

Chesterfield Liberal Democrats support the Boundary Commission proposals of March 2022, both for the 11 Wards where you indicate you have settled your proposals and the 5 where a further short consultation has been undertaken.

Your response to resident's views over where Spital should be located (in Spire rather than Hasland) is a welcome reflection of community identity. It is also a reflection of the longstanding historical link between Spital (starting with the medieval Hospital that gave Spital its name) and the Town Centre area.

The proposal to move the estate, bounded by Ringwood Avenue and Highfield Lane, into Dunston breaks with longstanding practice. That area has never been part of Dunston and always part of Moor Ward. However, unless local residents have raised objections, it makes sense in a purely geographical way. The estate has more obvious links in that direction, across the currently split St John's Road boundary and via the Littlemoor shopping centre, than it does with the Sheffield Road area of the current Moor Ward or with the parts of the current St Helens Ward that are to be included in the new Whittington Moor Ward. On the other hand the secondary school on Highfield Lane serves and links the communities of the current estate (in Moor Ward) with the community in St Helens, so there are considerations pointing in both directions.

We welcome the new Brockwell proposals for all the reasons we previously put forward and which you have accepted. Speaking at a personal level, I have lived in Brockwell Ward and community for 36 years. To my family the initial proposal to move our street into a Spire Ward linked with the other side of the Town Centre seemed illogical to say the least. For example, I used to walk my children (now adults) around the corner from Cromwell Road to Badger Park (off Newbold Back Lane) and now do the same with my granddaughter. The original proposals to drive an arbitrary line between next door streets, that have always been in Brockwell, made no community sense at all. The newly proposed Brockwell boundaries retain that very longstanding community cohesion.

Overall, we think that the Boundary Commission has done an excellent job of balancing electoral equality (in numerical voter terms) with community identities and logical boundaries such as major roads, river, canal etc. Most of the difficult split roads -and indeed split communities - that were a feature of the 1998 Review have now been resolved in a much more sensible way.

Paul Holmes, Leader of 17 Lib Dem Borough Cllrs and Vice Chair of the Local Party.

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From: Paul Holmes [REDACTED] >
Sent: 09 May 2022 21:19
To: reviews
Subject: Chesterfield Borough Council Boundary Review
Attachments: Chesterfield Liberal Democrats support the Boundary Commission proposals of March 2022.docx

Categories: Submissions, Simon

Please find attached Chesterfield Liberal Democrat response to the March consultation.

Paul Holmes