



Norton Lindsey Parish Council Parish Update 2022

Parish Assembly
Wednesday 27th April 2022
8pm
Village Hall

This is an opportunity to discuss parish affairs with the members of Norton Lindsey Parish Council and other parish residents

Questions can be asked on the day or submitted in advance by e-mail / social media

email : nortonlindseypc@outlook.com

Twitter : [@nortonlindseypc](https://twitter.com/nortonlindseypc)

Facebook : [Nortonlindsey.parishcouncil.3](https://www.facebook.com/Nortonlindsey.parishcouncil.3)

Council

Membership



Jon Stobart (Chair)



Amy Birch



Neil Brown



Karin Elmhirst



Roger Mann



Martin Neale



Jennifer Bendall (Clerk
& Responsible
Finance Officer)

Casual Vacancy

- * Do you want to serve your Community?
- * Do you have time or expertise which could benefit your Community?
- * Are you concerned about your local area?
- * Do you want to make a difference to all those around you?

NLPC currently has a casual vacancy for a Councillor - if you would like to make a difference, and be involved in shaping the future of Norton Lindsey Parish, why not step forward and apply to be co-opted onto the council?

Talk to Jenny Bendall, NLPC Clerk, or visit NLPC's website for more details.

Elections

New elections (if needed) for NLPC are due to be held in May 2023—the last being held in May 2019.

From the chair of NLPC

Things have eased a little for all of us over the last twelve months – at least in comparison with the previous year. We've been back to holding our Parish Council meetings in person for the last few months and we will be holding our Parish Assembly at the village hall later this month. Please do come along, not least so that you can help us to form our action plan for the coming year.

We've not faced the same problems with flooding this last year, so much of our work has been more routine: monitoring the condition of roads and footpaths, and reporting problems to Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council; providing financial support to various village organisations, and dealing with a range of planning applications.

This report gives you some information about the make-up of the parish and the parish council. It also tells you a bit more about some of the activities in which we've been engaged over the last year, and the various organisations within the parish that we've supported with small grants. We are always looking for ways to further improve the village and make Norton Lindsey an even better place to live.

Our first attempt at actively rewilding the verges ended in disaster as the contractors employed by Warwickshire County Council decided to mow the roped-off area just as some of the flowers were starting to bloom. We're hoping for better luck this year and are looking to team up with Wolverton and Langley to put in place some more ambitious programmes to help improve the environment within and between our villages.

Remember that members of the public are always welcome to attend our meetings—we have a dedicated time at the start of each meeting to receive representations, comments or questions from the public.

Details of our monthly meetings are posted on our website and on parish noticeboards.

Jon Stobart

Meetings

NLPC normally meets monthly (except April and August), usually on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm in the Church Room.

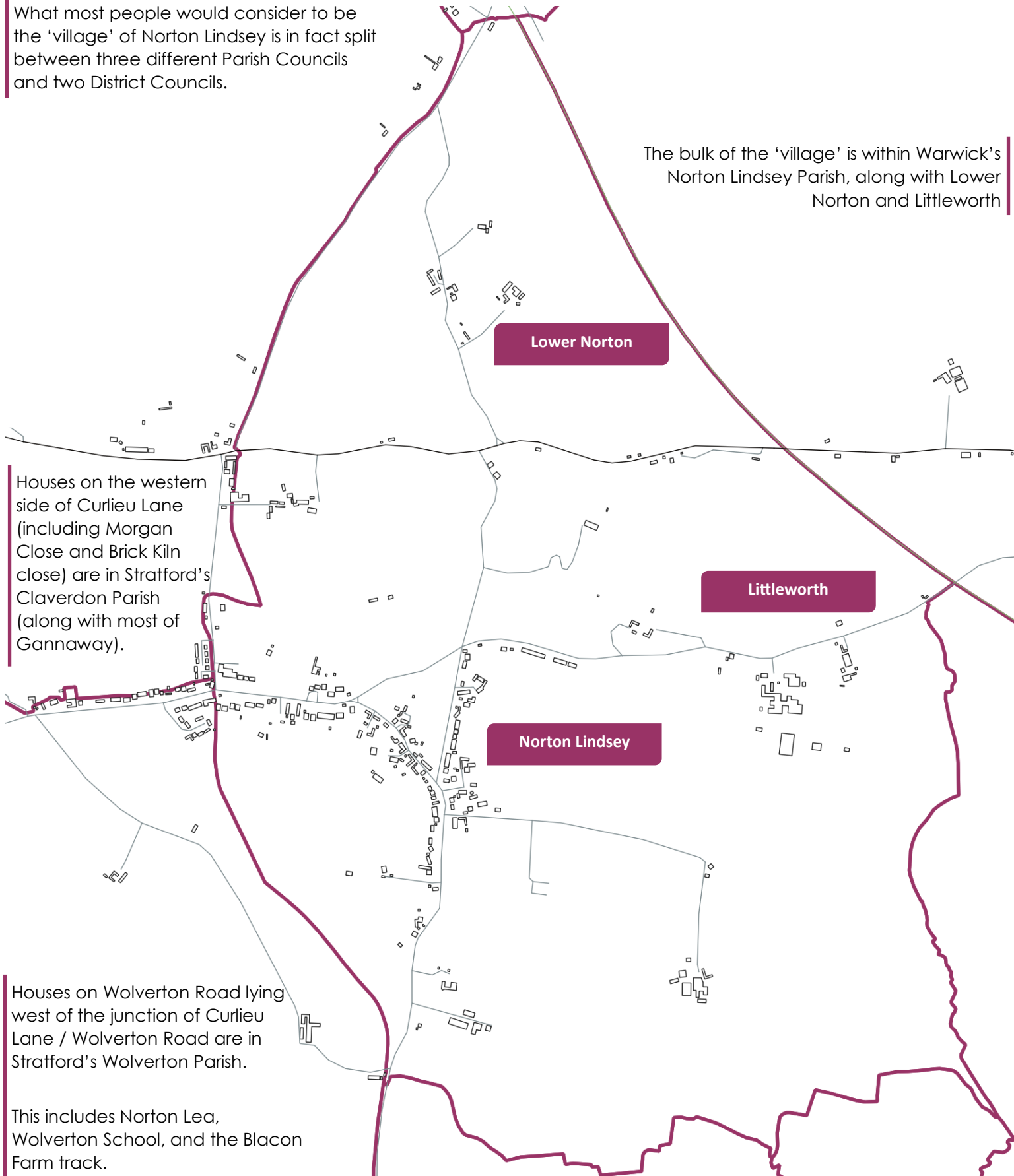
All members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings and there is a slot of 15 minutes for public comments at the start of each meeting.

Meeting Schedule		
	Normal Meetings	Extraordinary Meetings
2020 / 21	10	1
2021 / 22	10	1

Geography

What most people would consider to be the 'village' of Norton Lindsey is in fact split between three different Parish Councils and two District Councils.

The bulk of the 'village' is within Warwick's Norton Lindsey Parish, along with Lower Norton and Littleworth



Houses on the western side of Curlieu Lane (including Morgan Close and Brick Kiln close) are in Stratford's Claverdon Parish (along with most of Gannaway).

Houses on Wolverton Road lying west of the junction of Curlieu Lane / Wolverton Road are in Stratford's Wolverton Parish.

This includes Norton Lea, Wolverton School, and the Blacon Farm track.

One of NLPC's priorities over the last two years has been to build working relationships and contacts across all our neighbouring parishes

Finance

Income

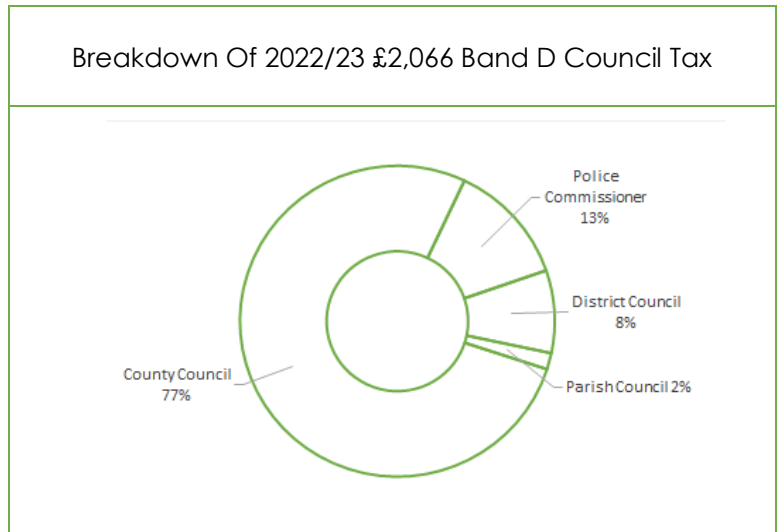
Almost all of NLPC's income (bar a very small amount of interest earned on reserve funds) is gathered from the 'precept' - an amount set annually by the Parish Council and then proportionally shared across the Council Tax of all households in the Parish.

There are approximately 344 adults on the electoral role in the Parish, but a much smaller number of households at around 166. The amount each household is ultimately charged, depends on the Council Tax band their property is within.

Precepts in Warwick District vary significantly dependent on population and local needs.— for example Barford's 2022/23 precept is £56k, Hatton's £14k, Stoneleigh £18k and Budbrooke's £36k.

NLPC only receives precept funding from those parts of the 'village' in Warwick District Council's area—areas of the 'village' in Wolverton and Claverdon pay their precept to their respective Parish Councils.

Norton Lindsey Precept Level			
2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
£9,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000



Expenditure

The Parish Council is only allowed to spend money for specific reasons that are listed in law and these reasons are extremely limited (particularly when compared with the District and County Councils).

Parish Councillors are not paid, give their time voluntarily and must abide by a local government code of conduct and declare their financial interests in the Parish.

The major ongoing running cost of the Council is the salary and expenses of the Parish Clerk - this is a crucial position and one that is mandated in law.

End of Year (31st March) Account Breakdown 2022			
Staff Costs £3,257.28	Grants £1,979.02	Asset Renewal £1,200.00	
		Insurance & Administration £397.86	Subscripti... & Training £262.00
General reserves held at 31-Mar-22 were £8,962 (with a further restricted fund of £12,562 held in the NLPC Depot Fund)			

Grant Powers

The Parish Council has the ability to support organisations that provide value and service to residents of the Parish through small financial grants.

Sometimes NLPC can make a grant under one of our very limited statutory powers, but for the most part we have to make use of small discretionary 'pot'. This pot is limited to a value set in law—£8.82 per resident on the electoral roll in 2022/23.











Future Grants

If you are a Parish group then we'd be delighted to hear from you if you would like to request funding.

All applications for grants must be made after reading NLPC's grants policy, and then completing a grant application form and returning it by email to the NLPC Clerk.

Both the policy and application form can be found on our website!

2020/2021 Grants (£1,916)

	Norton Lindsey Playground Running/Insurance Costs £350
	Wolverton School New Playing Field Access £250
	Norton Lindsey Village Hall Contribution To Running Costs £250
	Parochial Church Council Churchyard Maintenance £250
	Norton Lindsey Cricket Club Purchase Junior Equipment £200
	Norton Lindsey WI Funding Gap (Pandemic) £200
	Parochial Church Council Clock Service £200
	Norton Lindsey Church Room Contribution To Running Costs £100
	Norton Lindsey Parish Council Christmas Tree, Lights & Sign £86
	Village Hall Defibrillator maintenance £30

2021/2022 Grants (£2,183)

	Village Group Memorial Blue Plaques £475
	Norton Lindsey Playground Running/Insurance Costs £350
	Parochial Church Council Churchyard Maintenance £250
	Village Group Rewilding Seeds £230
	Wolverton School Defibrillator Purchase £200
	New Inn Defibrillator Purchase £200
	Norton Lindsey Church Room Contribution To Running Costs £200
	Parochial Church Council Clock Service £198
	Norton Lindsey Parish Council Christmas Tree & Batteries £50
	Village Hall Defibrillator Maintenance £30

Planning

Planning

Planning is an area that takes up a lot of the Parish Council's consideration and time and it is certainly the area of responsibility that normally generates most interest/comment from members of the Public! This has particularly been the case since the last Parish Assembly with two major planning applications affecting the Parish continuing to be under consideration.

NLPC does not have the power to decide any planning application within the Parish—that responsibility lies with Warwick District Council (WDC). WDC do however formally consult with NLPC on all planning applications within the Parish, to ensure that the views of the local community are taken into account (though NLPC always suggests that members of the public also comment directly to WDC on any application they are concerned about).

All planning decisions are made within a complex legal framework—any comments or objections NLPC makes to WDC must have a sound basis in planning law. NLPC cannot simply object to something because we don't 'like it', rather it must ensure that the objection is based on a valid planning ground.

Brick Kiln Close

NLPC, alongside neighbouring Wolverton Parish Council, objected to this proposed development of several houses.

NLPC felt the development aimed only to solve the affordable housing needs of Claverdon Parish and not Norton Lindsey Parish (or indeed Wolverton Parish). NLPC also believed that this site was in the wrong location to meet Claverdon's need, being a significant distance from Claverdon village with no safe pedestrian route. Finally NLPC raised concerns about drainage on the site, as heavy rain in the past has caused flooding in properties on Wolverton Road/Norton Lea.

Stratford District Council rejected the scheme, the applicant then appealed to the planning inspectorate but subsequently withdrew that appeal. It is believed however that the applicant is intending to resubmit the scheme in the near future.

The unfortunate parish boundaries in this area mean that any application on this site will always be complex—NLPC will continue to work in a constructive way with the applicant and neighbouring Parish Councils.

Chicken Sheds

Almost three years after being raised, the application to rebuild and then restart operations at the Chicken Shed has still not been resolved.

NLPC have continued to ensure sure that the applicant/District Council planning team undertake rigorous analysis of the potential impacts of this scheme—working closely with local District Councilors.

NLPC has consistently objected to this application on environmental grounds, the lack of a safe pedestrian route to the village 'centre' and concerns about safe vehicular access to the site—particularly for large agricultural vehicles.

Householder Applications

NLPC have discussed and commented on several householder applications for extensions etc.

NLPC rarely objects to an application, preferring to work with the applicant and District Council to make appropriate modifications to protect the rural nature of the Parish and in particular respect the conservation area.

NLPC encourage any householder looking for planning permission to discuss their application with the Parish Council in advance of application—this can help minimise any possible concerns/objections.

Parish Council Activities

- ◆ NLPC has worked with Warwickshire County Council to install new permanent signs to help protect pedestrians using the stretch of Snitterfield Lane between Blacon Farm Track and Arles Cottage that has no footpath.
- ◆ NLPC has purchased a number of mobile flood signs to warn drivers of temporary flooding in areas such as Snitterfield Lane and Littleworth.
- ◆ The Canada Lane dog-bin has been reopened and regular collections restored—this unfortunately took a lot of discussion between NLPC and Warwick District Council to organise. At the moment we have had to close the dog-bin by the pedestrian entrance to the playing fields and that bin should not be used.
- ◆ A 'trial' rewilding wildflower project has been carried out on Wolverton Road/Wards Hill (despite an unfortunate incident where the County Council contractor mowed the area—ignoring warning signs and ropes!)
- ◆ NLPC have responded to a number of different consultations including the boundary commission proposals for new parliamentary constituencies and the new proposed South Warwickshire Local Plan.
- ◆ A new grants policy has been created and implemented—making it easier for community groups to apply for funding.
- ◆ NLPC have walked a number of roads with the County Surveyor to point out issues with blocked gullies, broken kerbs, crumbling road margins, deteriorated surfaces etc. This has led to a number of improvements throughout the Parish—though the limited budgets of Warwickshire County Council mean that some footpaths etc. have reached the end of their 'serviceable' life but cannot be replaced only 'patched'.
- ◆ NLPC has purchased Christmas Trees and lights to try and help brighten the village during the festive period.
- ◆ We've tried to make sure that our activities and matters of potential interest to the Parish are publicised better—through regular updates in the Parish Magazine and also using Social Media and our Website.

Stanks Horse Trough

The trough, which is located on the corner of Canada / Snitterfield Lane, is registered as a 'piece of common land with no owner' under the Commons Registration Act 1965 and as such no one is formally responsible for its maintenance. NLPC are continuing to explore how best to protect/maintain this structure and in the meantime we are grateful to the residents who help clear the regular blockages!

Speeding

A ongoing concern of Parish residents is speeding—particularly when there are problems on the A46 and drivers use local roads as a 'rat-run'.

There is little that the Parish Council can do here unfortunately, other than to remind everyone that the 30mph speed limit should be observed **immediately** on entering the Village—not several hundred metres later. It is also worth a gentle reminder that the 60mph limit in rural parts of the Parish is a limit, not a recommendation!

Dog Fouling

NLPC receives regular complaints about dog fouling on pavements/roads throughout the parish. There is simply no excuse for this—it is not only inconsiderate but it is illegal and if your dog fouls the footpath / verge /roadway or gardens you must pick it up!

Dog Walkers please use the bins provided in Canada Lane, the bus shelter, Millennium Green and outside of the Village Hall (or simply take it home and put in your grey bin)

Recycling Changes

On 1st August 2022, changes will be made to the WDC bin collection service :

1. A food waste collection, every week using a food caddy and a larger food waste bin to use outside and put out for collection.
2. A recycling collection, every two weeks using a new wheeled bin for mixed recycling. This new bin, which WDC will provide, will replace the current red box.
3. Refuse bin collection will change from every 2 weeks to every 3 weeks using the existing grey wheeled bin.
 - + Garden waste collection every two weeks using existing green bins. Additional charges will apply: £20 per bin for August 2022 –March 2023, rising to £40 per bin, per year, subsequently. This charge is a result of the increase in the cost of the new district council waste disposal contract.

Parking

We'd like to remind all residents to park considerately and wherever possible not on the pavement, as this causes safety issues for young children and also those using prams/ pushchairs.

The Future

Help us to set out priorities for the future

NLPC is currently updating its action plan to reflect the current priorities of the residents of the parish.

NLPC have created a questionnaire to help us with this process. We'd love to hear your views and you can complete one at our website <https://nortonlindseypc.org>

Getting In Touch With NLPC

01926 843534

nortonlindseypc@outlook.com

7 Brick Kiln Close, Norton Lindsey, Warwick, CV35 8DL

Social Media

Web : <https://nortonlindseypc.org>

Twitter : @nortonlindseypc

Facebook : [Nortonlindsey.parishcouncil.3](https://www.facebook.com/Nortonlindsey.parishcouncil.3)

District Councillors

Jan Matecki (Conservative, Budbrooke)
Jan.Matecki@warwickdc.gov.uk

Alan Rhead (Conservative, Budbrooke)
alan.rhead@warwickdc.gov.uk

County Councillor

Jan Matecki (Conservative, Budbrooke & Bishop's Tachbrook)
janmatecki@warwickshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Matt Western(Labour, Warwick & Leamington)
matt.western.mp@parliament.uk

Changes To Local Government

Since our last update, Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council have proposed to the Government that they be allowed to merge to form a 'South Warwickshire District Council'. At the same time Warwickshire County Council has suggested that the Government consider the establishment of a single 'unitary' council to serve all of Warwickshire and this proposal would see the abolition of all of the five district/borough councils.

It isn't clear if either of these proposals will be considered by the government, but if either goes forward there will undoubtedly be an impact on Parish Councils. NLPC will carry out further consultation with residents of the Parish at an appropriate point.

Parliamentary Constituency Changes

The Boundary Commission for England in its initial 2023 proposals has suggested the Budbrooke County Council ward, which includes Norton Lindsey, be moved from the Leamington & Warwick constituency to the Kenilworth and Southam Constituency.

"In its existing form, the Warwick and Leamington constituency has an electorate that is within the permitted electorate range. However, when taking into account changes to local government ward boundaries, the constituency is too large in terms of electorate. The adjacent Kenilworth and Southam constituency requires additional electors to bring its electorate within the permitted range. As a result, we propose transferring a single ward from the existing Warwick and Leamington constituency to our proposed Kenilworth and Southam constituency. In our initial proposals, the Warwick District ward of Budbrooke has been included in the Kenilworth and Southam constituency. This configuration ensures that community ties between the towns of Warwick and Royal Leamington Spa are preserved as much as possible."

NLPC believe that this proposed change does not recognise the historic, geographical and practical links between Norton Lindsey and Warwick and have submitted comments to the commission with this in mind.