

Bolton Borough Council

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Organisation Name: Bolton Council - Astley Bridge Cllr

Comment text:

I wish to register my formal objection to the proposals published by the Boundary Commission for Bolton Council, specifically those relating to Astley Bridge. I currently represent Astley Bridge on Bolton Council and have lived locally for over twenty years. Astley Bridge is a distinct area, which was historically separate from Bolton, only joining the town in the 1800's and these proposals ignore the historic links that currently bind the area together. Central to Astley Bridge are the events held on Andrew Lane Park, which are organised by local community groups such as the Friends of Astley Bridge and local Cllr's, these include litter picker groups, the Christmas lights switch on, consultation days, Easter egg hunts and Remembrance events. Many of these events have now been taking place for many years and are well attended from across the existing ward. Residents in the areas of Templecombe, Whitehill Drive and Eagley Bank are also involved in other parts of the community, owning businesses, taking part in worship at local churches and mosques and being part of other voluntary organisations such as local Scout troops. The current ward also contains the natural 'centre' for residents in these areas, it is where local residents shop, have access to community centres and use local leisure facilities. The areas being moved into South Turton do not have their own local amenities which will be moved with them and as set out below, they do not have easy access to the new ward. In any case, facilities in the South Turton ward are mostly centred in the area around Bromley Cross and would not be considered at all local to these residents. The current proposals move the areas of Templecombe Drive and Whitehill Lane into South Turton. These areas have no direct road access to the rest of the South Turton ward, there is no access from this estate onto Blackburn Road. Residents must instead enter the new ward through Astley Bridge or by leaving the Bolton Borough and re-entering South Turton via Belmont Road to the North. In addition, there is no direct access between Eagley Bank and South Turton. I understand that cutting off area from the rest of a ward goes against the Commissions own rules when proposing boundary changes. For the above reasons, I strongly object to the current draft proposals and strongly urge the Commission to reconsider the proposals in regards to Astley Bridge, which will split up a strong existing community.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded