

Chesterfield Labour Party response to LGBC consultation which closes on 9 May 2022

Chesterfield Labour Party thanks the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) for its continuing efforts to seek public views on the new Warding patterns for Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC). We note that the prevailing COVID situation during most of your review has prevented your visiting the Borough thus making responses from people who live and work in the area more vital. Consequently, we have, for a third time during the review, taken considerable time to consider your proposals and consult widely with residents prior to submitting this response to your latest consultation on Warding patterns.

Proposals for the North of Chesterfield:

Overall, we support the proposals included in this consultation for the north of Chesterfield.

Dunston Ward and Whittington Moor Ward

The Labour Party, including CBC Labour Group, are pleased to see that the proposals for both these Wards largely follows our submission to the LGBC in January 2022. Whittington Moor is now united as indeed is the community that lies either side of Littlemoor neighbourhood shopping area. Other key services including a GP surgery, library, vets and a car servicing centre can also be found in the vicinity. We therefore support these proposals.

However, we were surprised that our suggestion of moving the border between Brockwell and Whittington Moor further west along Newbold Road to bring all of Tapton View Road and Edinburgh Road together (whilst not creating a voter number imbalance) to simplify the boundaries and ensure that all of Tapton View Road is in the same ward were not adopted. The proposals we have put forward below for Spire Ward and Brockwell Ward provide the opportunity for this still to be done.

Proposals for the South and Central part of Chesterfield

We have several concerns about the proposals being consulted on for this part of the Borough which are described below and we suggest a solution which encompasses the whole of the area covered by your proposed Brockwell, Hasland and Spire wards without requiring alterations to those Wards which you have stated you need no further evidence submitting.

Hasland Ward

The proposals we put forward to the LGBC for the Hasland Ward in July 2021 found a lot of public support because for the first time in a generation the whole of the Hasland community would be brought together. Hasland is a thriving community on the south side of Chesterfield with a clear identity which is focused around the centrally located shopping parade including a petrol station and car servicing businesses.

A wide range of community organisations such as scouting/guiding, faith groups, afterschool clubs, The Friends of Hasland Community Hub and Eastwood Park operate from buildings such as the village hall, workingmen's club and youth centre all of which are in the centre of the Ward we propose. Hasland is well served with 2 GP's surgeries. Furthermore the no.54 bus links all parts of the Ward together.

Hasland is a self-contained community where it is possible to get everything you need without leaving its boundaries. We feel our proposal recognises this and is within the population ratio of people to councillors you are seeking to achieve. (See data and map from the Labour Group submission of July 2021)

In your first proposals which you consulted on in the latter part of 2021 you linked the core of the Spital settlement with Hasland. We initially accepted this based on your argument that you were proposing this to create electoral equality across Wards. However, you also value strong community links which we feel in our Hasland Ward proposal is very strong.

In your current proposals you have replaced Spital with Hady which we do not agree with. Firstly, there is no direct bus route between Hady and Hasland. The road you refer to in your consultation documentation between Hady and Hasland is narrow and difficult to navigate due to parked cars. It also lacks a footpath in parts forcing pedestrians to cross the road at a point where there is poor visibility for both them and drivers. Apart from secondary aged children attending school in Hasland both Spital and Hady identify with the Town Centre with there being clear road, bus and walking routes with the town centre as a result. People in Hady and Spital also access GP's services overall in the town centre.

Therefore, we do not support your proposals to link Hasland with either Spital or Hady. Instead, we ask you to reconsider our proposal for Hasland Ward which we submitted in July 2021.

We also believe that there are strong links between Spital and Hady and that they should be located within the same Ward. A point we return to in our discussion of Spire Ward.

Spire Ward

We do not agree with your current proposal for a new Spire Ward which now unfortunately looks as if it is made up of parts that would not fit into any other plan. Therefore, we propose to strengthen this Ward by uniting the town centre with all the communities that it most closely serves.

As we have identified above, Spital and Hady have close connections to each other with both primary and secondary aged children attending the same schools as well as walking and bus routes connecting them together and then onwards into the Town Centre. Both these communities access key services within the Town centre including GPs surgeries and shops. It would therefore make sense for them to be in the same Ward as the town centre.

Stonegravels is another area which identifies closely with the Town Centre, which is within comfortable walking distance or a short bus ride on two routes (25 & 90). Residents access essential services in the town centre such as GP services and shopping. All these services fall predominantly in the new Ward of Spire. You have partially recognised this in your proposal bringing the area from Holywell Cross (Donut Roundabout) [OS map ref. SK383443 77333 E438343 N371332] north on the east side of Sheffield Road (B6077) to the Council offices on Stonegravels Lane [OS SK38476 72495 E438476 N372494] in doing so you have cut the Stonegravels community into two parts. The streets of Newlandale, Brunswick Street, Higher Albert Street, St Helens Street, Victoria Street, Abercrombie Street on the opposite side of the B6077 are also part of Stonegravels. Yet they have been placed in the Brockwell Ward despite having nothing in common with most of your proposed Brockwell Ward. This is especially true as Brockwell and Loundsley Green areas in the west are mostly suburban family homes with large gardens and driveways built from late 1960's onwards.

Newlandale is an early 1960's council development of one and two bedroom flats originally built to accommodate people moved out of substandard housing in the area. Stonegravels is a very built-up area with mostly Victorian terraces which front straight on to the pavement. In terms of housing, it is among the some of the poorest with high rates of deprivation in Chesterfield.

We therefore propose that the whole of Stonegravels is moved into the Spire Ward.

The final area that we would build into the Spire Ward lies to the west of the Town Hall [SK379773 71228 E437972 N371227]. This can be achieved by drawing a line from the West Bars roundabout [SK37663 71061 E437663 N371061] up the west side of Foljambe Road around the ends of Alexandra Road West and Springbank Road joining Ashgate Road and taking the line behind the properties on the east side of Fairfield Road left along the centre of Hawkesley Avenue and then down the back of the houses on the west side of Cromwell Road. Right at the end of Cromwell Road down Newbold Road. This is the boundary line you proposed between the Spire and Brockwell Wards in your published proposals for the late 2021 consultation. The housing in this area is predominantly of Victorian and Edwardian era with some more modern in fill.

In summary in its entirety our proposal creates a central Ward for Chesterfield Borough Council called Spire. This would be the first time in more than a generation that everyone who lived in or close to Chesterfield Town Centre were brought together in one Ward.

- This is important because the people who would live in this new central Ward have strong links to Chesterfield Town Centre. They all live within comfortable walking distance or on a direct bus route of less than 10 minutes journey time from the centre.
- Consequently, they access essential services such as GP practices in the Town Centre and shop there.
- They choose to live in/close to the town centre so that they can easily access the cultural, leisure and entertainment that is provided there.
- Also, the housing they live in is similar, primarily Victorian / Edwardian villas with some small pockets of late 20th and early 21st century in fill on land vacated by industry and commerce.

We feel there is a strong sense of community among those people who identify with the town centre as we have described above and therefore, they should come together in one Ward.

In our proposal Spire Ward would have sufficient population (5823 in 2023) to be a three member Ward. There is also a strong argument (see Chesterfield Borough council's submission to the first stage of the review on council size) that given the geographical spread of the Ward and the pockets of deprivation linked primarily to housing there is a need for three members to create capacity to cover the needs of the residents.

Brockwell Ward

Our main opposition to the Brockwell Ward is that it split the centre of Chesterfield into two halves linking the western side with Loundsley Green and Brockwell which are communities with a different focus, housing style and layout. The eastern end had nothing in common with the western end.

By taking the town centre focused areas out we have created a two member Brockwell Ward which will serve a predominately suburban area where the people have more in common. For instance, there is a shared bus route (Stagecoach 39) and the children attend the same primary schools, Brockwell Infant & Junior School [SK35636 72149 E435635 N372148] which whilst in Brockwell is part of the Loundsley Green Phase 2 estate.

We also note that this proposal for Brockwell Ward matches your proposal for Brockwell Ward published for consultation late 2021. Therefore, we have not included a map with the submission for this Ward.

Attachments

Map showing proposed amendments for Hasland Ward

Map showing proposed amendments for Spire Ward

END

Chesterfield Borough Council**Personal Details:**

Name: Tricia Gilby
E-mail: Tricia.Gilby@chesterfield.gov.uk
Postcode: S43 1QU
Organisation Name: ChesterfieldBC Labour Group

Comment text:

Please see attached documents from Cllr Tricia Gilby, Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1652109977_Chesterfield+Labour+Party+response+to+LGBC+consultation+9+May+2022+FINAL.pdf)

Chesterfield Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name: Tricia Gilby
E-mail: Tricia.Gilby@chesterfield.gov.uk
Postcode: S43 1QU
Organisation Name: ChesterfieldBC Labour Group

Comment text:

Please see supporting evidence from Cllr Tricia Gilby, Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded