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Date: 13th December 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Addendum Council – 14th December, 2022

I refer to items number 3 and 11 on the agenda and attach the Minutes of 19th October 2022 and the Cabinet report that was marked as 'to follow'.

Yours faithfully,

BRENT DAVIS

Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

19th October 2022

The meeting of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council was held on Wednesday, 19th October 2022 which was recorded and live streamed.

Present

The Mayor (Councillor J. Clarke)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor M. Walsh)

Councillors D. Brown, B. Beetham, C. Cape, T. Cooper, J. Coventry-Moreton, S. Croft, L. Cvetkovic, L. Downs, K. Evans, C. Golby, M. Green, J. Gutteridge, S. Harbison, J. Hartshorn, J. Kennaugh, K. Kondakor, S. Markham, G. Moreton, B. Pandher, R. Baxter-Payne, J. Sheppard, E. Shiers, J. Singh, R. Smith, M. Tromans, R. Tromans, C. Watkins, K. Wilson and M. Wright

Apologies were received for Councillors B. Hammersley, N. Phillips and C. Watkins

CL24 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 13th July 2022, and the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 9th September were confirmed, and signed by the Mayor subject to the following amendment:

Councillor S. Markham be added to the list of attendees for both meetings.

CL25 **Declarations of Interests**

RESOLVED that the Declarations of Interests for this meeting are as set out in the schedule attached to these minutes. In addition, the following was declared:

Councillor C. Golby declared that an other interest by way of her being Chair of the Warwickshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel and therefore would leave the room during agenda item 10 discussion and voting.

Councillor J. Hartshorn declared that he had recently submitted a new declarations of interest form therefore the interests listed in the schedule were out of date.

CL26 **Announcements**

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- Mr Tyres has retired from Anker Radio and in recognition of his long service was presented with a Mayoral Award for Community Service.
- Mr Dave Leach – Macebearer for the Council retires after 27 years service to the Council.

Councillor Wilson proposed a vote of thanks to Dave Leach for his support and dedication to the council. This was seconded by Councillor J. Sheppard.

CL27 **Public Participation**

Question 1 - Mr Paul Hickling asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Health and Environment

Do you believe the climate emergency is a serious concern for the people of Nuneaton and Bedworth?

Councillor J. Gutteridge, Portfolio Holder for Health and Environment, responded as follows:

Sustainability in all its dimensions are of a concern to the residents of Nuneaton and Bedworth, whether that is the efficiency of their home, the amount of energy used by home appliances, or keeping our green spaces well managed for generations to come. However, this has to be considered against the wider lens of sustainability and that is why the Council also remains committed to promoting economic growth and local regeneration, to improve the lives of local residents.

Mr Paul Hickling asked the following supplementary question:

Given the answer you gave, can I ask why the council hasn't spent £150k climate change levy?

Councillor J. Gutteridge responded as follows:

The following written response was provided:

This is a miscode within the HRA Capital budget report, this budget was for trialling Green Energy Options within the HRA stock and was funded by HRA resources. It has not progressed at this time due to capacity.

Question 2 – Mrs Helen Sinclair asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Public Services

It is common knowledge that you are intending to close two very versatile venues, Kersley Community Centre and the Civic Hall.

There is a distinct dearth of public consultation and evidence of creative thinking regarding how these venues could be used.

In addition there is a complete dearth of transparency, honesty and openness regarding a business plan with accurate costings for both. Due to this dearth of information it is impossible to understand how you came to the conclusion that closure is more viable than creative use of both venues.

There is also a dearth in the contingency plans for community services who will ultimately be displaced by your current strategy.

Presumably as a responsible council managing community services and tax payer's money, you do have a contingency plan.

Can we please have sight of your business plans that support closure of both as their only fate and that they cannot be made financially viable. Also your plans for offering alternative sites for displaced services?

Is it the case that you don't have any business/contingency plans and/or alternatively, you haven't bothered and or you just don't care?

Councillor S. Markham, Portfolio Holder for Public Services, responded as follows:

Thank you, Ms Sinclair for the question

There are two separate issues here:

With regards to the Civic Hall, all the running costs are in the public domain, and I have figures going back to 2010/11, in which the actual spend by the council and cost to the residents of the borough, to keep the Civic Hall open has been an average of £761,026 each year.

The attendance figures from and Overview and Scrutiny Panel - March 2019 for the same period, also within the public domain, are as follows:

	Shows	Attendees	Average Occupancy
2011/12	99	38,219	386
2012/13	104	27,254	262
2013/14	91	30,350	333
2014/15	112	30,815	275
2015/16	95	41,244	434
2016/17	95	32,004	336
2017/18	107	31,533	295
2018/19	87	33,639	386
2019/20	107	29,439	275

As per the statement made at Cabinet last week, the estimated costs to just open the doors is around £1M, before any running costs. The figures previously mentioned show it running far below capacity of 750 and It's because we are custodians of the public purse, that this is clearly not

sustainable. That is why this administration has put forward its vision for Transforming Bedworth, which has already been published for everyone to see.

With regards to Keresley Community Centre this is a different issue I'm afraid the questioner is mistaken about the Council's position on this matter. The future of the Keresley Community Centre is not yet decided, and the Council is currently consulting with the local community on this very point. It is sincerely believed that the best custodian of this community asset, is the very community that it serves, a model, which is evidenced, around the borough and beyond. I am pleased to share, that numerous interested parties have come forward to submit business plans, and several more have expressed their interest.

Mrs Helen Sinclair asked the following supplementary question:

As conscientious and responsible custodians of the public purse and services, (James Cleverley's words on Sky News on 13/10/22) I assume that in coming to the conclusions that you have, that closure of both venues is the only course of action, you have obtained estimates and plans from at least three service providers that support your premise and negative conclusion.

As your political platform is based on honesty and openness, please now share all the figures with us.

If not why not?

Councillor S. Markham responded as follows:

I have just shared all the figures with you.

Councillor K. Kondakor proposed that Mrs Helen Sinclair's question be referred to the relevant OSP for further discussion. Councillor J. Sheppard seconded the proposal.

A vote was taken.

The proposal was carried.

Question 3 – Mrs Michele Kondakor asked the following question to the Leader of the Council:

Businesses, particularly at the west end of Nuneaton Town Centre, are suffering due to the closure of Abbey Street car park, uncertainty around the Pool Bank Street car park and the dire condition of Victoria Street Car Park (No.2).

What is the total drop in the number of vehicles parking in the NBBC car parks in Nuneaton town centre, since the closure of the Abbey Street car park at the end of July and what are you going to do in the short-medium term to

sort the situation, before more businesses close? I hope that the plans to lock the Pool Bank Street car park have been shelved as this evening closure would really damage the attendances at our wonderful Abbey Theatre.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor K. Wilson responded as follows:

Mr. Mayor, as I have explained at a previous Full Council, the closure of Abbey Street car park is necessary in order for us to progress the regeneration of Nuneaton Town Centre. The regeneration plans will provide a new multi-story car park as part of phase 2, and work is progressing on site as quickly as possible.

I have recently been on site, including a visit with the Nuneaton Town Centre Partnership, and the preliminary trenches have been dug in the Queens Road end of the site to determine the site conditions and start the archaeological works required. Doing these at the same time as the hotel phase 1 works reduces any unnecessary delay in progressing phase 2.

Already, I'm informed, gases have been released because of its previous use as a gas works and some old chimney remnants have been found. Machinery and materials are also on site. Health and safety of the public and workers is paramount, and it would not be safe to allow the general public in the area meaning a shared use option on the site is not viable.

In terms of figures, these indicate that while there was a slight drop in ticket sales in August and September against July's figures, as you may expect after the closure of the town centres largest surface car park, the second quarter total sales overall actual increased on the first quarter sales by of 1%. August saw a 10% increase in tickets sales at Rope Walk immediately following the closure of Abbey Street and there were increased tickets sales across many other town centre car parks notably Harefield Road and the two Victoria Street Car Parks.

We have also installed additional directional signage to alternative car parking facilities within the town.

Pool Bank Street has long been a focus of crime and anti-social behaviour. Local residents have long called for action in this area, and it is this Conservative council that has listened to them. Cllr Golby has made absolutely the right decision in pursuing the decision to close off the car park at night to reduce the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour. It is our intention to work with Abbey Theatre and other local businesses so that the car park can remain open when events and shows are on. Discussions are ongoing, but we cannot allow the car park to remain the focus of this unwanted behaviour.

Mrs Michele Kondakor asked the following supplementary question:

My question hasn't really been answered, I asked for what the total drop in the number of vehicles parking. I appreciate that there is likely to be an

increase in some of the car parks from the displaced things, but I want to know whether there's been a drop overall in the car parked.

I'm not saying that Abbey Street shouldn't have closed but I am really concerned that all the surface car parks are gradually being closed, we've got Abbey streets gone, Church Streets have gone we are about to lose vicarage Street as well and I like a lot of other females do not like multi-story car parks and you keep you know pushing us towards having to use those.

Councillor K. Wilson responded as follows:

Thank you, Mr Mayor

I have explained that there have been increases across the different car parking areas but if she wants a detailed breakdown then officers can email it to her. I'm not going to stand here and read out an entire Excel spreadsheet if she wants that information then officers can provide that.

Question 4 – Mr Sam Margrave made the following statement:

Mr Mayor

After years of Labour lying and letting down the community, we now have the conservatives trying to con us.

I have supported both parties in the past and I made a huge mistake believing that the conservatives offered change, when in fact we are seeing more of the same.

I can admit when I was wrong. Will Councillors too?

Closing the Civic Hall has no democratic mandate.

Thousands signed petitions against the decision.

In May Councillors promised there would be NO Closure!

With new management and investment, the Civic Hall can break even. We need alternatives explored, an end to secret meetings, full disclosure, honesty, and importantly time from the Council.

We need Councillors to:

- defer the decision to close the Civic Hall
- hold a public meeting to consult and listen to local people
- support a bid to the lottery for a feasibility study by residents
- register the Civic Hall as a Community Asset and set up a Community trust and to commit in collaboration with the community to reopen the Civic Hall and protect it for future generations.

Councillors are stewards.

You are elected to serve us.

Council reports demonstrate a lack of due diligence and a dereliction in duties.

Councillors failed to maintain the Civic Hall, letting it fall down long before you suggested the bulldozers.

Councillors will say tonight there will be a new replacement Civic Hall. That's not true.

There is no commitment in the Cabinet report of that.

The proposed 350 seat venue is barely a replacement for the Arts Centre. Councillors will say tonight there will be a new Civic Hall or it's a choice between saving the Civic Hall and helping the homeless or monthly bin collections or a 6% rate rise.

That's also not true.

If things are that bad, Councillors must forego allowances and expenses saving half a million a year.

I councillors are here to serve the Community, that is what they would do when the Council is facing bankruptcy.

If we had a Town Council, Councillors wouldn't be paid.

Councillors borrowed Millions to build a hotel, closed car parks, and created a deficit while failing to plan for the future.

Councillors made this mess in the finances, down to poor decisions and bad management.

Now's the time to provide solutions not more problems.

It's time for a U turn and an apology.

It's time to stop levelling down and start levelling up

No response was given

Question 5 – Mrs Nicola King asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder of Housing and Communities:

Environmental Health was promised to residents, by this council who allocated £90,000 within the budget for extra CCTV cameras. This money was allocated for the purchase and installation of 12 Nomad cameras.

Have they all been purchased and installed? if so how many and when will they be distributed to areas in need?

If not what is the plan of action to get these cameras into operation to help keep our communities safer?

Councillor C. Golby, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, responded as follows:

I can confirm that 13 NOMAD cameras were purchased and are deployed in communities which have been identified as requiring them.

The criteria to deploy is not just reports of ASB as is the perception but also where community reassurance is required after a major incident or something occurring which has a level of impact which results in multiple complaints from several sources over a period of time. Drug dealing from a specific residence for example.

We don't make the decision to deploy the cameras in isolation deployments are always made by agencies in partnership, for example the council will work with our police partners or probation services on areas of deployment. There has to be a lot of due diligence prior to deployment, it's not something we unilaterally decide at this council.

Question 6 – Mrs Wendy Snell submitted the following question for the Portfolio Holder for Public Services:

I understand the council have opened a Public Consultation on the future of Keresley Community Centre where interested parties are being invited to express their interest in running the Centre, or it risks closing. Could the Committee give their reasons why there has been no Public Consultation on the future of Bedworth Civic Hall.

The Belgrade theatre, Coventry is a registered charity, receiving grants from the City Council and the Arts Council, Wolverhampton have appointed a private company to run their Civic Hall and Peterborough have done a similar thing. Have similar options ever been explored for the Civic Hall?

During last Wednesday's cabinet meeting came offers of help and support from artists in the entertainment world, dance schools and local drama groups plus others all keen and passionate to keep this venue open, there's no way of knowing what interest and expertise would come forward. The acoustics are excellent, there's a bar, kitchens and cafes, good parking and a traffic free entrance.

A Public Consultation is open for the future of Keresley Community Centre why not Bedworth Civic Hall?

Councillor S. Markham, Portfolio Holder for Public Services responded as follows:

I thank Mrs Snell for her question, I have answered some of this earlier but I will add to that.

The reason there was consultation for the community centres and not the civic hall is there was a realistic prospect of being able to hand over the community centres with there being no ongoing subsidy from the council and of a community group being able set up a viable method of running them. The size and scale of the Civic Hall means that this is not possible. Any method of putting out the Civic Hall to tender would still require us to pay significant subsidies for both its upkeep and day-to-day running costs, the other Council venues mentioned are still receiving subsidies from their councils', something we are no longer in a position to afford. Furthermore, the capital investment required would have to fall on us and we haven't got £1m to do that before we even open the doors.

Due to the size and scale of the Civic Hall, a residents' group running it would not be feasible. It would require full detailed business cases, investment, insurances etc and community groups on their own would need the capacity to run a £1.5m a year commercial operation.

Mrs Wendy Snell asked following supplementary question:

Is the Abbey Theatre given any sort of support?

Councillor S. Markham responded as follows:

The Abbey Theatre runs itself and receives no support from the Council

Councillor J. Sheppard proposed that Mrs Wendy Snell's question be referred to an OSP for discussion. Councillor E. Shiers seconded the proposal.

A vote was taken

The proposal was lost.

Question 7 – Mrs Sharon Isolen asked the following question for the Leader of the Council:

I live in one of the nearby flats near the thankfully soon to be demolished fountain. When it works and is cleaned it looks nice for all of a week and then it looks like human waste, smells of urine and beer. I will be glad when it's gone. The seating area is used by various people some disabled, some families and the elderly that's true, however I often walk past it on my way home and see the junkies and alkie use it and people don't sit near them apart from one group which I'll get onto later...

Not only that but I've often overheard the local tea leaves talked about what shop they're going to rob next or already have!!

No group has come to ask residents in the town what we think apart from the current council, I don't even think other groups have asked nearby shops!! Even the labour group has latched on the political bandwagon without asking residents... And I voted for labour...

My question related to one the group's that use the fountain to spread their cult news... The NBCA (the Nuneaton Bedworth Community Association)... According to their website <https://nbca.org.uk/latest-news/radiating-babies-at-george-elliott-hospital/>

and the signs they've had around the fountain they've said many things including that the council have summoned demons with the COVID memorial and even spread alarmist news such as that the George Eliot have been irradiating babies on mass!

They seem to interrupt important meetings and see themselves as the voice of the people. I voted for my voice on the council which is why Cllr Phillips is here.

Can the leader of the Council please let me know if the council accept NBCA as an organisation that represent residents and take their advice or consultation as I remember seeing on planning objections their name instead of individuals. as I for one think they don't have any members I haven't seen an official meeting or constitution and are just a club for conspiracy theorists.

Councillor S. Croft responded to Questions 7, 8 and 9 collectively, please see answer under Question 9.

Question 8 - Brian Walmsley submitted the following statement:

Many people are annoyed that this conservative controlled council intends to remove the Lilypad fountain and deprive residents and visitors of an iconic Nuneaton feature.

Based on the outstanding level of support for a number of petitions, plus thousands of social media comments, the people do not want it removed.

All the claims for why it should go are made up excuses by this incumbent conservative council, who obviously just want to get rid of it.

The fallacy of an un-lettable building

A claim by Cllr Wilson, that "*The lilypad, in its current location, is obscuring major buildings that have become un-lettable for at least ten to 15 years*". [1]

That claim is a fallacy, the fountain is in front of ONE solitary building, last purchased in 2019, less than four years ago, so the current private owner purchased the property, knowing full well there was a fountain in front of the building! [2] [3]

Cllr Wilson's further claim of "*perhaps we might be able to get tenants into the properties*" [1] is most questionable, as that privately owned property, has existing tenants on its first and upper floors, because the building has been converted into apartments.

Another fallacy; Vandalism, Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

A claim by Cllr Croft, that "*it is currently a magnet for anti-social behaviour, vandalism and a meeting place for troublemakers*". [4]

Another claim from Cllr Golby, "*we have had quite a lot of crime and anti-social behaviour recently...*". [1]

Those claims are also fallacies, based Warwickshire Police records, via my FOI request; in the last five years there have been a total of SIX "*Incidents recorded as ASB or CONCERN relating specifically to having occurred on or at the Lilypad Fountain*", which consisted of drinking, throwing items into the fountain, playing music and pouring washing up liquid into the fountain. [5]

Council leader Wilson made a statement that "*We have seen drug taking*"; such a claim would intimate he had personally witnessed such drug taking! [1]

Yet again the facts from Police records do not corroborate Cllr Wilson's alleged witnessed event. If Cllr Wilson actually 'saw' drug taking then surely, as a responsible citizen, he should have formally reported it to Police and obtained a crime record number. This does raise a rhetorical question to me personally; 'was Cllr Wilson lying in his claim?', the factual evidence from Police [5] does not agree with his version of events?

In summary

All these false claims are a pathetic cover story by a pathetic conservative council who appear bent on destroying fountains and theatres in both town centres.

Heaven forbid a conservative council should provide residents of our town with somewhere to sit, without a need for them to have to pay out for it.

There are so many articles about the sound of running water having a relaxing effect, lowering blood pressure, lowering heart rates which is all good for mental health and well-being.

In rounding up, removing the fountain will not resolve any root cause of any potential problem, it would merely move any potential issue somewhere else, surely fixing an issue is a true resolution?

Question 9: - Eunice Wormald read the following statement

One of the issues the Council wish to remove the fountain is to make space for people who have mobility issues, I am a wheelchair user and can happily advise the Council where the real mobility issues exist for wheelchair users, the area around the fountain is not one. I have no idea where you made this non-existent excuse up from.

**Councillor S. Croft, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate,
responded as follows**

Thank you Mr Mayor,

I shall respond to statements 7 to 9 as together they cover two broad points.

The first point I have to make is that I feel I must draw attention to the original point behind our plans to remove the fountain in Market Place which is danger of being lost.

This is a small part of our plans to regeneration in Nuneaton. Our Borough, if you look up, has some very beautiful heritage buildings and we intend to finally show these off as part of our regeneration programme but, if I may be blunt, the current fountain is a brutalist, concrete eyesore that is currently taking up space in what should be an attractive central market square. If it was one of these beautiful fountains in Italy like the Fontana di Trevi, one of these things in Rome, then of course we would preserve it and we would show it off to the entire world. It is not, it is like the old library building, it is hangover from the era when concrete was King.

Mrs Isolen is quite right when she says it is frequently vandalised and dirty and once, we have used government grant to demolish it, I am pleased that we will never again have to use council tax payers money for cleaning and maintenance on it. Removing it, not only removes the eyesore that detracts from the heritage environment but will open up a central plaza to allow us to have more space for events, markets and outdoor dining.

The other advantage is what we have referred, the question of space and access. I think Mrs Wormald has focussed in on just one aspect of the argument in her statement so I want to reassure her that, of course, it is not being suggested that there is no disabled access around the fountain. However, it is very much the case that the fountain is a bottleneck for pedestrians and opening up the space will ease the follow of people for example on market days or when large scale events such as the Christmas Lights switch on takes place.

Now, Mr Walmsley has turned his intellect and detective skills to the issue of anti-social behaviour in the town centre and he has decided that we do not have any, this would be news to anybody who has been in the town centre after hours or indeed read the news in recent months and all he needs to do is read the minutes in the agenda from three months ago when this council was being criticised and being asked what we can do about the issue and I can confirm that Nuneaton centre and Nuneaton Abbey is the highest area for anti-social behaviour in the entirety of Warwickshire, these are the Warwickshire County Council and Polices official figures. Now this is an extremely difficult problem, and we all need to play our part including the police.

One of the ways this council can help is to design out trouble spots and remove focal points where troublemakers can congregate. Now Mr Walmsley hid behind the coward's rhetorical device and semantics, but he has attempted this evening to blaggard Councillor Wilson's name (like I say he hides behind the coward's device of a rhetorical question) but Councillor Wilson has correctly identified what we need to do and we need to do everything in our power to support the forces of law and order in our towns to keep the peace. Mr Walmsley's answer is essentially to insist that crime and disorder is not happening, I have great faith in the view that the real people will make the right judgement on that.

Now, Mr Walmsley also mentioned a petition, this brings me to the second issue that has been raised in the questions tonight. I have seen that members of the opposition and Mr Walmsley have been out collecting signatures on a petition so I looked it up. I found a petition about the lily pad fountain organised by an organisation calling itself the Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Association, and some of them are sat in the gallery this evening.

Now, Mrs Isolen has raised a very important point in identifying that this group seems to have claimed for itself the right to speak for the people of this borough and I feel certainly that this should be corrected before any members of the public or any members of the media are taken in by them. Now as Councillors over the last few months we have received a few spam emails from them, but their true purpose will not be widely known amongst the population, a cursory glance at their emails and a cursory glance at their website reveals their true colours. It is important to read this onto the public record so people know who these people are.

They believe or have shared platforms with those who believe with their little rally out on the steps, that levying council tax is illegal and fraudulent, that the Sanctuary Event in Bedworth was a satanic ritual, that 5G masts are harmful to health, that the George Eliot hospital is irradiating babies in the maternity unit, that freemasons and secret societies control this council and that every member and officer is corrupt in some vague and unspecified way.

Mr Mayor, this is lunatic, this is not a community campaign group, this is the crackpot fringe of life in our borough, pedalling third rate and not hugely interesting conspiracy theories. Now I enjoy a laugh as much as anybody else and I enjoy laughing at them but to try to frighten ordinary people with these crackpot theories that are damaging to health is contemptible. Mr Mayor, I want to reassure Mrs Isolen that we take no advice from this organisation, and we accord them no official status. I am certain that her suspicions about them are correct, and Mr Mayor lest any resident or any member of the press be taken in by the group just consider the scale of their delusions. First of all it was tax being illegal...somehow, then it was councillors pocketing millions at the town hall because we have obviously got so much to spare, then it was the George Eliot Hospital conspiring to irradiate patients for some reason, then it was 5G masts controlling brains to do...something and now it is the satanists and the freemasons teaming up to do occult ritual in Bedworth

presumably in league with the saucer people and they want a prime time spot on ITV.

Mr Mayor, they have gone cuckoo, they are more to be pitied than despised, they have simply gone cuckoo and we will just leave them outside with their little yellow signs, and their petition, and ably supported by the Labour party while we get on with our plans to regenerate this borough and to serve the people of Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Councillor K. Kondakor moved that Mr Brian Walmsley's question for council be referred to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel for proper discussion.

Councillor E. Shiers seconded the motion

A vote was taken

The motion was lost

The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes

Councillor K. Wilson made an announcement that the OSP meeting to discuss the Re-opening of the Civic Hall question will be held on 17th November 2022.

CL28 Member Questions

Question 1 - Councillor Kyle Evans asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulation:

My experience as a Councillor in a semi-rural ward is that residents fear housing developments when the appropriate infrastructure is not put in and when new housing estates are not of any architectural significance. With this in mind, I draw Council's attention to telecommunication masts that have been camouflaged as trees and the new industrial units down the A5 which due to the colouring, blend in with the skyline. Could the Cabinet Member inform me what work the Planning Department is doing to ensure that applications, in particular, telecommunication masts, are camouflaged so applications can remain in keeping with the local area?

Councillor R. Smith, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulation, responded as follows:

I thank Cllr Evans for his question,

The subject of telecommunication masts is very pertinent at the moment. Due to the rapid roll out of 5G, we are seeing an ever-increasing number of planning applications to site masts right across the borough. The masts themselves are permitted development, so the only aspects we can influence are limited to the siting and the design.

The siting of masts in urban areas often attracts a high level of objection from local residents, so it's important, where possible, that we add conditions to permissions granted to camouflage the masts, to ensure they are in keeping with the local area and to lessen the negative visual impact by making them blend into the surroundings.

For the moment the camouflage we condition is limited to painting, however as Cllr Evans points out there are now examples elsewhere of masts being camouflaged for instance to look like trees and this is something we are currently researching to establish best practice, with the intention to integrate the outcome of our research into council policy as part of the Borough Plan Review process.

Question 2 - Councillor Graham Moreton asked the following question to the Leader of the Council:

Can I invite the leader of the Council to tell us how Bedworth has fared since May 2021 under his administration?

Councillor K. Wilson, Leader of the Council, responded as follows:

Thank you, Cllr Moreton, for your question. I am grateful for the opportunity to correct the record and dispel some myths that have been going around recently from uninformed quarters about what this administration has done for Bedworth.

It is no secret that for years the Bedworth Leisure Centre has been showing its age and is in desperate need of a replacement. At the election in May 2021, the then-controlling Labour group made an unfunded promise that they would build a new Leisure Centre. When we took control and the finances were laid bare, it became apparent that they had a £500,000 gap in taking the plans just to the next stage. Furthermore, they were millions of pounds short in paying for the construction of a new Leisure Centre.

Before I even officially became Leader of the Council, officers asked me whether I wanted to submit a Levelling Up Bid to Government and, if so, what it should be for.

My immediate reaction was yes, and that it must be for Bedworth and a new Leisure Centre otherwise the whole prospect of a new Leisure Centre was at risk.

Able led by Cllr Evans, this Council set about putting together a winning bid that secured almost £15m from Government funds. This means we are now working on a £34m regeneration project right in the heart of Bedworth that would never have been possible without this Conservative administration. That isn't levelling down Bedworth, Mr Mayor, I call that levelling up!

When we took control, we also worked hard to restore an outdoor market in Bedworth which the Labour naysayers always said could never be done. It

has continued beyond its trial and has seen the number of market traders up and footfall in the town centre up. Again, I call that levelling up Bedworth, Mr. Mayor.

For too long the most vulnerable in our society have been denied access to our town centres by a lack of basic, dignified facilities to go to the toilet. In opposition, we were shouted down by the Labour Party for championing Changing Places toilets that will open up our town centres – including Bedworth – to all who want to access them. With the charge being led by my redoubtable deputy, Cllr Golby, we successfully bid for £100,000 from government to install new Changing Places toilets and Bedworth will be getting one. Yet more levelling up for Bedworth, Mr. Mayor.

This Conservative administration oversaw the construction and delivery – on time and on budget – of the new tennis/netball courts and BMX track in the Miners' Welfare Park in Bedworth under the capable stewardship of Cllr Gutteridge. These are the only facilities of their kind in the whole Borough, Mr Mayor, based right in the heart of Bedworth's premier park. They are being enjoyed by thousands of residents, young and old, from across our Borough. Again, more evidence of levelling up Bedworth under this Conservative administration.

In May this year we hosted the Sanctuary Event in Bedworth which saw Bedworth go global. Over 7.5 billion hits were registered on news stories and click bait relating to this event in Bedworth which brought our community together in what was an emotional and poignant event enjoyed by tens of thousands of people from our Borough and beyond. Over 70% of the total cost – none of which came from this council's budget – was spent directly in the local area supporting Bedworth businesses and Bedworth jobs. Levelling up in action again, Mr Mayor.

This Conservative administration has a proven track record of levelling up Bedworth and we will continue to do so. It is only the Conservatives that are putting forward the vision, ambition, and aspiration to make Bedworth a better place and bring in the investment we need to revitalise our town. It is now incumbent on all of us, Mr. Mayor, to get behind the bold vision that we are putting forward for the future of Bedworth, seek partners and investment to deliver the vision.

Without this vision we will only continue Labour's legacy of managing decline in Bedworth. Labour levelled down Bedworth, and Nuneaton, for decades. It is only this Conservative administration that is truly levelling up.

Question 3 - Councillor K. Kondakor asked the following question to the Leader of the Council:

The Bridge to Living project in principle seems like a great regeneration project but I have two big concerns about how it is being progressed. These

concerns are becoming larger. First, I am very concerned about the businesses that are being evicted, some of which are choosing or unable to keep trading in other units in Nuneaton. Secondly, I am very concerned about the actual design near the river Anker which without the proposed upstream compensation measures working fully would increase flood risk downstream in Weddington. Will the leader please update the council on the project and give details of progress on my two biggest concerns?

Councillor K. Wilson, Leader of the Council, responded as follows:

If the Transforming Nuneaton experience has taught us anything, Mr Mayor, it is that if you are to seek and secure investment into regeneration you need to have a vision, ambition and aspiration that you can promote and articulate to any potential investor. That is true of both the public and private sector. Without that vital groundwork, you will fail to get anyone on board.

The Bridge to Living Project is a fantastic opportunity to open up one of the great unused assets that Nuneaton has to offer – the River Anker. This vision of opening up the Anker and creating new residential and commercial space will help revitalise an area of town that is in desperate need of some TLC, and at times can seem desolate. Together with other regeneration projects in the area it begins to offer a new future for our town centre.

Regeneration does, unfortunately, mean that some businesses which are in the regeneration zone are being displaced. Wherever possible, our officers are working hard to secure new opportunities for these businesses within the town centre so that they can continue to trade. But if we don't act, the only certainty is that we will continue to manage the decline of Nuneaton town centre too. As with Bedworth, I view this as completely unacceptable.

For both of our towns we need to unlock their potential, which has been restricted for far too long. The Bridge to Living Project will unlock Bridge Street and the George Eliot Memorial Gardens and breathe new life into the area.

As for the flood mitigation works, work is continuing between our officers, Warwickshire County Council and other statutory consultees as part of the process. Further details will follow when they are available.

Councillor K. Kondakor asked the following supplementary question

Mr Mayor, I was expecting to have some details on how you are looking after the businesses because we have actually seen a lot of closures and how we are actually looking after the flood issues because, just saying we will find out later is not good enough. We should actually be modifying the design now to take account of flooding. So can you actually answer those two points what are we going to do to reduce the flood risk and what are we actually doing for those businesses that unfortunately have stopped trading

Councillor K. Wilson responded as follows:

Thank you, Mr Mayor, I'm not a flood Engineers expert and to expect me to give a flood engineering report and potential resolutions is not viable I'm not that expert Mr Mayor I rely on officers to give their professional opinion as to that and at the moment they are continuing to work as I said with the relevant officers both here and at County and with the relevant statutory consultees to do that as and when they are ready to come forward and any planning applications become necessary those reports will be evaluated in the usual way Councillor Kondakor knows that in relation to the businesses we are speaking to the businesses looking at other units within the town centres also looking at whether they can be incorporated into the new units depending on phasing when the new build starts indeed I have had consult conversations with business owners myself and spoken to them about this and pointed them in the direction of our officers and they are also entitled depending on the terms and conditions of their lease to some statutory compensation that goes with that all of which is factored into the business plan for the bridge to living project

Question 4 – Councillor M. Wright asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate:

The Annual Treasury Management Report 2021/22 shows that £8.5m of council debt is due for repayment by the end of the current financial year, and another 7.5m by the end of 2023/24. It seems likely that the council will need to replace this debt, and take out more to fund part of the costs for Abbey Street and Bedworth Physical Activity Hub. Can the cabinet member for finance update the council on the likely costs of replacing this long-term debt, and additional borrowing, given recent rises in interest rates?

Councillor S. Croft, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate, responded as follows:

Before I do give him the figures, I will just have to caveat my answer by pointing out there is currently a huge amount of economic and market turbulence and rates are constantly fluctuating up and down even throughout a single day so predictions as I will attempt to demonstrate are very difficult at this stage. The market is volatile, economic conditions are very tough, and they are getting tougher, and we now have very strong inflation pressures which is affecting our spending requirements but it's also going to have to be corrected with higher interest rates.

Interest rates are also very much dependent in terms of what we borrow as a council, and on the length of borrowing. In our debt portfolio currently with the public works loan board we have quite a bit on a roughly 10 to 25 year repayment plan across the piece. Now, Councillor Wright, has highlighted Mr Mayor that we have paid £7.5 million so far in this financial year 2022/23 and we have another million pounds to pay back next month for financial year 2023/24. We will have to pay back £7 million in debt in terms of new borrowing. An example of a prudent estimate which we are working to at the moment is if we were to borrow to replace the £16 million that we are

repaying over two years to ensure the completion of Abbey Street and the Bedworth Leisure Centre project because that is what it would be for and because we are committed to them it would cost £800,000 per year at a 5% interest rate on a 10-year loan repayment and £880,000 per year on a 5.5% on longer duration and that is with the Public Works Loan Board. I say that is a prudent investment because there are uncertainties in terms of exactly how much funding the council is going to receive in terms of capital receipts, S106 monies, government grants and therefore how much we need to borrow to close the gap.

We will be bringing forward our Medium-Term Financial Strategy and our Treasury Strategy within months so that we can actually give more detail on the concrete plans, once the actual accountants have produced forecasts and crunched the numbers. Councillor Wright is quite right to point out, to call attention to, in this meeting of the danger of reckless calls for borrowing and spending on the capital programme, because it doesn't just affect the borrowing on the capital programme it also affects the debt interest payments, which affect our general funds so were we to have to pay those £800 000 per annum that would be £800 000 we would not be able to spend on anything else on the general fund. As already discussed tonight that is why we have to economise, we have to retrench the business of the council to our core commitments, however unpopular, and painful some of those decisions may be.

Question 5 – Councillor E. Shiers asked the following question to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities

Over the last couple of weeks Nuneaton and Bedworth has been visited by travellers. While we understand there is an ongoing appeal in process, the current position remains unclear. Could officers confirm what they are spending the £100k target hardening grant on?

Councillor C. Golby, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, responded as follows:

Councillor Shiers is only partially correct in her assertions relating to the appeal against our injunction.

I will take this opportunity to make very clear that when we were notified that our injunction was being challenged in the high court my response was that we were to 'throw the kitchen sink' at defending our position.

Following the decision of the Court of Appeal in February 2022, our Injunction was restored. This means that the injunction is fully enforceable by the police including the powers of arrest.

I, for one, am not willing to go back to the days of the previous Labour administration where it was open season in the borough to the extent our residents put up 'Welcome to Butlins Holiday Camp signs' and the labour

leadership oversaw the deliberate unlocking of our car parks then literally extended an invitation to set up camp.

There is also not a target hardening grant. There is a £100k budget item which has been in place since around 2018.

Initial target hardening designs were developed and cost estimates produced for three schemes: The Craft Centre/ Pingles Showground, Gala Fields (old running track) and the Jubilee Centre.
And that's as far as it got.

Again, something which the previous Labour administration failed to implement at the height of our issues with illegal encampments in the borough.

As with many other decisions they were then given a way out by the pandemic and since then other work has taken priority.

This being said, we have still implemented some target hardening measures by installing solid 1.5 tonne concrete blocks, strategically positioned in a chicane to form an obstacle for large vehicles preventing unauthorised access.

This year 2022, prior to Councillor Shiers election, my communities team applied for grant funding from the 'Safer Streets fund' for a project at The Dingle & Stubbs Pool in Camp Hill.

We were successful in this bid and were awarded £130,000.

£100,000 will be spent on:

- Improving entrances and site with hardening to slow or deter motorbikes.
- To enhance entrances for pedestrians and the disabled where possible, for example by removing the duck under bars and replacing them with either chicanes or K barriers.
- Adding missing bits of path and adding new metal trip rail.
- Repairing existing stretches of trip rail or and removing obsolete trip rail.

£30,000 will also be spent on improving lighting - by converting columns to LEDs and adapting key columns to carry CCTV cameras.

Not only will this enhance the area and make it safer for residents but should also help to deter future traveller encampments to some parts of the Dingle or Stubbs pool.

I thank Councillor Shiers for giving me this opportunity to publicise the efforts this Conservative administration have and are putting in to protect our borough from illegal traveller encampments and the chance to publicise that we are doing more useful things for Camp Hill, the area Councillor Shiers represents, than the previous Labour administrations did.

CL29 **Special Urgency Decisions**

RESOLVED that the Re-opening of the Bedworth Civic Hall special urgency decision taken at the Cabinet meeting held on 12th October 2022 be noted.

CL30 **Outside Bodies – Change of Representative**

Councillor C. Golby left the room during discussion of this item.

Due to a timetable change for Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee the current representative Councillor K. Evans was unable to attend.

It was proposed by Councillor K. Wilson and seconded by Councillor S. Markham that Councillor C. Cape be nominated as the Council's representative on the WCC Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Councillor K. Kondakor proposed that Councillor K. Kondakor be nominated to sit on the WCC Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillor M. Wright seconded this proposal.

A vote was taken.

The proposal that Councillor C. Cape be nominated to sit on the WCC Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee was carried.

RESOLVED that Councillor C. Cape be nominated as the Council's representative on the WCC Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

CL31 **Cabinet**

The Leader of the Council submitted his report on behalf of Cabinet. The report highlighted matters considered at the Cabinet meetings held on 27th July, 7th September and 12th October and details of reports from the West Midlands Combined Authority Board, which has a direct impact on NBBC.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

CL32 **Recommendations from Cabinet and Other Committees**

i) Capital Programme Outturn 2021/22

At the Cabinet meeting held on the 7th September a report was detailing the Capital Programme Outturn position as at 2021/22. The recommendation was then put forward for Council approval. Councillor S. Croft proposed the recommendation for approval. This was seconded by Councillor J. Gutteridge

RESOLVED that the updated capital budget for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be approved.

ii) **Response to consultation – Local Government Boundary Commission on Warding Arrangements for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council**

At the Cabinet meeting held on 12th October 2022, it was recommended to Council that the response at Appendix A of the report be approved for submission to the LGBCE as the Borough Council's response to their consultation on warding arrangements. Councillor K. Wilson proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor C. Golby.

Councillor K. Kondakor moved an amendment to the Appendix A of the report which is attached to the minutes at Appendix 1.

Councillor M. Wright seconded the amendment.

A vote was taken

The amendment was lost.

A vote was taken on the substantive motion

The substantive motion was carried.

Councillor K. Kondakor requested that his vote against the substantive motion be included in the minutes.

RESOLVED that the response at Appendix A of the report be approved for submission to the LGBCE as the Borough Council's response to their consultation on warding arrangements

iii) **Annual Treasury Management Report**

At the Cabinet meeting held on 12th October 2022, recommendations were made to council on the above report. The recommendations were proposed by Councillor S. Croft, which was seconded by Councillor S. Markham

RESOLVED that

- a) The actual 2021/22 Treasury and Prudential Indicators detailed in this report and summarised in appendix 1 of the report be approved; and
- b) The Annual Treasury Management Report for 2021/22 be noted

Mayor

Council - Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2022/2023

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	General dispensations granted to all members under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011			Granted to all members of the Council in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing matters - Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 - An allowance, payment given to members - An indemnity given to members - Any ceremonial honour given to members - Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 - Planning and Licensing matters - Allotments - Local Enterprise Partnership
	R. Baxter-Payne	Manager Brinklow Quarry Ltd, Brinklow; County Councillor - WCC	Spouse: Self-employed childminder Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Midlands Combined Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee • Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (substitute) 	
	B. Beetham	Employed at The George Eliot Hospital; Warwickshire County Council – Camp Hill	Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Hill Urban Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground 	
	D. Brown	Employed by H.M Land Registry	Regional Coordinator, Ragdoll Rescue Charity. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Champion • Exhall Education Foundation • Warwickshire Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee 	
	C. Cape	Director of Capability	Member of the following	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		Coaching and Consultancy Ltd.	Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armed Forces Covenant Meeting 	
	J. Clarke	Employed by Marcus Jones MP	County Councillor W.C.C. Nuneaton Conservative Association; Deputy Chairman Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuneaton Festival of Arts 	
	T. Cooper	None	Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camp Hill Urban Village: Pride in Camp Hill Board Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground 	
	J. Coventry-Moreton	School Receptionist – St Nicholas Chamberlaine School, Bedworth	Share in rental dwelling at Sealand Drive, Bedworth and Tresilian Road, Bedworth.	
	S. Croft	Employed at Holland & Barrett Retail Ltd	Treasurer of the Conservative Association Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Champion for Safeguarding (Children and Adults) Local Government Superannuation Scheme Consultative Board West Midlands Employers 	
	L. Cvetkovic	Head of Geography (Teacher), Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry	The Bulkington Volunteers (Founder); Bulkington Sports and Social Club (Trustee) Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Control Partnership Steering Group 	
	L. Downs	River Bars Limited; Coventry Plus Beyond the Plane	Member on the following Outside Body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity 	
	K. Evans	Employed by UK Parliament	Sponsorship: Election Expenses – North Warwickshire Conservative Association	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			<p>Membership of Other Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Midlands Combined Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (substitute) <p>Executive Officer – North Warwickshire Conservative Association; Member of the Conservative and Unionist Party.</p>	
	C. Golby		<p>Member of Warwickshire County Council</p> <p>Membership of Other Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership • Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. • Nuneaton and Bedworth Home Improvement Agency • Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board • Warwickshire Housing and Support Partnership • Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel • George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust – Public/User Board • George Eliot Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Governors • District Leaders (substitute) • Local Enterprise Partnership (substitute) • Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley and Bosworth Joint Committee (substitute) 	
	M. Green	Employed by Horiba Mira – Calibration Technician	<p>Chair of Education Standards Committee – St Thomas Moore School</p> <p>Executive Member – Nuneaton Conservatives.</p> <p>Secretary – St Vincent De Paul Society at Our Lady of the Angels Church.</p> <p>Our Lady of the Angels Church.</p> <p>Member of the George Eliot Fellowship</p> <p>Member of the Nuneaton Education Strategy Board</p>	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendship Project for Children. 	
	J. Gutteridge		Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board • Age UK (Warwickshire Branch) • Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground • West Midlands Combined Authority Wellbeing Board 	
	B. Hammersley	County Councillor – W.C.C.	Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charity 	
	S. Harbison	Self Employed	Member of Conservative and Unionist Party. Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Astley Charity 	
	J. Hartshorn	Employed by Nuneaton Library – Digital Inclusion – WCC (Senior Customer Service Assistant) COVID Community Testing – WCC – Team Leader (Casual)	Member of Nuneaton Conservatives	
	J. Kennaugh	County Councillor W.C.C. Employed by FedEx Express UK Ltd	Member of the W.C.C. Regulatory Committee Member of the Conservative Party Member of UNITE the Union Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EQUiP 	
	K.A. Kondakor	Electronic Design Engineer (self-employed semi-retired); Statistical data analyst and expert witness (self employed)	Unpaid director of 100PERCENTRENEWABLEUK LTD	
	S. Markham	County Councillor – W.C.C.	Governor at Ash Green School Member of the following	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
			Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Sports Forum • Warwickshire Direct Partnership • Warwickshire Waste Partnership • Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee 	
	G. Moreton	Member of School Appeals Panels at Warwickshire County Council	Share in rental dwellings at Sealand Drive, Bedworth and Tresillian Road, Exhall. Member on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedworth Neighbourhood Watch Committee 	
	B. Pandher		Member of Warwickshire County Council Treasurer & Trustee of Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple; Coordinator of Council of Sikh Temples in Coventry; Secretary of Coventry Indian Community; Trustee of Sikh Monument Trust Vice Chair Exhall Multicultural Group Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foleshill Charity Trustee – Proffitt's Charity 	
	N. Phillips	Employee of DWP	Member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton Labour CLP • The Fabian Society • The George Eliot Society • The PCS Union • Central Credit Union • Stockingford Sports and Allotment Club • Haunchwood Sports and Social Club 	
	J. Sheppard		Partnership member of the Hill Top and Caldwell Big Local. Director of Wembrook Community Centre. Member of the Management Committee at the Mental Health Drop in.	Dispensation to speak and vote on any matters of Borough Plan that relate to the Directorship of Wembrook Community Centre

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	T. Sheppard	Employee of Dairy Crest		
	E. Shiers	Employed by and Director of Cannon Enterprise Ltd. Director of The Fresh Dessert Company	<p>The Labour Party Coventry East Credit Union</p> <p>Member of the Pride in Camp Hill Board.</p> <p>Member of the governing board for Camp Hill Primary School.</p> <p>Member of the Board of Trustees of Camp Hill Community Association.</p> <p>Volunteer for the Coventry and Warwickshire district RSPCA</p>	
	J. Singh			
	R. Smith		<p>Chairman of Volunteer Friends, Bulkington; Trustee of Bulkington Sports and Social Club;</p> <p>Member of the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A5 Member Partnership; • PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside of London) Joint Committee; • Building Control Partnership Steering Group • Bulkington Village Community and Conference Centre • Representative on the Nuneaton and Bedworth Older Peoples Forum • West Midlands Combined Authority and Land Delivery Board 	
	M. Tromans	RTC Ltd, Nuneaton; WCC, Warwick	Nuneaton Acorns WI	
	R. Tromans	RTC, Nuneaton AFL, Wellingborough	<p>W.C.C. Warwick</p> <hr/> <p>Member of the following Outside Bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton Neighbourhood Watch Committee • Hospice Charity 	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	M. Walsh	Employed by MacInnes Tooling Ltd. – UK Sales Manager		
	C.M. Watkins	Employee of Nutri Pack	Representative on the following outside bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd. (NABCEL) 	
	K.D. Wilson	Acting Delivery Manager, Nuneaton and Warwick County Courts, HMCTS, Warwickshire Justice Centre, Nuneaton	Deputy Chairman – Nuneaton Conservative Association	
Corporate Tenancies: properties are leased by NBBC to Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd, of which I am a Council appointed Director.				
Representative on the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Nuneaton and Bedworth Community Enterprises Ltd (NABCEL) • Coventry, Warwickshire and Hinckley & Bosworth Joint Committee • District Council Network • Local Government Association • Director of Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd (CWLEP) • West Midlands Combined Authority 				
	M. Wright			

First Draft of Green proposals for Boundary review.

This is not the best time to have a boundary review with so much uncertainty over what development will be approved in the borough and what will be commercially viable. This submission is a response of sensible boundary changes where the assumed developments and population changes projected by the Borough Council did take place. We do not support this level of development.

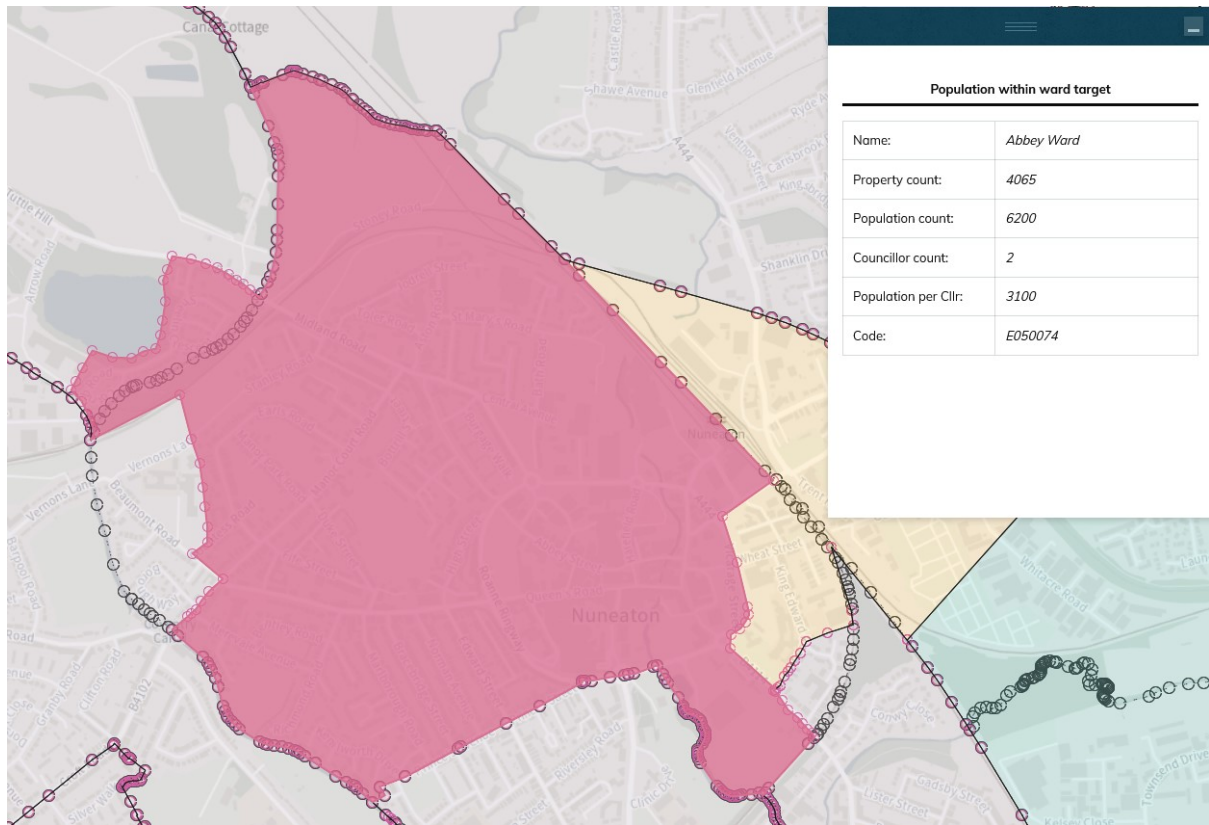
We are also concerned with possible bugs in the software provided by the council used to make these proposals. We request the populations are verified before boundaries are adopted.

These boundary proposals are based on retaining the existing 17 wards as much as possible and adding two new wards to take account of developments and population changes. Over all the average absolute deviation from ideal is 230 electors.

Ward	Councillors	residents	error
Abbey	2	6200	1.47%
Arbury	2	6004	-1.73%
Attleborough	2	5748	-5.92%
Bar Pool	2	6066	-0.72%
Bede	2	6404	4.81%
Bulkington	2	5668	-7.23%
Camp Hill	2	6390	4.58%
Exhall	2	5811	-4.89%
Galley Common	2	6352	3.96%
Heath	2	6198	1.44%
Kingswood	2	5986	-2.03%
Poplar	2	6383	4.47%
Slough	2	6392	4.62%
St. Nicolas	2	6378	4.39%
Weddington	2	5790	-5.24%
Wem Brook	2	5614	-8.12%
Whitestone	2	6204	1.54%
Eastboro	2	6384	4.48%
Watling	2	6106	-0.07%

19th October 2022 – draft 1

Abbey Ward



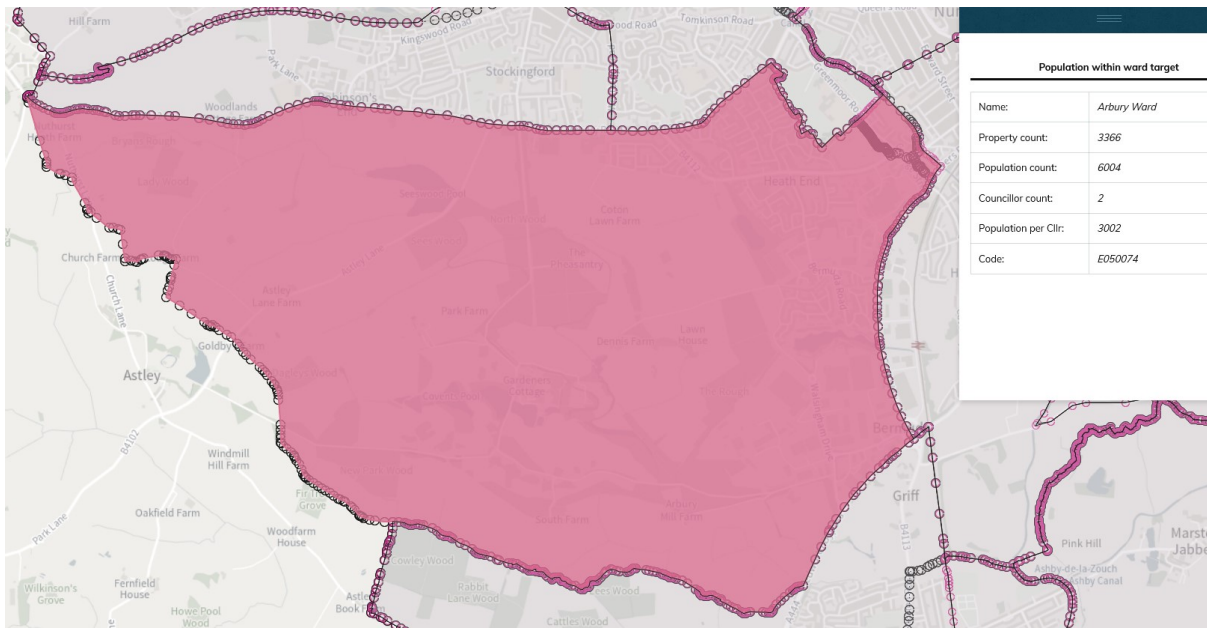
Summary of changes proposed.

- 1) Include section of Camp Hill East of Midlands Quarry (to balance electors).
- 2) move section West of old Manor Park School into Barpool ward which needed more electors and is well connected to that Ward.
- 3) move section East of Vicarage Street/ St Nicolas Church) into St Nicolas and Attleborough Wards to balance electors.

Rationale

At 6200 electors the ward would then be within 100 of idea size and be a cohesive area.

Arbury Ward



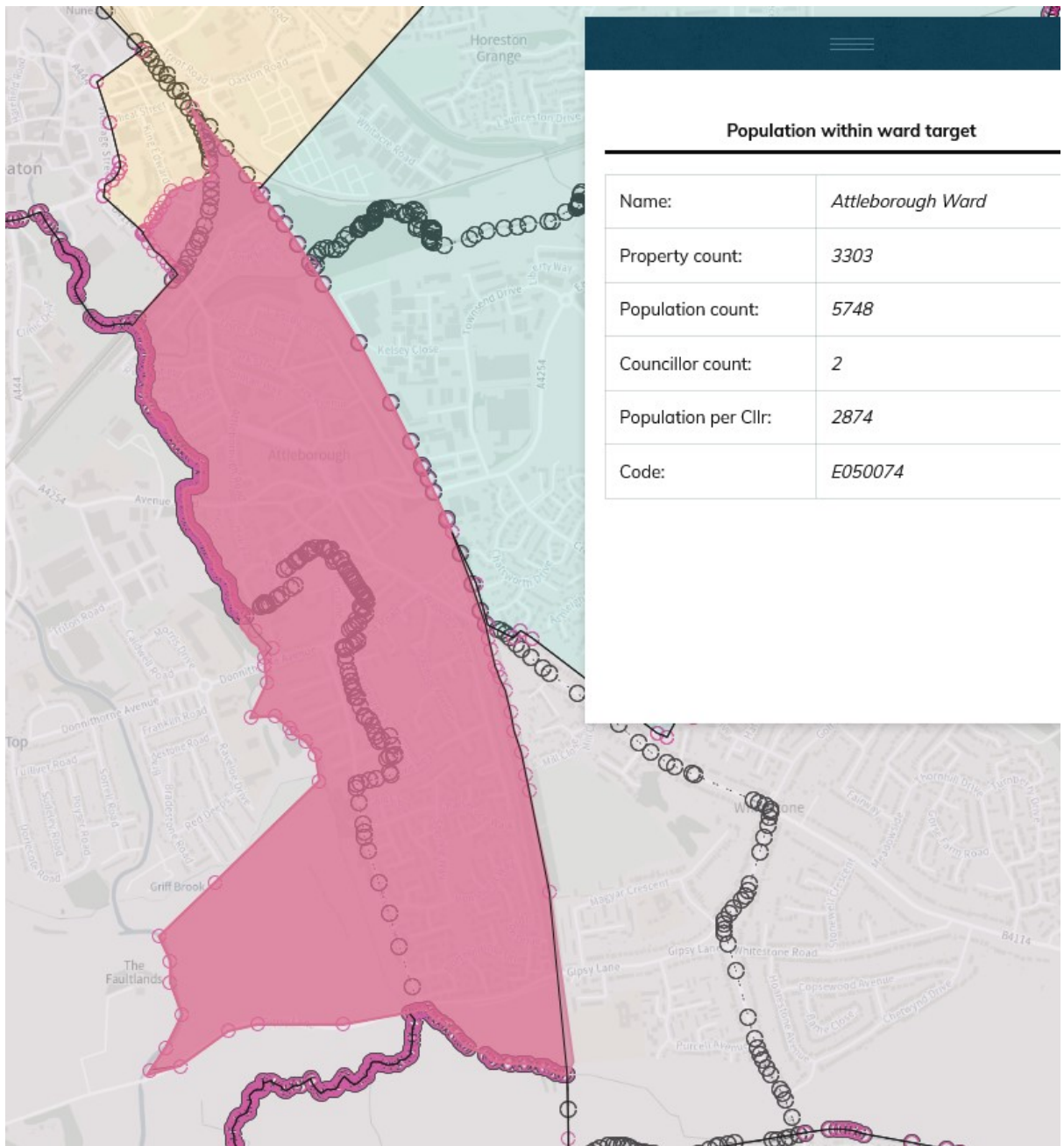
Summary of changes proposed.

- 1) Add small area west of Coventry Canal to remove area from Barpool & Wembrook wards, which forms a more logical boundary.

Rationale

At 6002 electors this ward is just under ideal size but it has likely developments starting before 2028.

Attleborough Ward



Summary of changes proposed.

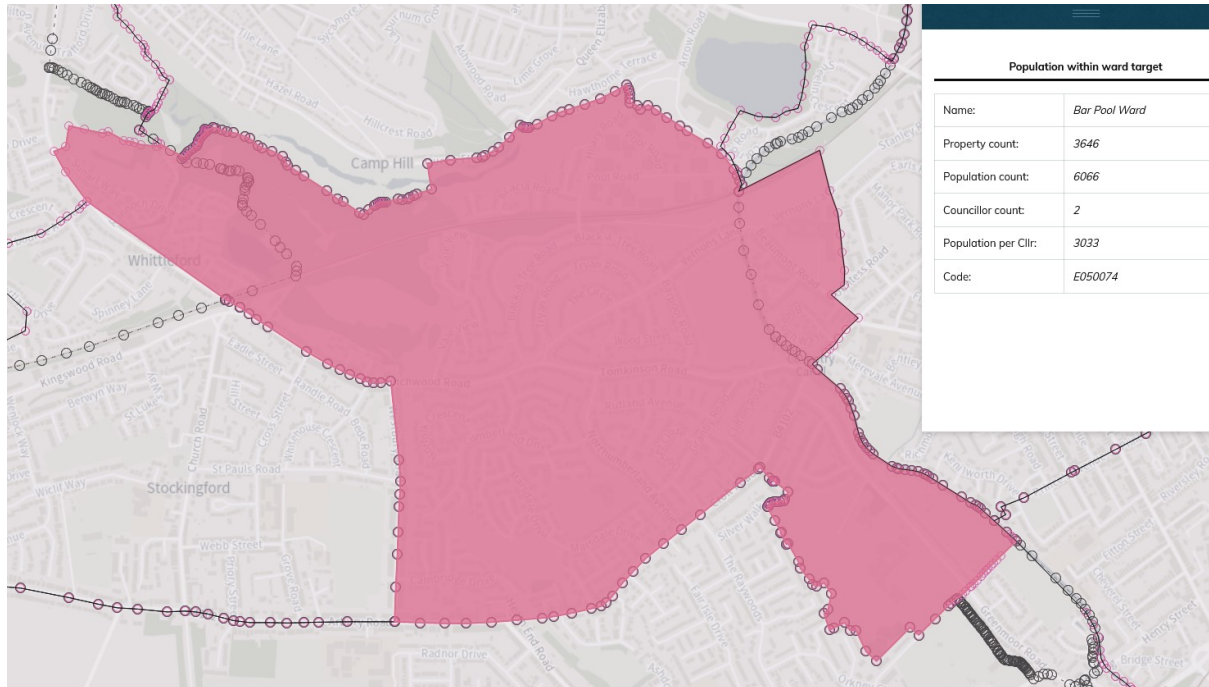
- 1) Move area to the East of West Coast mainline into Whitestone Ward.
- 2) Include area of development north of Gypsy Lane and existing area east of Wembrook
- 3) Include small area south of King Edward Road,

Rationale

The area West of the railway fits better into Whitestone and includes Whitestone school. The railway makes a more natural boundary. The brook makes a more logical boundary which makes a more cohesive area. The ward population is on the low side with proposed buildout rate for land

north of Gypsy Lane but that development could be more complete than forecast by 2028 given that enabling works have started.

Bar pool Ward



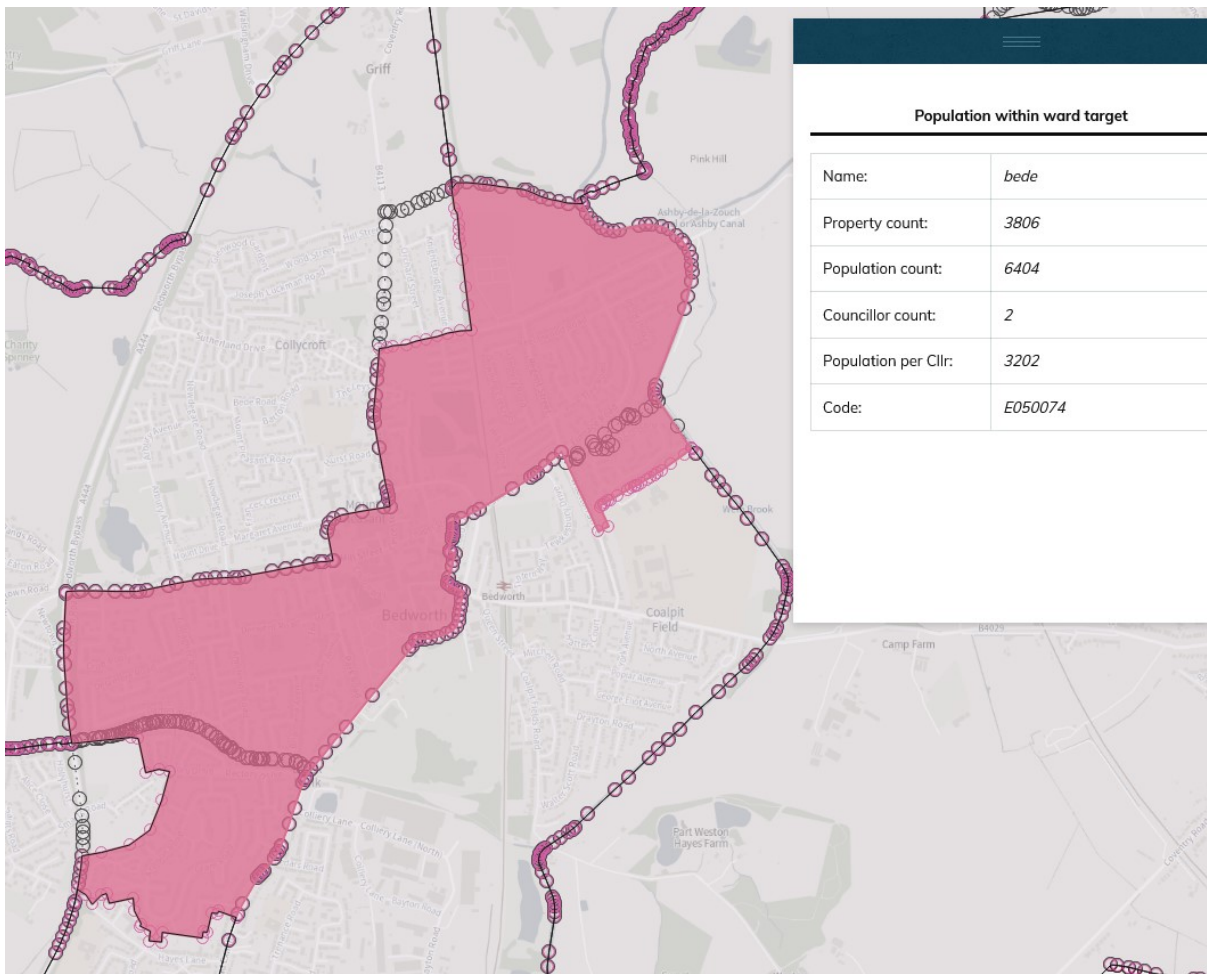
Summary of changes proposed.

- 1) Remove area at south end of Greenmoor Road and Bull-Ring at line south of path from Cat gallows Bridge
- 2) Add area west of old Manor Park School site from Abbey Ward
- 3) Add more of East side of Whittleford park from galley Common

Rationale

The south end of Greenmoor road was very remote from the rest of the ward. The area taken from Galley Common is remote from that ward. Adding the area by Manor Park School makes the ward within 1% of ideal size and connects well at north and south.

Bede Ward



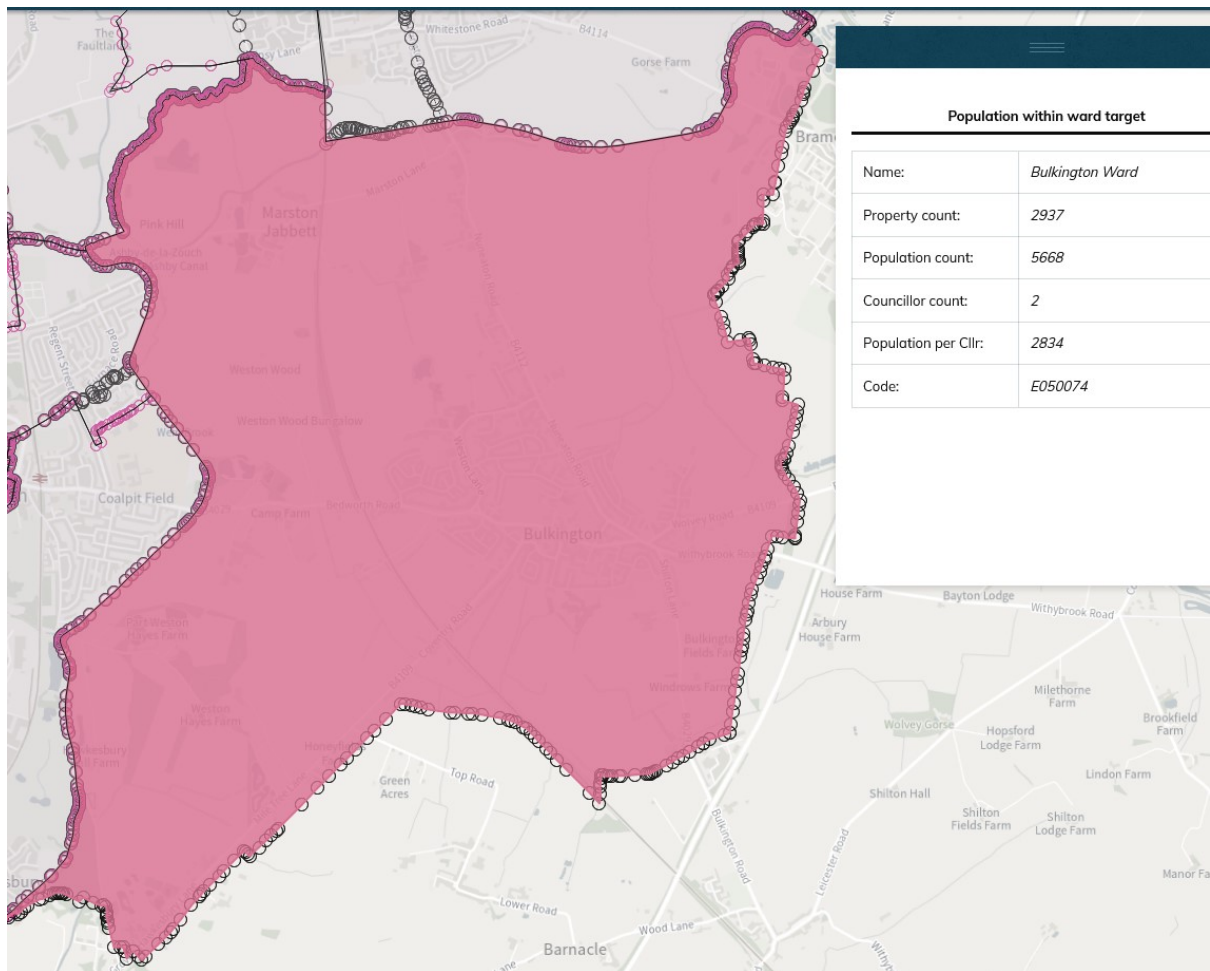
Summary of changes proposed.

- 1) Move boundary south on west side of railway to align with Marston Lane to adjust Slough Ward
- 2) Add area west of Coventry road and South from Rectory Drive
- 3) Add area north of St Michael's school.

Rationale

Small changes to equalise populations and adjust for developments in other Bedworth wards. Bede ward had the smallest population in Bedworth and cannot get much new development due to being in the central ward in Bedworth.

Bulkington Ward



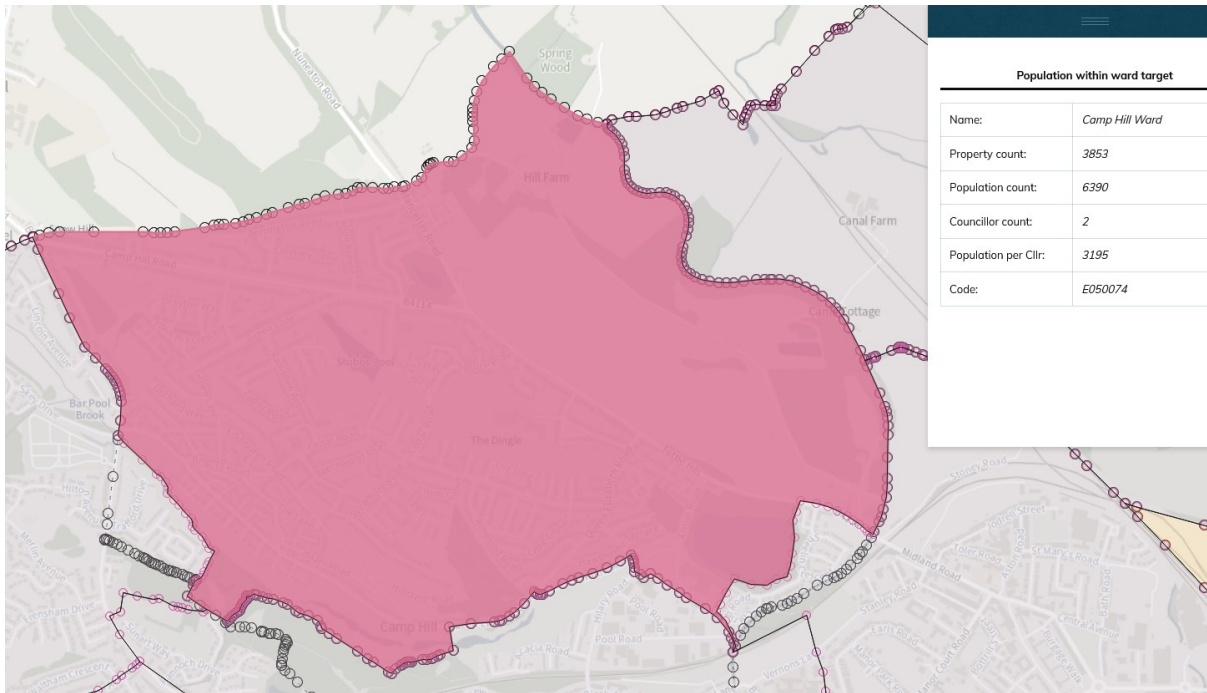
Summary of changes proposed.

No changes proposed

Rationale

Not possible to justify taking any area from Bedworth or Nuneaton Wards. Development likely to increase population very significantly depending on economic and political situation

Camp Hill Ward



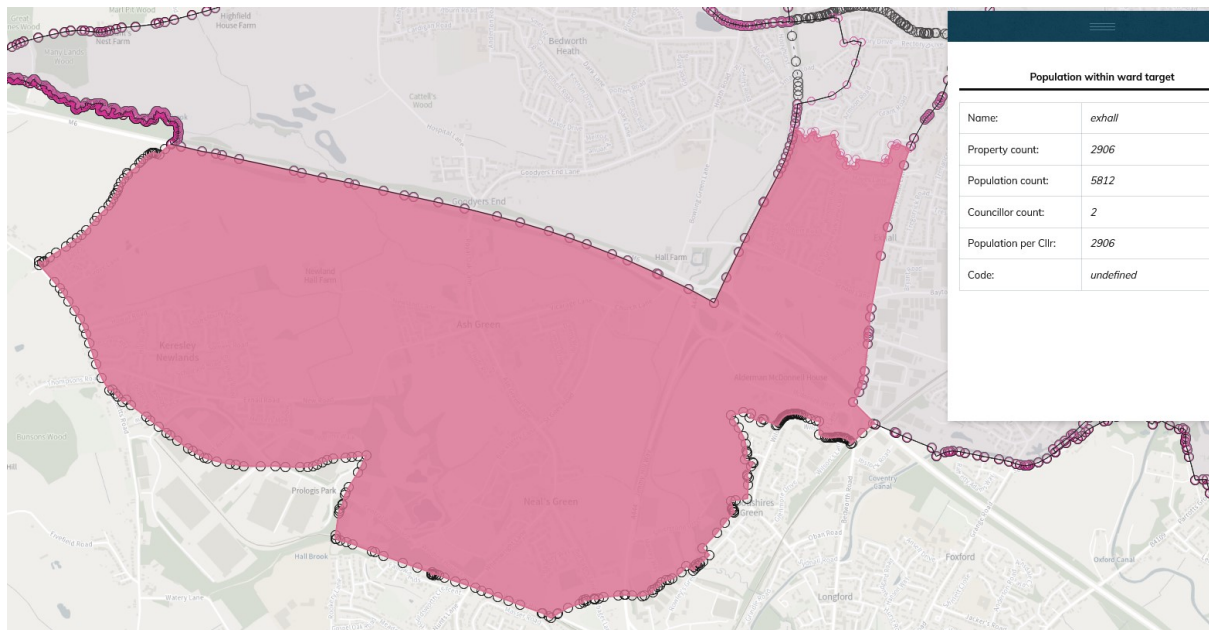
Summary of changes proposed.

- 1) Move area east of Midland quarry into Abbey Ward
- 2) Move area of Trafford Drive into Galley Common Ward

Rationale

To get population within acceptable range. The area east of the quarry is not well connected to Camp Hill.

Exhall Ward



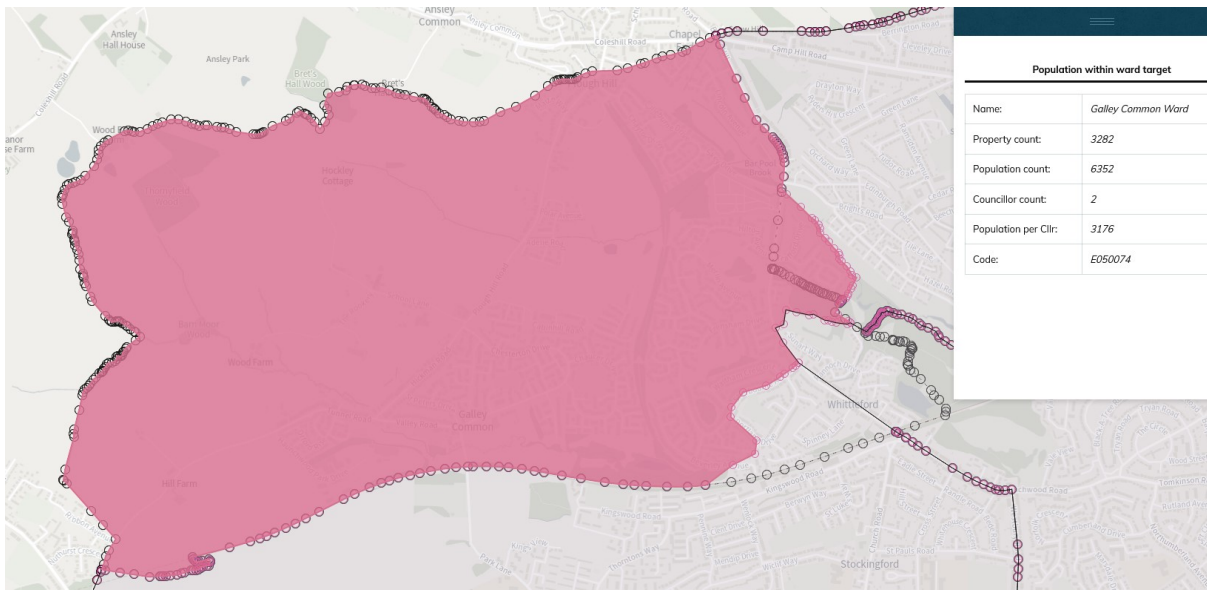
Summary of changes proposed.

- 1) Remove area north of Hayes lane

Rationale

The North tip of the existing ward connects better with Bede (AKA town centre) than the villages in South West of Borough. Given predicted developments it was expected to be around 5% below ideal size in 2028 but that is open to considerable uncertainty but keeping existing northern boundary would risk it quickly becoming too large.

Galley Common Ward



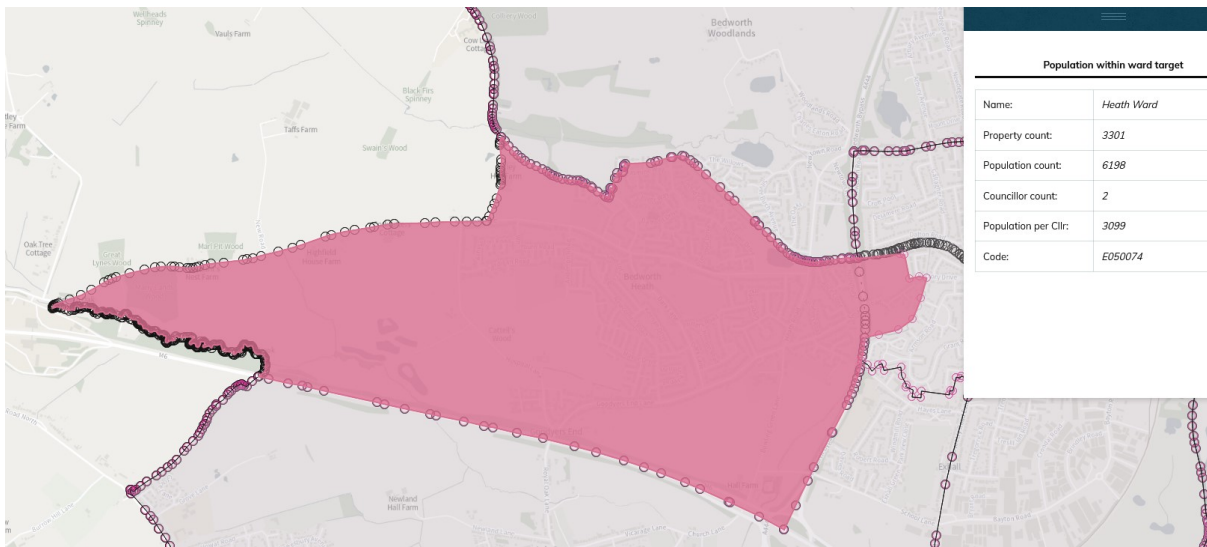
Summary of changes proposed.

- 1) Remove south east tip of Ward south of Sherborne Avenue
- 2) Add area around Trafford Drive

Rationale

The south west tip of existing ward fits better with Kingswood and Bar Pool Wards. Trafford Drive area connects well with the West side. Whittleford Park provides a logical boundary. The ward is expected to be within 4% of idea size depending on buildout rates of new developments.

Heath Ward



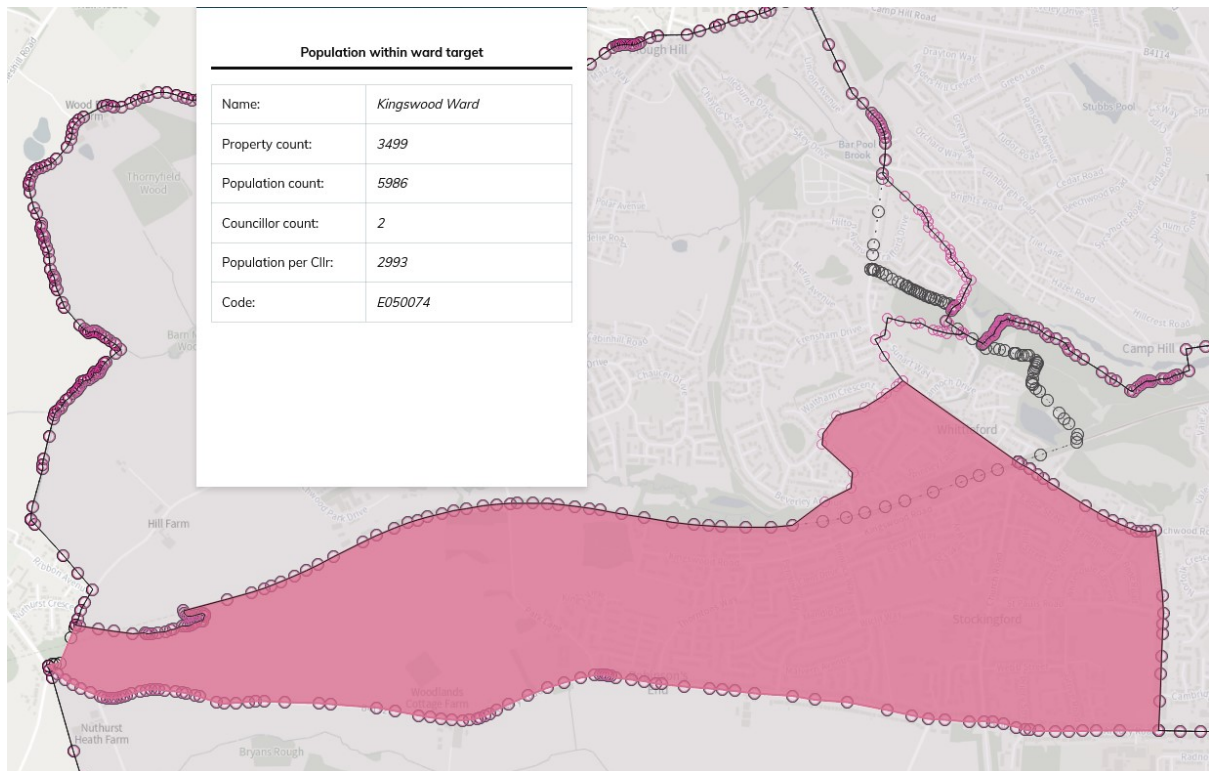
Summary of changes proposed.

- 1) Add area of new development off east end of Smarts Road,

Rationale

The new developments are only accessible by road from Heath Ward. The proposed ward would be just over idea size by around 100.

Kingswood Ward



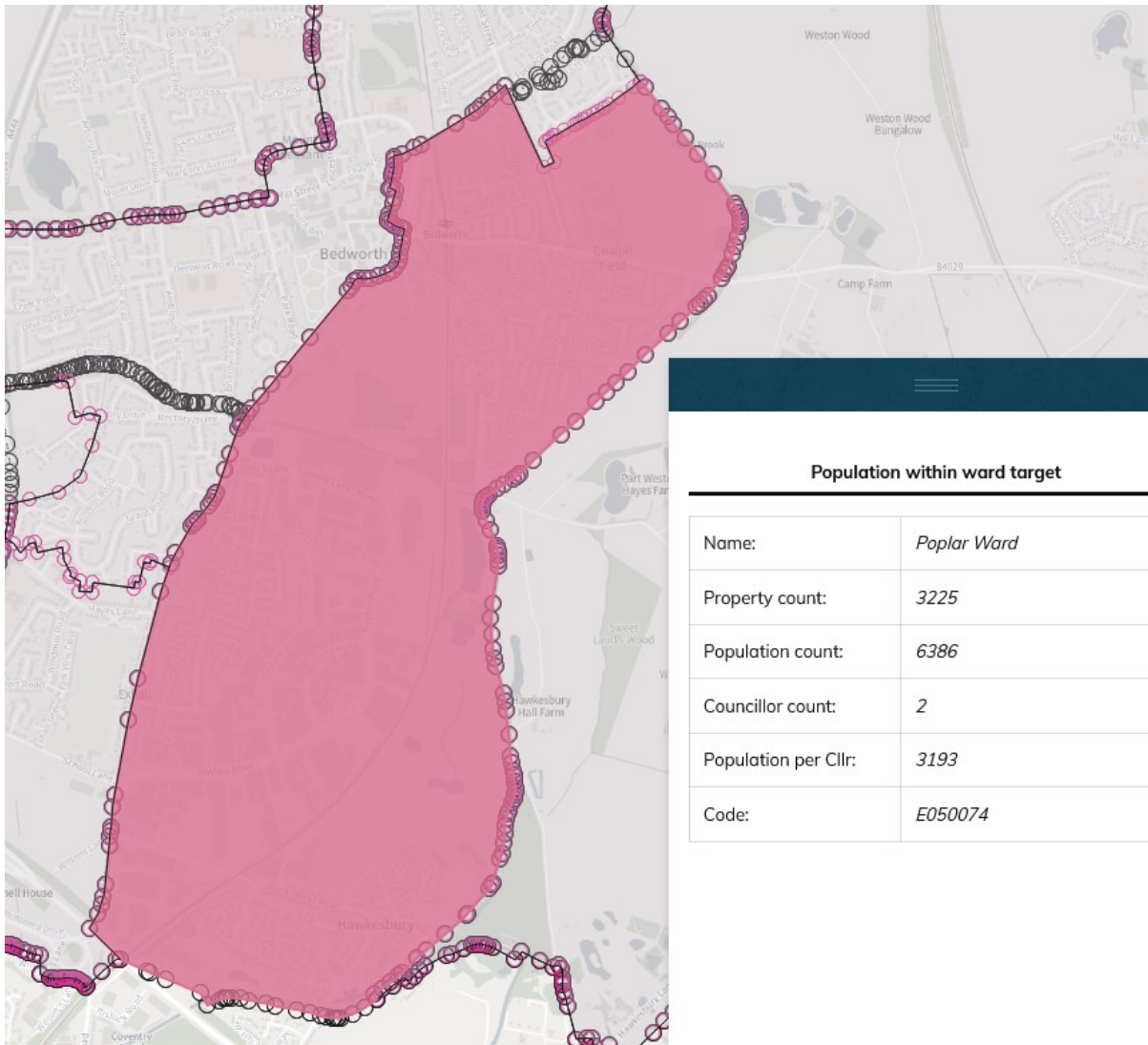
Summary of changes proposed.

- 1) Add area north of old Stockingford Station area, West of Whittleford Road south of Sherbourne Avenue.
- 2) Could look to rename ward as Stockingford, especially if the station is reopened.

Rationale

Kingswood ward needs extra population and the section north of the Stockingford station site has good connection with the rest of the ward. That will be enhanced if the project to reopen the station progresses.

Poplar Ward



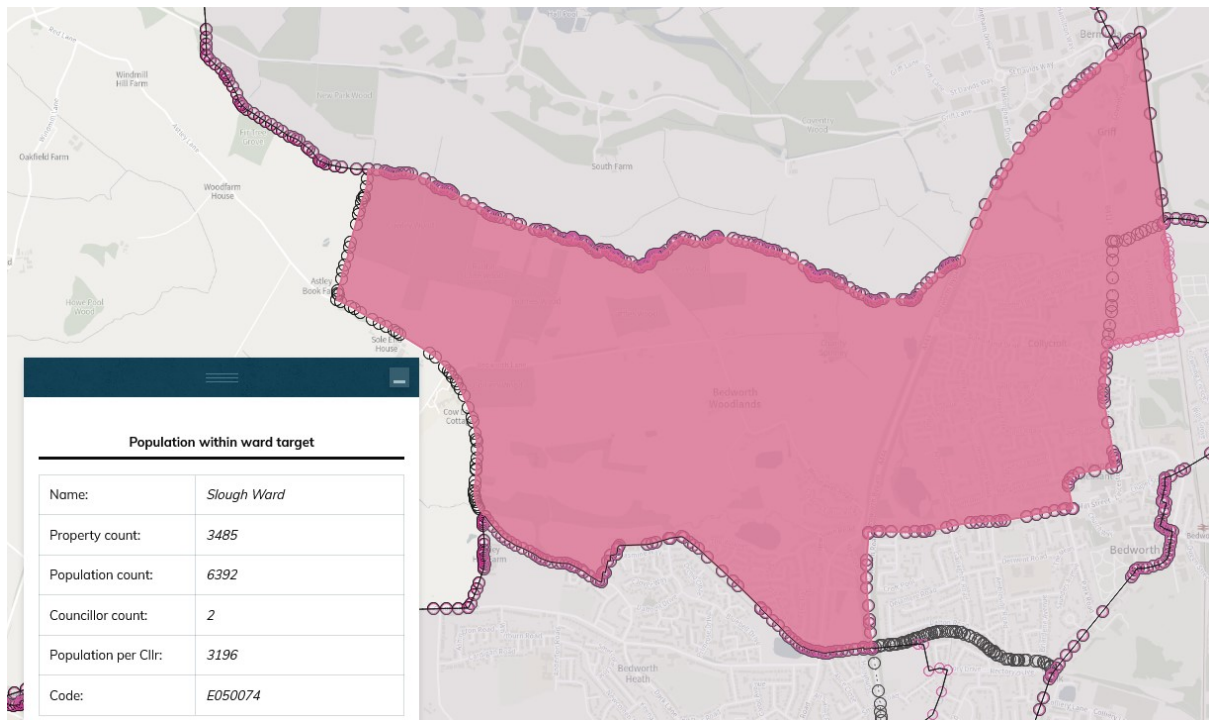
Summary of changes proposed.

- 1) Remove area north of St Michael's School

Rationale

This area is distant from the rest of the ward and north side of school makes good boundary. The change is needed to get ward size closer to idea.

Slough Ward



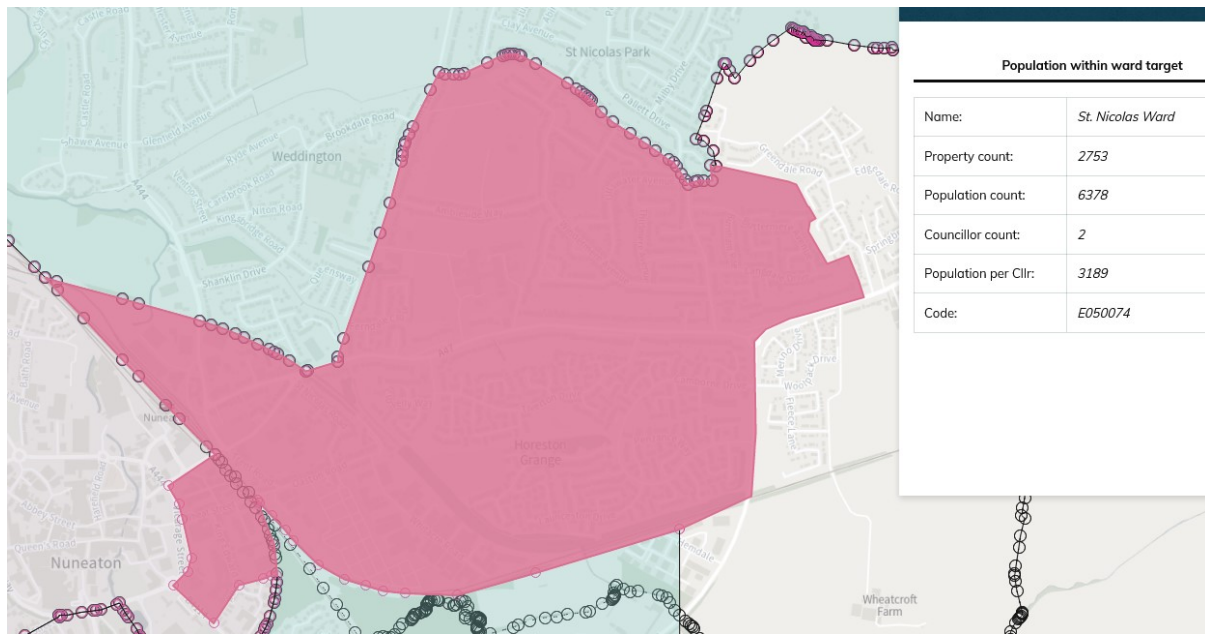
Summary of changes proposed.

- 1) Add small area to West of railway line, north of Marston Lane

Rationale

Change needed to balance out ward populations in Bedworth. That area connects well with ward. The railway and Marston Lane are suitable boundaries.

St. Nicolas Ward



Summary of changes proposed.

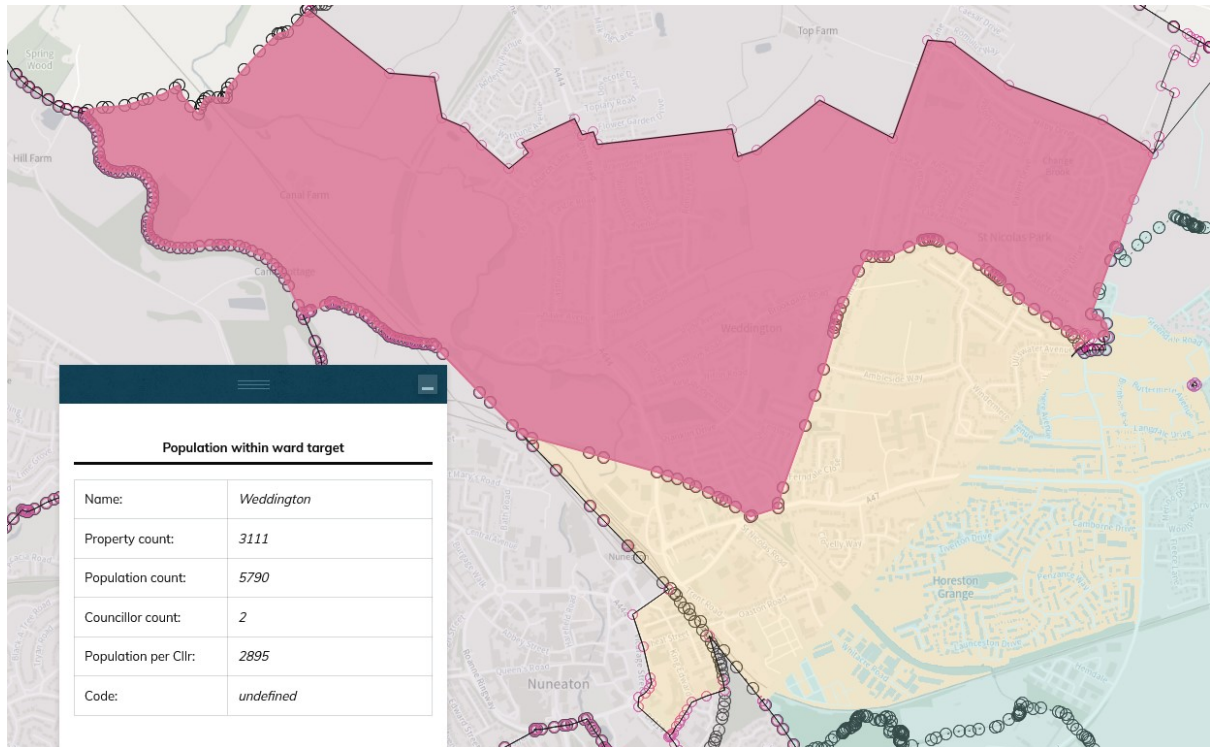
This is based on St Nicolas ward,

- 1) Polling district SNE split off into the new Eastboro ward. It excludes the Bellway development.
- 2) Added area west of railway down to St Nicolas Church including KE6
- 3) Adds 158 to 174 St Nicolas Park Drive.

Rationale

St Nicolas ward was expected to be around 50% too big by 2028 and needed new Eastboro ward to accommodate existing and new developments on The Long Shoot and Eastboro way corridor. It is connected to the area north of St Nicolas church by the main walking and driving routes to the town. The ward would contain 3 colleges, NWSLC, Eton and KE6. 158 to 174 St Nicolas Park Drive made no sense and seemed arbitrary.

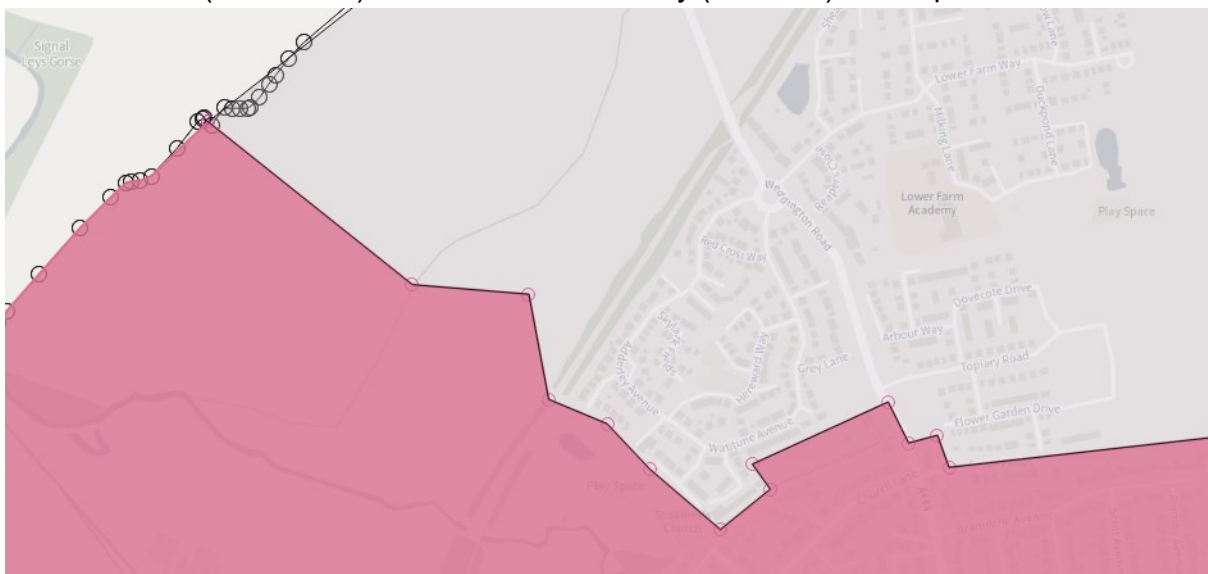
Weddington Ward



Summary of changes proposed.

1) Split Weddington ward so revised Weddington Ward covers the majority of the pre-2012 urban area excluding the Watling Street corridor which becomes a new Watling Ward and the south phases of any Top farm Development.

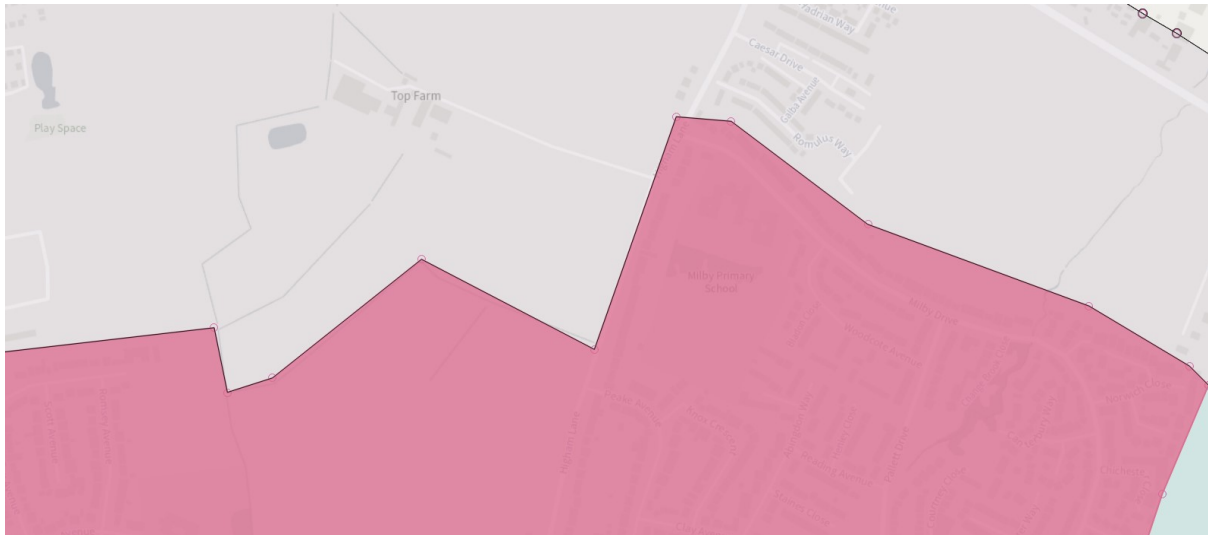
The Boundary between Weddington and Watling Ward follows the bridle way from Stables at Caldecote to St James Church. It then follows the south east boundary of Church Fields (Davidsons) and St James Gateway (Barratt's) development.



It would follow hedges/ditches across the possible Top Farm development site so that the proposed phase 1A(Higham Lane north School), 3, 4 & 5 would be in new Watling

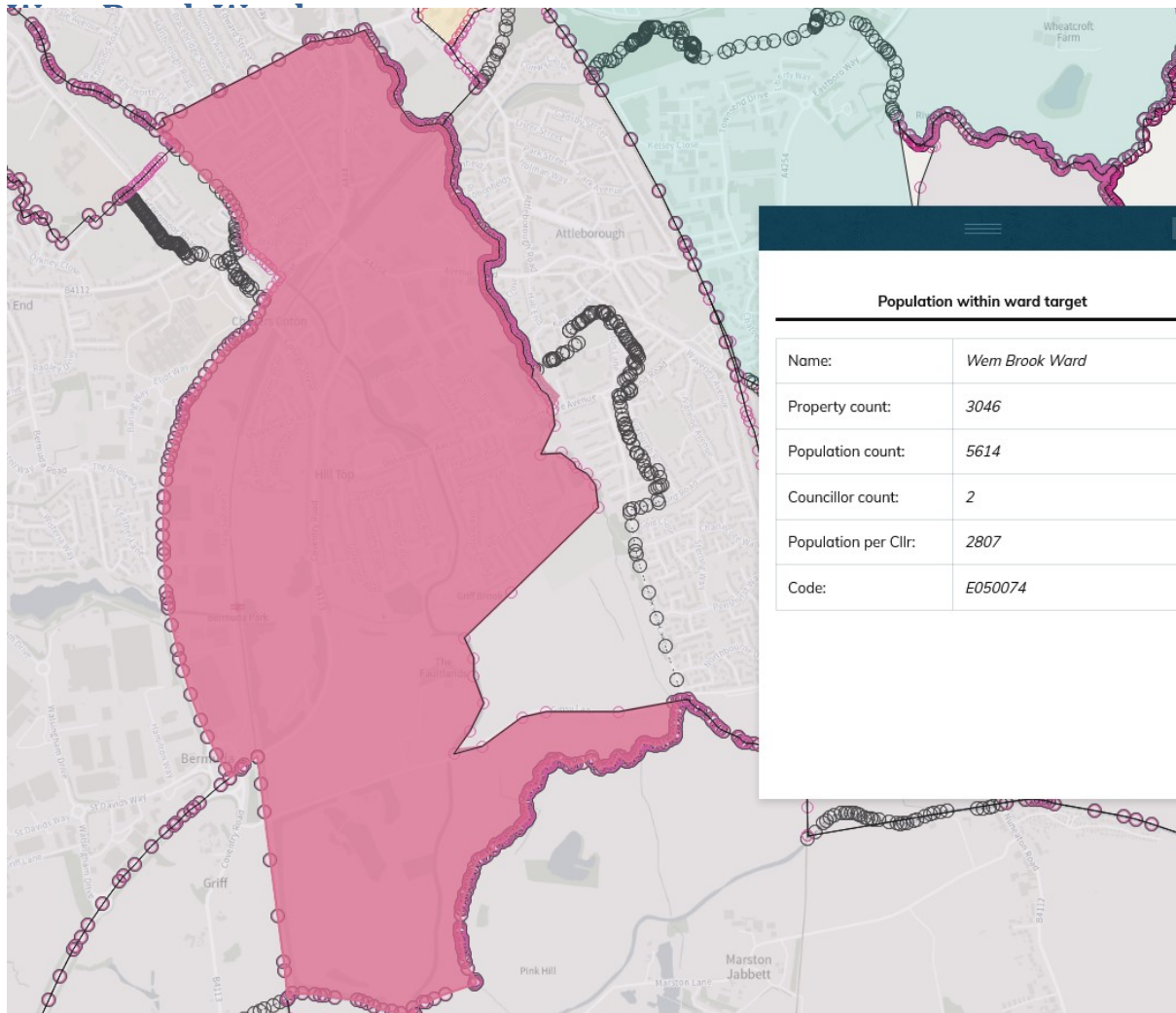
Ward while phase 1 & 2 (accessed opposite Peake Avenue and St Nicolas Park Drive) would be in revised Weddington Ward. The boundary would go north up centre of Higham lane and then follow North Boundary of Housing on Milby Drive.

The East boundary would follow existing Weddington boundary except it would exclude 158 to 174 St Nicolas Park Drive.



Rationale

The Weddington Ward has been expanded greatly but the new developments connect poorly to the pre-2012 urban area. Makes sense to use that boundary as ward boundary except for Top Farm. Higham Lane School has been a significant attraction to residents moving into the area and the school has been selected to run a proposed Higham Lane North School at the North End of Top Farm as the population of the ward roughly doubles. Basing Weddington ward around existing school and new Watling Ward around new proposed school seem rational.



Summary of changes proposed.

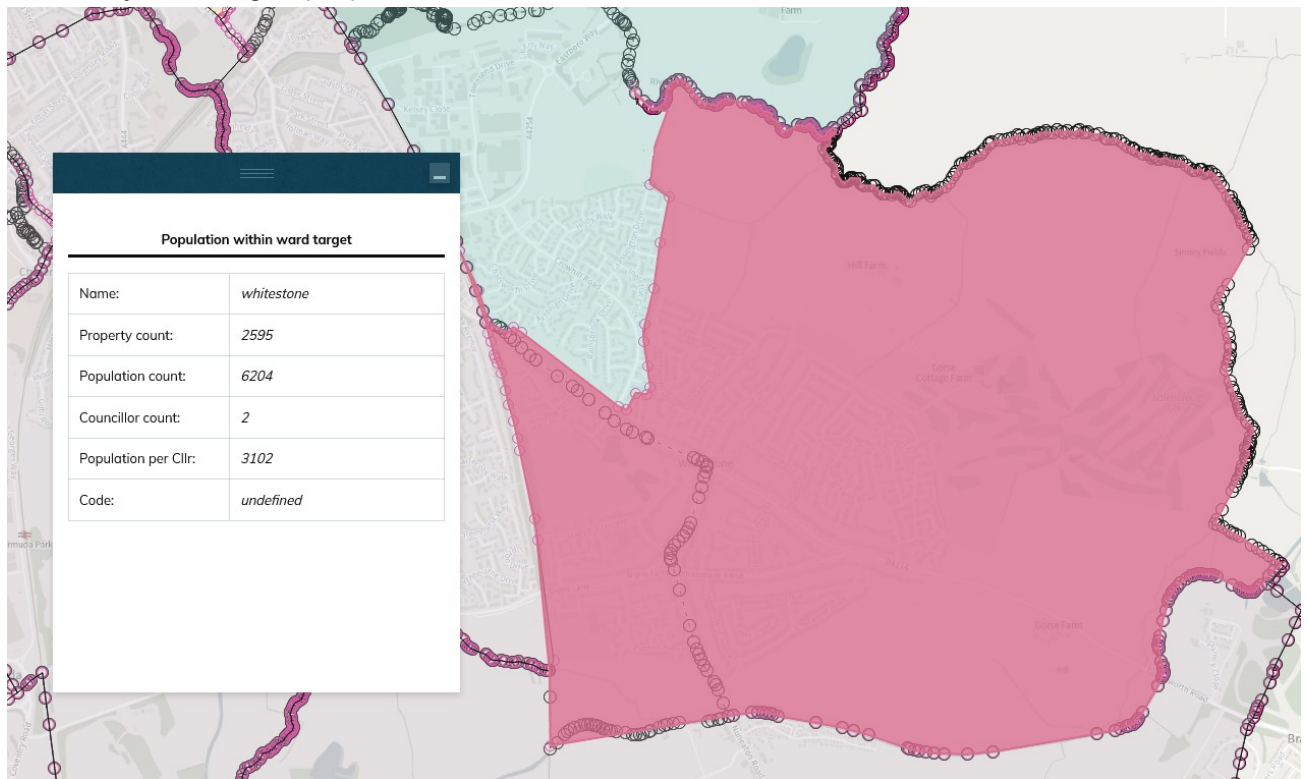
- 1) The Canal is used as ward boundary so that Amos Avenue is moved to Arbury Ward
- 2) The area around Marston lane is moved to Attleborough Ward alongside the new development north of Gypsy lane which is cut off from Wem Brook ward by the canal

Rationale

The areas removed seem to have better connections with the other wards. Wembrook ward has a clear north south connectivity via the Coventry Road/A444 and canal. As one of the most deprived wards in Warwickshire it currently seems to have poor voter registration levels.

Whitestone Ward

Summary of changes proposed.

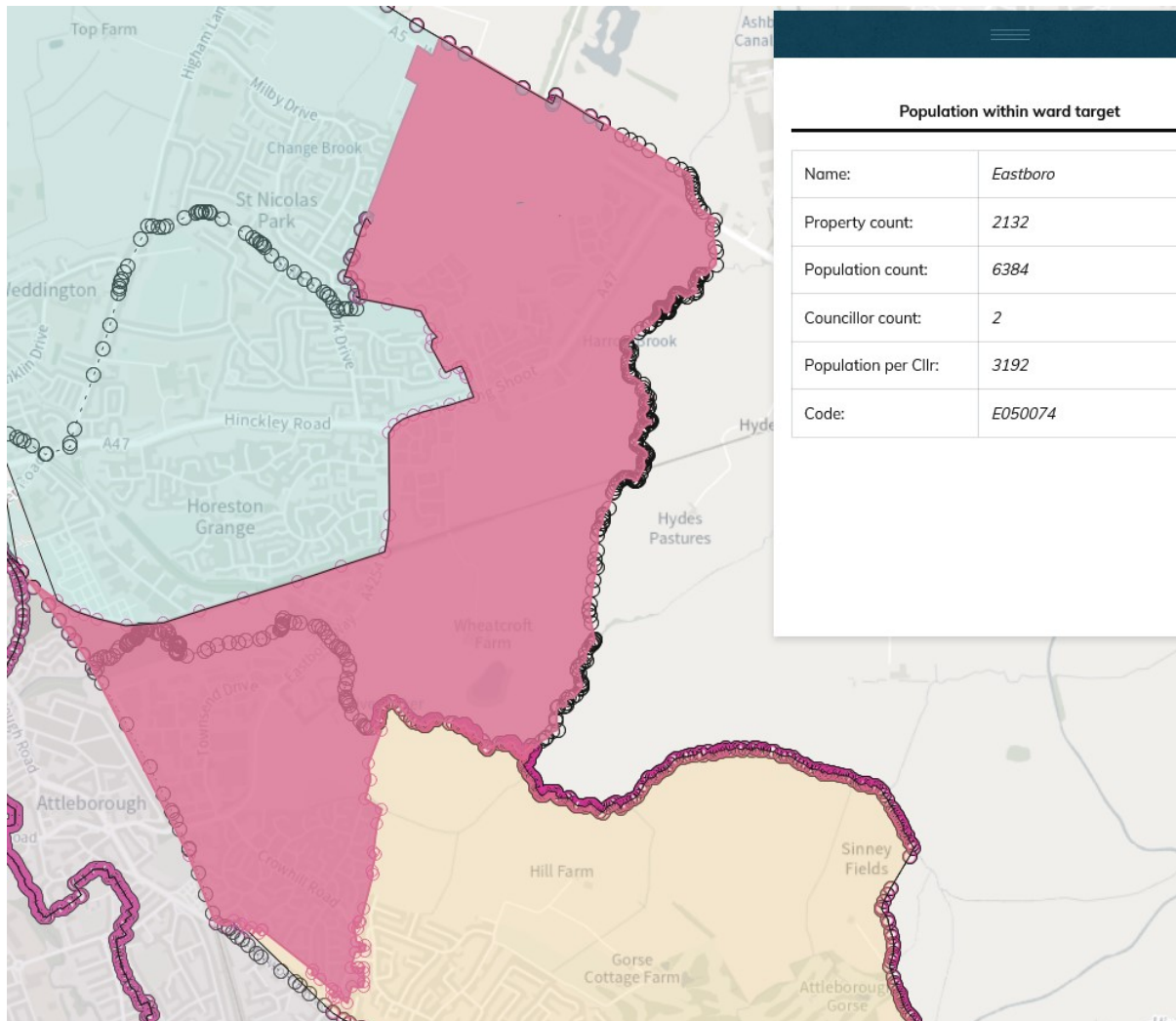


- 1) Remove Crowhill Estates (keeping Willowfields Road)
- 2) Add area East of West Coast Mainline around Whitestone School

Rationale

Developments require that Crowhill estate is moved to new Eastboro Ward. Need to add population back by taking area West of railway which makes a very good boundary. Also puts Whitestone School and community centre back into Whitestone Ward.

Eastboro Ward



Summary of changes proposed.

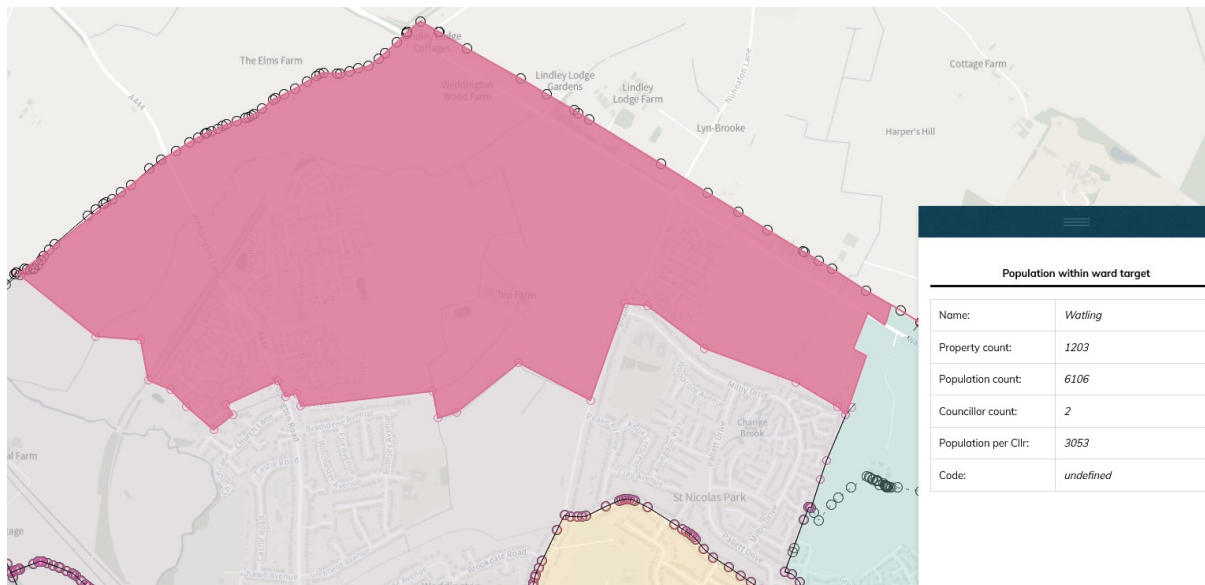
This is a new ward,

It included St Nicolas ward polling district SNE plus Weddington section of Calender Farm phase II and Crowhill estate excluding Willowfields Rd.

Rationale

It is the right size and what is left over. Key transport corridor around east side of Nuneaton

Watling Ward



Summary of changes proposed.

This is a new ward and comprises all the area North of the revised Weddington Ward. It includes proposed phases 1a, 3, 4 and 5 of the Top Farm development, as defined in the approved outline planning application. The East boundary is the edge of the Taylor Wimpey Callendar Farm Phase II development with Nuneaton Fields Farm.

Rationale

There is a proposed secondary school and primary Schools planned for this area connected with a Northern spine road. There is poor connectivity between existing and new estates due to ransom strips. The Top Farm development is so large that including it all in a single ward would lead to a very rapid need for another boundary review if it is built out over a decade or so. The secondary School and larger top section will sit on spine road. The owner of Nuneaton Fields Farm has yet to approve the connection across their farm drive which means it is a logical place to split the ward from Eastboro ward. It is projected to be the idea size around 2028 subject to Top Farm buildout.

Cabinet Report to Council December 2022

1. Introduction

This report deals with the Cabinet meetings held on 9th November 2022, and 7th December 2022.

It also includes details of any reports from the West Midlands Combined Authority Board, which have, or may have in the future, a direct impact on NBBC, namely the Board meeting held on 28th October 2022.

2. 9th November 2022 - Cabinet Meeting

a) Expressions of Interest – Bedworth Civic Hall –Public Services– Councillor S. Markham

Cabinet agreed for the Council to seek 'Expressions of Interest' from suitable interested parties for the potential future operation and management of the Bedworth Civic Hall from suitable interested parties who have the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and financial backing to submit a business case to operate the Civic Hall.

b) Sub-Regional – Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) – Public Services – Councillor S. Markham (Key Decision)

Cabinet agreed a recommendation to Council that an additional loan of £233,784 be made to Sherbourne Recycling Limited to address the increased capital costs of constructing the sub-regional MRF that this be included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. NBBC is one of eight shareholder partners that committed to the development of the MRF site as part of its future recycling services. This facility supports a more efficient and environmental process for dry recycling materials

c) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022 - 2027 – Finance and Corporate – Councillor S. Croft (Key Decision)

Cabinet approved the update to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and are considering the actions to mitigate the large deficits anticipated and maintain a prudent level of reserves. A further update will be reported to Cabinet once the budget for 2023/24 is complete and the local Government Financial Settlement for 2023/24 is announced.

d) Q2 General Fund Budget Monitoring 2022/23 – Finance and Corporate – Councillor S. Croft (Key Decision)

Cabinet noted the forecast outturn position for the General Fund with consideration given to key variances. The financial impact of the pandemic is still being felt by the council in addition to spend pressures as a result of the cost of living and inflation are not set to reduce. The council faces additional risks

around the Financial Settlement of which details will not be made clear until later in the year.

e) Q2 Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring 2022/23 – Finance and Corporate – Councillor S. Croft (Key Decision)

Cabinet noted the forecast outturn position and key variances, as with the General Fund there are spend pressures as a result of the cost of living and inflation are affecting the day-to-day operation of the HRA and are not set to reduce. A review of increased costs for void dwellings and the potential loss of rent over and above that budgeted is being closely monitored.

f) Treasury Management 2022/23 – Mid Year Review – Finance and Corporate – Councillor S. Croft (Key Decision)

Cabinet recommended to Council that the Treasury Management 2022/23 – Mid Year Review be noted. The report set out the Council's treasury position as at 30th September 2022. The first half of 2021/22 was rewarding in terms of investment returns, but correspondingly higher interest rates have meant the need to avoid new borrowing in the short term. The decision to maintain an increased under-borrowing position in the short term does generate savings to current budget, however this will be closely monitored as the management of the Council's cash flows, debt and investments remains a crucial element of the finance function.

Other items considered

- CRM System Procurement – (Key Decision)
- Q2 Capital Monitoring 2022/23 – (Key Decision)
- Updates to Text and Date Amendments to the Local Development Scheme
- West Midlands Rail Executive Consultation
- Insurance Provision – Tender Award Approval EXEMPT (Key Decision)

3. 7th December 2022 Cabinet Meeting

a) Transforming Nuneaton and Transforming Bedworth Governance Arrangements – Business and Regeneration – Councillor K. Wilson (Key Decision)

Cabinet agreed the proposed new governance structure which will provide a robust approach to decision-making and reporting for the Transforming Nuneaton and Transforming Bedworth programmes and addressed the recommendations from the peer challenge.

b) Revenue Budget 2023/24 – Finance and Corporate – Councillor S. Croft (Key Decision)

Cabinet agreed the draft position of the expected General Fund and Housing Revenue Accounts budgets for 2023/24. Cabinet noted that the Council needs to make some difficult decisions regarding services and fees in the coming months as the General Fund cannot sustain deficits of £2m per annum into the

medium term as reserve levels on the General Fund are reducing annually and little available for overspends. The HRA is also facing challenges due to cost of inflation that must be considered as part of the overall picture of the Council.

Other items considered

- Approval of Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS)
- Property Developer Wheeled Bin and Cost Adoption Update
- Future use of Keresley Community Centre
- Quarterly Review of Strategic Performance Report (Second Quarter 2022-23)
- Building Merchant Provision: Housing Revenue Account - EXEMPT
- Vehicle Replacement Procurement - EXEMPT

4. West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

In terms of items which have, or may have in the future, a direct impact on NBBC the WMCA Board meeting of 28th October 2022 considered:

- A report informing the WMCA Board of recent developments with Government around the emerging timetable for the negotiation and announcement of a Trailblazer Devolution Deal (TDD) with the West Midlands. The report sought the WMCA Board's endorsement, in principle, of the proposed timeline as intimated by Government, albeit noting that formal confirmation of the timeline was still awaited from Government and that this may be affected by rapidly evolving events at the time of the Board Meeting. The TDD relates to all geographic areas of the Combined Authority and the implications, opportunities, and observations of non-Constituent Authorities have been incorporated in the development of the TDD proposals.
- A report providing an update on the WMCA's finances as at 31 August 2022.
- A report setting out the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) set up to look at allowances at the WMCA.

5. Conclusion

This report is presented on behalf of Cabinet, and, as always, my colleagues and I are only too happy to take any questions in relation to this report.

Councillor K. Wilson
Leader of the Council on behalf of Cabinet