish directly across a narrow strip of Orchard parish ward and into Gosford & Water Eaton parish without making any connection with the rest of the road system in Orchard ward.

Taking into account all of the above points, we would like to suggest a new proposal for the Kidlington area that we believe best reconciles the issues raised.

We suggest a Kidlington division comprising the Kidlington Parish Wards of Dogwood, Exeter, Orchard and St Mary's.

We also suggest a semi-rural division comprising Kidlington Roundham Parish Ward together with Kirtlington District Ward and Yarnton, Gosford & Water Eaton District Ward.

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>Kidlington</u>		
St Mary's	2194	2155
Exeter	1361	1353
Dogwood	2392	2377
Orchard	2571	2555
Total	8518	8440

Kidlington Rural

Roundham	1970	1935
Yarnton, Begbroke, Gosford & Water Eaton	3783	3904
Kirtlington Ward	2278	1991
Total	8031	7830