

Burton Green Residents' Association

310 Cromwell Lane

Burton Green

Kenilworth CV8 1PL

Email:

13th September 2011

Dear Ms Friar,

I write on behalf of the Burton Green Residents' Association to support the setting up of a separate parish and Parish Council for Burton Green. We have recently submitted a petition signed by over 300 residents requesting this status. This followed an almost unanimous decision in favour of a petition at the Burton Green Residents' Association AGM in November 2010 when there were just two abstentions .

The community sees separate parish status as a very important step in the development of Burton Green. This is a cohesive, supportive community, with a history of taking united, proactive action to support residents and maintain the environment we cherish. In the 1980s we successfully opposed the super pit and in the late 1990s mobile phone masts. Very serious issues urgently face us in coming to terms with the implications of HS2 and the community needs an active Parish Council with its finger on the local pulse to represent us.

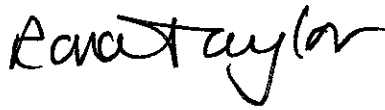
However, current difficulties are not the main motivation for a separate parish. This status is the next step in the development of our community identity and character; it is an essential part of our vision for the future. The issue has been discussed for at least twelve years and current investigations into financial matters indicate we would have a large enough precept to maintain viability. There is a strong sense of public service in Burton Green. The Village Hall, active since the 1920s, is efficiently managed by a Board of Trustees and its functions and activities are well supported. The Residents' Association, established in the 1950s, has strong support and the village school, dating from 1874, with a new Head Teacher keen on forging links with the community, is a

Chair: Rona Taylor; Vice Chair: Mike Holt; Secretaries: Janet Hickinbottom and Judi Hibberd;
Treasurer: Marlene Hills

central feature of Burton Green. I enclose a copy of the recent, 50th edition, of the Burton Green Bugle to give a flavour of Burton Green life.

A separate Parish Council would co-ordinate well with other bodies in the community and exploit and develop the strong sense of public service. The meetings of the Parish Council, hopefully held in the Village Hall, would be accessible to residents who may wish to raise issues. The Parish Council would enhance the community's ability to support residents and develop the future of Burton Green with confidence. A Burton Green Parish Council would contribute to Burton Green life being a shining example of localism in action.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rona Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Rona Taylor.

Chair of Burton Green Residents' Association

Gillian Friar

To: Kenilworth Town Council
Subject: RE: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - BURTON GREEN WARD OF STONELEIGH PARISH

From: Kenilworth Town Council [mailto:kentc@kenilworth.org]

Sent: 13 September 2011 18:08

To: Gillian Friar

Subject: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - BURTON GREEN WARD OF STONELEIGH PARISH

Dear Madam,

1. Further to your correspondence concerning the community governance review associated with the petition to establish a parish and associated council in Burton Green, the matter was considered by the Town Council at their meeting held on 8 September 2011.
2. Members have asked me to advise you that, from personal experience of conducting business with a number of those seeking the proposed change, they are fully confident that the establishment of a parish would be both beneficial and effective in its operation. Accordingly, a motion endorsing the request for the establishment of a separate Parish and Parish Council for Burton Green was approved unanimously. Please advise the review body accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

G D SYMES
Town Clerk

*Kenilworth Town Council, The Council House, Southbank Road, Kenilworth, CV8 1JZ.
Telephone and fax: 01926 859155.*

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KTC01

TC.

Gillian Friar

To: elections
Subject: RE: Establishment of a Parish and Parish Council for the area of the Burton Green Ward of Stoneleigh Parish

From: Chris Langton [mailto:chrislangton1@sky.com]
Sent: 13 September 2011 20:06
To: elections
Cc: Taylor Rona; Ann Blacklock; George Illingworth; Michael Coker; Whitehouse John
Subject: Establishment of a Parish and Parish Council for the area of the Burton Green Ward of Stoneleigh Parish

I am contacting you reference the Community Governance Review for the establishment of a separate Parish Council for Burton Green

Having been a resident of Burton Green for 27 years, I have also chaired the Residents' Association for 10 years from 2000 until 2010 as well as sitting as one of the Parish Councillors for the ward of Burton Green on the Joint Parish Council with Stoneleigh and Ashow for two terms

The current Parish which encompasses Burton Green, part of the University of Warwick, Stoneleigh and Ashow is a disparate Council which stretches over some 7 miles in a 'crescent' bordering Coventry. Although there are historic reasons for it's creation associated with the Stoneleigh estate and probably the need to achieve a critical mass, the present interests of, and influences on, the constituent parts of the Parish have diverged. Stoneleigh is a conservation area with issues associated with RASE and Coventry Airport, whereas Burton Green is dominated by issues of traffic growth, potential housing development and erosion of the Greenbelt between Coventry and Kenilworth. Frankly Burton Green has little in common today with Stoneleigh and Ashow though development of the University does have an impact. Historically the Parish Council has been dominated by the interests and issues of Stoneleigh. Originally there were 10 Councillors - 2 for Burton Green, 2 for Ashow, 4 for Stoneleigh and 2 for the University (though these positions were filled by Stoneleigh Councillors) – even though the number of electors for Burton Green and Stoneleigh were roughly the same. At the last review this imbalance was partially redressed with an increase to 14 Councillors – 4 each for Stoneleigh, Burton Green, the new ward of the University of Warwick, and 2 for Stoneleigh

Whilst this improved the situation, the fact remains that the Council is dominated by parochial issues in Stoneleigh, largely because Burton Green operates a separate Residents' Association that deals with such matters, and as a result the Parish Council never takes a strategic view.

This was demonstrated with the announcement of the proposed HS2 line which affects both communities hugely, but which the Parish Council spectacularly failed to grasp leaving HS2 opposition groups to take the lead. This was pivotal in my decision to resign.

As an elected body, a Parish Council has a critical role to play with regard to infrastructure projects such as HS2, and as such I believe it is essential for Burton Green to create its own Parish Council and responsibility for its own destiny

The Residents' Association would continue to operate and deal with parochial matters such as routine maintenance with a Parish Council taking a more strategic view. As such it would probably only need to meet bi-monthly enabling it to operate with its current share of the precept or a marginal increase.

I do not foresee any difficulties getting the requisite levels of representation on a newly formed Burton Green Parish Council – unlike the current situation where residents don't see the relevance of the Joint Parish Council

Burton Green has a strong sense of community, with many long standing residents, and a history of managing threats to our semi rural community whether it be the Coal Super Pit of the 1980's, mobile phone masts, protection of the Green Belt or indeed the current threat posed by HS2

I would implore you talk to District Councillors Ann Blacklock, George Illingworth and Michael Coker as well as County Councillor John Whitehouse who have been intimately involved with Burton Green as a community and can appraise you of their views – I have copied them on this response as well as the current chair of the Residents' Association, Rona Taylor

If there is further information you require from me please either contact me on this e-mail address or by phone on 024 7647 3319 after 6th October

Regards

Chris Langton

02476-463644.

310, Cromwell Lane,
Burton Green,
Kenilworth.

CV81PL.

Sept. 13th.

Dear Ms. Friar,

I am enclosing my response to the debate
on the separate parish council for Burton Green.

I write as a parish councillor and a member
of the Residents' Association.

Yours sincerely,
A Taylor

Response to the consultation on an independent parish for Burton Green.

Preface

Before I make this response, I ought to point out that we have not encouraged Burton Green residents to contribute to this debate. I gather that in Ashow and Stoneleigh there is some concerted action to argue against a separate parish for Burton Green – and that is understandable – but Burton Green has already made its voice heard.

At a well attended Residents' Association AGM (November 2010) the resolution to move forward towards an independent Parish Council was almost unanimously supported (two abstentions) despite a speech by Howard Baker the then chair of Stoneleigh Parish Council who gave his reasons in support of the existing structure.

Two petitions have taken place with over three hundred names on each with a number of new signatures on the second petition. The vast majority had faith in the judgement of the Residents' Association but there were a tiny few with some concerns and it is possible that some of these will respond unfavourably.

We are also aware that the governance review committee will make its decision according to the quality of the arguments rather than numbers and we are confident that we have a strong case for an independent parish.

My Background

I have lived in Cromwell Lane for thirty-six years and I am a retired schoolteacher. Like many members of our community, I have been actively involved in the service of Burton Green. In the mid 80s, I was chairman of the Mine Opposition Group and wrote the newsletter.

For the last ten years I have been a member of the Residents' Association, eventually as Treasurer, whilst for almost five years I have been a parish councillor on Stoneleigh Parish.

Also in the last eighteen months I have been an active member of the Burton Green Hs2 Action Group, I edit the *Keep Burton Green* newsletter, and am a director of Stop HS2.

My community involvement in Burton Green is not unusual and there are many families who contribute as much to village life.

Burton Green Community

Burton Green is a real community well capable of developing its own parish council. There are a number of factors which are responsible for this strong sense of community. Geographically we are compact which encourages interaction whilst the existence of our Primary School has brought parents together. We have an incredibly well run village hall which offers a multitude of activities. The most recent was the creation of a history club last week with a brief to produce a booklet on Burton Green.

Another important feature is that so many people who moved here many years ago (or who were born here) choose to stay in Burton Green. We are very proud of our village and when we face dangers we unite with considerable professionalism.

In the mid 80s, the Mine Opposition Group enjoyed a high reputation. Later we fought off the masts on the water tower and now we have a most active anti-HS2 Action Group which is highly regarded all along the proposed line. We have raised considerable funds and have played a leading part in financing stalls at the Conservative and Labour conferences.

Another central feature of village life is the Residents' Association and we have just recently produced our 50th Bugle. Most people are very proud of this body and all our events are well supported. We have twelve members and at the last meeting we had more people in attendance than at the Stoneleigh Parish Meeting. Furthermore we are supported by outstanding councillors who are always ready to help and are seen by many residents as friends, which is perhaps not the normal scenario for councillors.

Over the years the Residents' Association has been an integral part of Burton Green. In recent months, we have played an important role in assisting the District Council in defeating a caravan expansion scheme and, at present, are heavily involved in helping those unfortunate elderly people who are in danger of losing their links with Kenilworth because of changes to the bus service. If there is a big society (and I dislike this expression intensely) you can find it in Burton Green and we certainly have the expertise and commitment to govern ourselves.

So why change the system?

For years there has been unease with the parish arrangements. About twelve years ago, there were efforts to become independent but they failed. Just over five years ago there was an intensive debate about going independent in which I participated as a member of the Residents' Association. There was considerable support for this motion but, in the end it was not pushed through because there was a fear that not enough people would come forward to stand as members, especially as so few people had stepped forward to become parish councillors before.

It is now argued by some people outside Burton Green that our decision to withdraw has been caused by the failure to hold parish meetings in the village hall. This, of course, is nonsense. Stoneleigh Parish did hold meetings at the village hall previously but there was still a feeling of estrangement with Stoneleigh as illustrated by the two major initiatives to become independent. It should be remembered at this time that Stoneleigh was superior, Burton Green was, and still is, a ward of Stoneleigh and only sent two representatives as opposed to the four for Stoneleigh, even though Burton Green was larger and contributed more to the precept.

Historically the evidence is strong that there were significant concerns about our links with Stoneleigh.

My experience as a parish councillor

Around five years ago, Burton Green increased its membership to four to achieve parity with Stoneleigh. Unfortunately few residents wanted to stand as councillors, although we were never short of volunteers for the Residents' Association, and I only joined as a favour to our then Chair, Chris Langton.

The failure to attract members to serve on the parish council from the mainstream of community life has created problems. Some of our councillors have never taken part in Residents' Association events or public meetings on High Speed Railways. In some ways they have been invisible and, at the important meeting last November on the subject of an independent parish, I was the only one present; a fact which was registered at the meeting.

I have regularly attended parish meetings. Though I have considerable respect for the members there, from the point of view of Burton Green, it has been quite bluntly a waste of time.

The problem is fundamental : Burton Green has a Residents' Association which deals with all problems, whether minor or major, in cooperation with elected members.

In the five years I have been a parish councillor, I have only had to talk on three issues concerning the interests of Burton Green. I felt it necessary to intervene in the debate about the development of King's Hill in the Core Strategy Policy, HS2 and, of course, the question of an independent parish. Mind you, I often contributed to the debate because I learned the intricacies of Stoneleigh; litter-bins, telephone kiosks, too much traffic on the roads etc, etc.

The problem is obvious, Stoneleigh doesn't have a residents' association so all its business goes through the parish council. Instead of being a body for strategic debate, it became the preserve of Stoneleigh pump politics.

Moreover we are a disparate group with different agendas. The University is totally different from other groups in its nature and outlook. Certainly any expansion of the campus would generate fierce concerns in Stoneleigh over traffic problems and, as for elections, I will leave that topic to Bertie and George to develop. Burton Green has more common interests with the University, but their decision to maintain a neutral stance towards HS2 reflects the tensions.

Stoneleigh also has different geographical priorities. Considerable time was spent on Coventry airport and, although Burton Green would unite against any incursions into the Green Belt, it was less of an issue than, perhaps, the expansion of Birmingham airport.

Of course, the greatest difference centred on the last Government's core strategy initiative. Warwick District Council was forced to make a difficult decision and they chose King's Hill rather than development in the Crackley gap. Fortunately (or unfortunately) the Government was defeated and the issue was never put to the test but if it had come to a crunch, which development would Stoneleigh have supported, King's Hill, Finham or Westwood Heath? The point I am making is that, though we were bound together, our priorities could be very different.

Burton Green is a cohesive community with considerable commitment and professionalism. To some extent Stoneleigh is dysfunctional. I wasn't around when the transport initiative was proposed to reduce traffic through Stoneleigh but I have been informed that it floundered on the rocks. The same tensions have emerged in recent months when confronting the hooligan problem and play equipment. I am still amazed that the equipment almost ended in temporary accommodation at the Stoneleigh National Agricultural Centre.

However to be fair the recent appointment of two new high-calibre Stoneleigh councillors augurs well for their future and, who knows, they may be able to unite their residents and move towards a residents' association.

Yet the inadequacies of the present system are not the main reasons for our desire to become independent. First and foremost is the aspiration for Burton Green to rule itself. However another significant reason has emerged and that is HS2.

The Impact of HS2

In many ways, the threat of HS2 has had a positive effect on the community. It has brought new blood, some younger, into the mainstream. There is tremendous pride in Burton Green which will continue for many years when people such as myself depart from the scene.

However the negative effects of HS2 bring a greater urgency to our case. It may be that this unnecessary project will not go through but we have to prepare for the worst. Not only will the line encourage further incursions into the greenbelt, not only will our village hall probably be demolished (and where will its replacement be situated?) but above all how will Burton Green cope with its construction? With these threats an independent parish would be essential.

We need to build foundations now so that we are in a position to defend our interests later.

Practical Difficulties

We are aware of the implications of this decision and we have been in contact with Weston under Wetherley who became an independent parish. We feel that, with the present level of precept, we can balance the books. Much will depend on the employment conditions of the clerk and careful budgeting. It is important to remember that Burton Green receives less

money from the present system than, for instance, Ashow. For me financial issues are not the critical factor for our proposal but certainly some of our residents are unhappy with this situation.

We recognise that the reserves issue could be contentious but hopefully an amicable solution can be found.

We are very aware of the problems that this may bring to the rest of the current parish and, certainly, the best scenario would be to combine resources using the same clerk. The present clerk does not wish to assume more responsibilities but perhaps this may be a solution for the future. Possibly with political boundaries being redrawn there could be scope for a radical rethink.

However Burton Green has to confront its own problems and I would like to conclude with this statement:

The tasks we may face in the future are intimidating but at least we have a talented and cohesive community, supported by outstanding councillors. Even if HS2 is adopted and even if the village hall is demolished, with an independent parish working in harmony with the Residents' Association, the sense of community which has been a feature of Burton Green for many years, will hold firm.

Archie Taylor MEd. Parish Councillor.

I apologise if my letter is too wordy but this is a brief summary

1. My sense of commitment to the community is shared by many others.
2. There is a strong sense of community caused by a number of factors which has led to Burton Green residents playing major roles in action groups against the superpit and HS2.
3. The desire to break away from Stoneleigh which has existed for years can now be achieved.
4. The inadequacies of the present system
 - a. It is a disparate system with different priorities sometimes conflicting.
 - b. Since there is no Residents' Association in Stoneleigh discussion mainly centres on their affairs.
 - c. Burton Green is a cohesive community, Stoneleigh can be dysfunctional.
5. The effects of HS2
 - a. Some positive - more people are now involved.
 - b. The need to build strong foundations in case HS2 is built.
6. Practical difficulties do exist but we are confident that we can overcome them.

310, Cromwell Lane,
Burton Green,
Kenilworth CV8 1PZ

13th Sept 2011

Dear Ms Friar,

I write to express my support for the setting up of a separate parish and Parish Council for Burton Green ending its status as a ward of Stoneleigh Parish.

I have lived in Burton Green for 36 years and, like most residents, plan to stay in the village. I greatly value the almost tangible sense of community here and it has been a privilege to contribute to this over the years.

I see a separate parish status as an important step in the identity of Burton Green. It would be a vehicle for closely representing and supporting residents. Proactive in identifying residents' needs, the Parish Council would be innovative in meeting these needs.

As a long standing Burton Green resident, I have never felt represented by the Parish of Stoneleigh. I am confident the Burton Green

Parish Council would be the democratic voice of the community, maximising opportunities to have a real impact on residents' lives. In common with more than 300 fellow residents, I twice signed a petition in favour of a separate parish and Parish Council for Burton Green and I look forward to democracy being supported by the decision makers.

Yours sincerely,

Rona Taylor

1st September 2011



8B
Ashow
Kenilworth
CV8 2LE

Gillian Friar
Electoral Services Manager
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
Royal Leamington Spa
CV32 5HZ

Dear Ms Friar,

Re: Burton Green Parish Council?

For the reasons set out in Mrs Mackenzie's note to Ashow residents (copy attached) we wish to register our objection to the proposed new PC at Burton Green.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "TA" followed by a large, sweeping loop.

Timothy Allen

Ashow Residents

You will have received a notice from WDC regarding an application from Burton Green to form its own Parish Council. It is currently a Ward of Stoneleigh Parish Council (consisting of Stoneleigh, Ashow, Burton Green and the University).

Burton Green Councillors have been unhappy about the attention that their issues receive at PC meetings. As you know in Ashow we have our village meeting which is always well attended and issues specific to us are dealt with there. Similarly Burton Green has an active Residents Association. Unfortunately Stoneleigh do not have either and consequently some very minor issues which are specific to Stoneleigh have to be dealt with at the PC meetings. It is hoped that the new Stoneleigh Councillors will move to remedy this situation.

I have discussed this with Howard Baker, Chairman of the PC and set out his view below;

"Ashow residents should be encouraged to object to the formation of a separated Burton Green Parish Council. It is financially wrong, same population supporting two Councils. Bureaucratically wrong, if Burton Green residents want the Parish Council to be doing something for Burton Green then it is their councillors job to raise the subject, get agreement and get on doing the necessary. Their objective is to turn their residents association, which works very well, into their Parish Council."

We must also consider the University which is a good neighbour but whose large student population is automatically registered to vote. Realistically on some issues their relative youth and the temporary nature of their residence may well give them a different view point from more permanent residents. If Burton Green leave the PC it will unbalance the population of the Stoneleigh Parish Council.

Burton Green and Stoneleigh are both directly affected by HS2 and should be pooling their information and working together. This is not a time for fragmenting. We want to be a large enough voice to be heard.

For these reasons we feel that it is better for Ashow if Burton Green remains a Ward of Stoneleigh Parish Council.

Please consider submitting a representation to

Gillian Friar

Electoral Services Manager

Riverside House

Milverton Hill

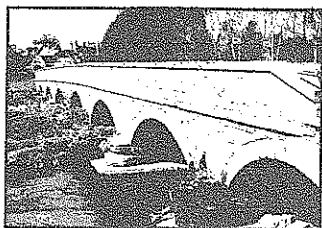
Royal Leamington Spa

CV32 5HZ

elections@warwickdc.gov.uk

BY 16 SEPTEMBER 2011

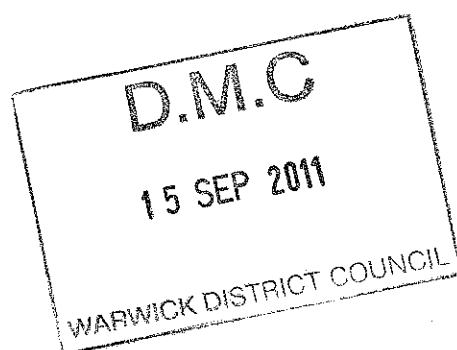
Jane Mackenzie



Ashow, Burton Green & Stoneleigh Joint Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs P. A. Maddison

Gillian Friar
Electoral Services Manager
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
Leamington Spa
CV32 5HZ



14th September 2011

Dear Gillian Friar

Ashow, Burton Green and Stoneleigh Joint Parish Council

Burton Green Ward of Stoneleigh Parish

These are the comments from the Joint Parish Council in respect of Burton Green Ward forming their own Parish Council.

Ashow Ward

The Councillor of Ashow is not in favour of the proposal that Burton Green should form a new Parish Council for the following reasons:

- Ashow and Burton Green both have very active and effective residents associations. Unfortunately Stoneleigh does not and this has led to discussions of minor issues affecting Stoneleigh taking up a disproportionate amount of time at Parish Council meetings. Clearly this is not satisfactory and the answer should be that the residents of Stoneleigh should form a residents association to deal with their issues. Village housekeeping can be discussed at a residents association and then appropriate issues should be passed on to be discussed and actioned at the Parish Council where there is input from a larger group of Councillors from a wide variety of Backgrounds and experiences.
- Ashow village has a lot in common with Burton Green and Stoneleigh as we are the "satellite" villages in the "green belt" between Leamington Spa, Kenilworth and Coventry. We need to protect identities whilst preserving our communication links with these larger communities. At the present time both Burton Green and Stoneleigh are blighted by the prospect of HS2. This is not a time to fragment. We should be pooling ideas and efforts.
- It will be more costly for the same population to support two Parish Councils. Any increase in costs should be avoided at a time of cut backs.

Please reply to: PO Box 3230, Warwick, CV34 6WR

- The current Parish Council meetings attract reports in person from many of our local Councillors. This is a very productive means of passing information and views to and from the District Council and County Council for the whole area. If separate Parishes are formed then these Councillors may be unable to attend as regularly due to time pressures.
- Warwick University contributes a significant proportion of the population of the current Parish. This would increase if Burton Green formed its own Council. Whilst the University is a good neighbour, it would be a concern that this imbalance would not be good for Ashow and Stoneleigh.
- The way forward seems to be to "cluster" parishes not for further fragmenting as suggested in the Localism Bill.

Burton Green Ward – Councillors Comments

- As representatives of Burton Green, we support the desire of the people in Burton Green which has been shown in two petitions and at a well-attended Annual General Meeting in 2010 to form an independent parish. As Burton Green Parish Councillors we have a duty to support the community's residents in their desire for their own parish.
- At a Residents' Association meeting on Monday 12th September 2011 the decision to move towards an independent parish was confirmed by members of the Residents Association present.

Stoneleigh Ward – Councillors Comments

- Stoneleigh Councillors think that the decision for Burton Green to have their own Parish Council must rest with the local community. They will be sorry to see them leave the current Joint Parish Council but the Government's emphasis on localism seems to encourage such thinking.
- The concern is what this might lead to if there's a similar feeling in the University or Stoneleigh and Ashow for if we all go down a similar road I think that the viability of the resulting Parish Councils could be questionable.
- There is also concern that it can encourage a very insular outlook with communities just looking after their own interests rather than considering the needs of the wider local area.

University Ward – Councillors Comments

- We enjoy having representation from Burton Green on the Parish Council and we value the contribution that Burton Green Councillors make at each meeting.
- We respect the democratic process and we feel that the decision for Burton Green to form its own Parish Council must be decided on the strength of the argument and the strength of local feeling.

Yours sincerely



Pat Maddison – Parish Clerk

Gillian Friar

To: elections
Subject: RE: Burton Green Council

From: William Blagburn [mailto:blagburn7@hotmail.co.uk]
Sent: 27 August 2011 17:06
To: elections
Subject: Burton Green Council

Dear Gillian Friar

re Burton Green Council proposal

We thank you for the information regarding the proposal for Burton Green to have its own Council.

We agree that if their residents feel that it would be an improvement on the current arrangement it should go ahead.

It would be a good idea if a map was produced of the whole area of the current Council so that all residents could see how the communities are spread out and the numbers of residents involved. The map shows how small the area it is.

At present there is little contact between the area and the other villages due to them being so far apart.

The Warwick University residents already outnumber the local villages and this will be exaggerated when Burton Green has a parish council of its own.

There should be future consideration given to the continuing increase in the size of Warwick University. At present part of the University is in Warwick District Council and part in Coventry City. It could be a good idea if the whole University and its residential students became a Ward within Coventry City with the boundaries of the city and elections being changed to suite?

It could overcome the problem of Baginton and Stoneleigh residents being outnumbered by the University students. Both parties haveing their very different needs and each could then select their own Councillor on their respective Council

If the boundary was changed to include the University within Coventry it could also mean that planning of its continuing enlargement and the needs for improvement to local roads would have to be included within the one planning department instead of the current two department trying to deal with the problem.

Yours sincerely

Will Blagburn
7 Stoneleigh Close
Stoneleigh CV8 3DE

Trinity Cottage

ASHOW

Nr. Kenilworth CV8 2LE

Tel: 01926 857920

7 September 2011

Ms. G. Friar
Electroal Services Manager
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
Leamington Spa CV32 5HZ

Dear Madam

BURTON GREEN'S APPLICATION TO FORM ITS OWN PARISH COUNCIL

I refer to the above Application and I object to the formation of a separate Burton Green Parish Council.

In these straightened times it does seem financially wrong for the same population to be supporting two Parish Councils.

I am aware that Ashow and Burton Green both have good Residents Associations and it seem totally unnecessary to split off Burton Green from the existing arrangement, which appears to work to most peoples satisfaction.

Another point that should be made is that the University with its large student population is also entitled to vote on Parish matters and it is felt that on some issues they, as a relatively migrant student population may have a different view point from more permanent residents and if Burton Green were to be separated as proposed this will, or could, severely unbalance the population of Stoneleigh Parish Council.

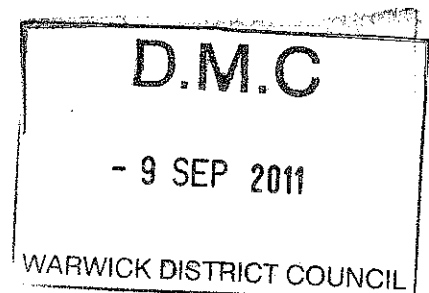
It is worth also mentioning that all three Parishes are directly affected by HS2 and are totally against the proposal, which to most people seems a waste of money and also has considerable side-effects on local populations, including Coventry and Rugby, who have a much disturbed rail service.

I therefore conclude by confirming my opinion that Burton Green should remain a Ward of the existing Stoneleigh Parish Council and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



M.J. COTTON JP FRICS



Gillian Friar

To: elections
Subject: RE: FAO Gillian Friar re Burton Green

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Mackenzie [mailto:rdmackenzie@mac.com]

Sent: 04 September 2011 19:25

To: elections

Subject: FAO Gillian Friar re Burton Green

Dear Ms Green

I would like to comment on the proposal that Burton Green should form a new Parish Council.

I am not in favour of this for the following reasons.

1. Ashow and Burton Green both have very active and effective residents associations. Unfortunately Stoneleigh does not and this has led to discussion of minor issues affecting Stoneleigh taking up a disproportionate amount of time at Parish Council meetings. Clearly this is not satisfactory and the answer should be that the residents of Stoneleigh should form a residents association to deal with their issues. Village housekeeping can be discussed at a residents association and then appropriate issues should be passed on to be discussed and actioned at the Parish Council where there is input from a larger group of Councillors from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences.
2. I live in Ashow and feel that we have a lot in common with Stoneleigh and Burton Green as we are the "satellite" villages in the "green belt" between Leamington Spa, Kenilworth and Coventry. We need to protect our identities whilst preserving our communication links with these larger communities. At the present time both Burton Green and Stoneleigh are blighted by the prospect of HS2. This is not a time to fragment. We should be pooling ideas and efforts.
3. It will be more costly for the same population to support two Parish Councils. Any increase in costs should be avoided at a time of cut backs.
4. The current Parish Council meetings attract reports in person from many of our local Councillors. This is a very productive means of passing information and views to and from the District Council for the whole area. If separate Parishes are formed then these Councillors may be unable to attend as regularly due to time pressures.
5. Warwick University contributes a significant proportion of the population of the current Parish. This would increase if Burton Green formed its own Council. Whilst the University is a good neighbour, it would be a concern that this imbalance would not be good for Ashow and Stoneleigh.

Kind regards

Jane Mackenzie

Ashow Parish Councillor

Gillian Friar

To: Gillian Friar
Subject: RE: Application from Burton Green to form its own Parish Council

From: Tina O'Brien [mailto:tina@Kundert.co.uk]
Sent: 01 September 2011 17:23
To: elections
Subject: Re: Application from Burton Green to form its own Parish Council

For the Attention of Gillian Friar

Dear Ms. Friar,

I am writing to you as a resident of Ashow to object to the above proposal. Currently Ashow has its own Parish Meeting and I understand that Burton Green also has a Residents Association and I believe that these two bodies can easily make representation through the existing Stoneleigh Parish Council (consisting of Stoneleigh, Ashow, Burton Green and the University). I believe that the Burton Green Parish Councillors feel that too much weight is given at Council Meetings to Stoneleigh affairs. I appreciate that Stoneleigh does not have its own Residents Association or Parish Meeting as previously mentioned but it is clearly for the existing Burton Green Councillors to raise Burton Green issues at the existing Parish Council rather than to strike out on a limb.

At the present moment the University is included within the Stoneleigh Parish Council and if Burton Green were to be hived off I feel that the views of residents of Stoneleigh and Ashow could be overwhelmed by the large voting population of the University.

Burton Green, Stoneleigh and Ashow do have many common interests in particular their opposition to HS2. The stronger voice can be heard if the Stoneleigh Parish Council remains as it is today.

Will you please record my strong opposition to the application from Burton Green.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Shrimpton

KUNDERT Solicitors LLP,
3 Copthall House, Station Square, Coventry, CV1 2FD
DX: 11246 - COVENTRY 1
Tel: 024 76 227741 Fax: 024 76 251417
<http://www.kundert.co.uk>

**To the Chairman and Members of the Regulatory Committee of the
Warwick District Council**

**The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
Proposed Creation of a Parish of Burton Green and Parish Council.**

Introduction.

I refer to the valid petition received by the Warwick District Council in respect of the establishment of a Parish and Parish Council for the area of Burton Green. I respectfully request that you consider my concerns against the proposal at this time, for the reasons I set out below.

I have been a resident of Burton Green for almost twenty nine years.

Background

The village of Burton Green has an organisation known as the Burton Green Residents' Association that has represented the interests of the village over many years. At present the Association is able to elect four members to the Ashow, Burton Green and Stoneleigh Joint Parish Council. The Joint Parish Council has a membership of 14. I understand that the post of Chair is rotated amongst the constituent groups.

It is open for all members to raise matters of concern at the meetings, not only by way of the agenda, but by the Any Other Business option at the discretion of the Chairman.

The agenda for Parish Council meetings are published and may be viewed on the notice board in the village of Burton Green.

Meetings of the Council are held at Stoneleigh, Ashow and the University of Warwick. I understand that it is not possible to hold meeting at Burton Green because of accommodation issues.

Additionally, the Chairman allows public involvement in the meetings, subject to the Council's Standing Orders.

I have attended many of these meetings as a member of the public and on occasions have been allowed to ask questions and raise matters with the Council

I am aware that on occasions monies have been allocated by the Parish Council to activities in Burton Green.

During my attendances, I have found that very few issues are raised by Burton Green elected members. The view of one member of the Burton Green Residents' Association is that matters concerning Burton Green are dealt with by the Association and that the present Parish Council is irrelevant to Burton Green, thus the application for separate status.

To my knowledge there has never been a motion of NO CONFIDENCE made in respect of the Parish Council.

Reasons for my objection the approval of the Petition at this time.

- **Proposed Planning and Development Changes to responsibilities of Councils and Parish Councils**

- (a) Housing Development
- (b) Protection of Green Belt Land.
- (c) Consideration of effect of Wind Farms and Mobile phone masts on the environment.
- (d) Infrastructure requirements.
- (e) Liquor Licensing.

This will bring a need for consistency on dealing with these matters as well as a professional understanding of the legalities of issues. Parish Councils may well have to seek professional and legal advice on a more regular basis that would be costly.

- **Costs.**

There would be additional costs if separate Parish Council were established. Such costs as salary for the Clerk, Insurance and professional advice. At a time of severe budgetary restrictions, these additional costs should be avoided.

- **A review of the workings of the Joint Parish Council.**

The working practices of the Joint Parish Council should be reviewed to see if it could be more aware of the total needs of its constituents. As I have already indicated, there has not been a vote of no confidence in the Joint Parish Council and Burton Green Representatives do not appear to make full use of the Council.

- **The current proposals for the HS2.**

The proposed HS2 will affect Stoneleigh and Ashow as well as Burton Green. It might be considered more effective for joint endeavours to deal with public concerns. Many problems from such proposals may need joint effort.

Conclusions

I believe that the matter could be resolved with the present Joint Parish Council. I am of the mind that it can reflect the interests of the community and would be efficient and convenient.

I would suggest that the matter be deferred until the above matters have been examined in depth.

Thank you for considering my submission

A.G. SMITH. 125 Cromwell Lane. Burton Green, Coventry. CV4 8 AN

5 Long Row,
Ashow,
CV8 2LE
01926 854130

11 September 2011

Gillian Friar
Electoral Services Manager
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
Royal Leamington Spa
CV32 5HZ

Dear Gillian

I am writing to you to formally object to the formation of a separated Burton Green Parish Council. Burton Green residents seems to be wanting to turn their residents association, (which works very well) into their Parish Council. There are two main reasons why this is wrong:

1. It is financially wrong to have the same population supporting two Councils.
2. It is bureaucratically wrong, if Burton Green residents want the Parish Council to do something for Burton Green then it is their councillors who should to raise the subject, get agreement and get on implementing it.

In addition, if Burton Green leave the PC, this will unbalance Stoneleigh Parish Council as it will take with it a large student population who automatically registered to vote.

Burton Green and Stoneleigh are both directly affected by HS2 and should be pooling their information and working together. This is not a time for fragmenting. We want to be a large enough voice to be heard.

For these reasons we feel that it is better for Ashow if Burton Green remains a Ward of Stoneleigh Parish Council.

Yours sincerely

Sylvia and Jeremy Wyatt