

Cheltenham Borough Council

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I do not wish to suggest a radical change in the ward boundaries in Cheltenham but I wish to make the following four points 1. I believe that 40 councillors are excessive for a borough council with the population and budget the size of Cheltenham. I would suggest either 20 wards each electing one councillor every four years or alternatively 10 wards (similar to the County Council double sized wards) electing two councillors in a two year cycle. The move to Cabinet local government, replacing councillor committees, has made the number of current councillors superfluous. In addition the expense of 40 councillors on a small borough council budget is difficult to justify. 2. The current arrangement splits distinct local communities between two wards in a number of cases. Firstly the Hester's Way ward excludes a significant part of Hester's Way community, including a key focal point - Hester's Way Primary School. The northern section of Hester's Way is within Springbank ward, while to the south Hester's Way ward includes a rural area towards Bamfurlong which has no connection with Hester's Way. Secondly the St Peters ward excludes a key section of the St Peters community which lies between Swindon Road and Tewkesbury Road, and is labelled on your guidance ward map as St Peters. This area is currently within Swindon Village ward although it is some distance from Swindon Village and has a very different socioeconomic character to the rest of Swindon Village ward. Thirdly, the Oakley ward excludes a key section of the Oakley community in the Redmarley Road estate which was built on the former GCHQ site known as Oakley, but is located in Battledown ward. The socioeconomic character of the area is in line with the Oakley ward and is in marked contrast to the rest of Battledown ward. 3. There are at least two current wards which cover a significant geographic area and as a result do not have either a sense of community or Firstly, the current St Peters ward stretches from the Lower High Street in the town centre to Princess Elizabeth Way in Hester's Way, and also includes an area of St Marks near the railway station, and as a result the ward includes different communities with very different needs. As this is the largest ward in Cheltenham, I would propose that ward is reduced in size and based around the St Peters community area. Secondly, the current Charlton Park ward stretches from the area close to the town centre by College Road through Charlton Park and Bafford to the rural area of Hartley Lane within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These are also very different communities and I would propose that inner urban section of Charlton Park ward is moved an adjoining ward such as College or All Saints. 4. Significant development is proposed for the western edge of Cheltenham and the new ward structure should take account of the planned housing in this area.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded