

Mansfield, Simon

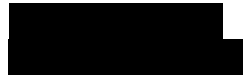
From: PERKINS, Toby <toby.perkins.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 10 January 2022 21:39
To: reviews
Subject: Submission to the Chesterfield LGBCE Boundary review from Toby Perkins MP, MP For Chesterfield
Attachments: Toby Perkins MP submission to LGBCE review of CBC boundaries.docx

Categories: Submissions, Simon

Please accept this submission to the LGBCE boundary review for Chesterfield from Toby Perkins MP

Yours sincerely,

Toby Perkins MP
Member of Parliament for Chesterfield



UK Parliament Disclaimer: this e-mail is confidential to the intended recipient. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender and delete it from your system. Any unauthorised use, disclosure, or copying is not permitted. This e-mail has been checked for viruses, but no liability is accepted for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this e-mail. This e-mail address is not secure, is not encrypted and should not be used for sensitive data.

As the Member of Parliament for Chesterfield since 2010 and previously a Councillor on Chesterfield Borough Council from 2003-2011, I have read through the LGBCE proposals with great interest.

I have a few comments that I would like to contribute for consideration.

Firstly, I support the Borough Council's move to reduce the size of the Borough Council to 40 which I believe is in line with other similar size Councils.

St Leonard's

With regard to the specific proposals. I agree that the old St Leonard's ward was too far reaching and dipped into about four different distinct communities, and I think the re-distribution of all the previous components of that division makes perfect sense.

Whittington Moor/ Brockwell/ Dunston

I am very disappointed with the Boundary Commission's proposal to move the houses at the Whittington Moor end of the old Moor ward into Dunston. I think it would make far more sense to move voters at the Ringwood Avenue/ Dukes Drive end of the ward (the Western end of the ward) into Dunston. Those voters don't identify with Whittington Moor, and their children do attend Dunston primary school. It would also help to address the over-allocation of voters in Whittington Moor ward and the under-allocation in Dunston. If this alternative was accepted, I would like to suggest considering naming the ward Dunston and Newbold.

I also believe that the over-allocation of voters in Brockwell should be addressed by moving voters in the Edinburgh Road area and those who currently live on Tapton View Road into the Whittington Moor ward.

Brampton

I am disappointed that the LGBCE has chosen to move more of Brampton out of the proposed Brampton ward. I agree with the decision to name a ward Brampton but the areas around Old Hall Road and those adjacent to Chatsworth Road (Victoria Street, Church Street West and even Heaton Street and the roads off) should all be in a Brampton ward.

If it is proposed that much of Brampton be in the West ward then I think that the two wards should be named Brampton East and Boythorpe and Brampton West and Loundsley Green, at least that way voters in the main Loundsley Green estate (all those from the old Loundsley Green ward who were moved into West) would feel that they had been moved rather than abolished.

Staveley

I support the proposal to split Staveley into three two councillor wards. I didn't agree with Hollingwood being a part of the same ward as Duckmanton, it always felt too sprawling for villages of that size to be spread so wide. According to the internet, it is 3.2 miles from Station Road in Hollingwood to Whsiperwood Close in Duckmanton, which seems an unreasonably large ward for a fairly compact town like Chesterfield and Staveley.

I appreciate that the Staveley North ward is also wide ranging, but that is a more rural, naturally spaced- out ward anyway, but Hollingwood, Inkersall and Duckmanton were all very urban villages with housing tightly packed together which didn't naturally go together.

I believe that the choice to pair Hollingwood with Brimington rather than Staveley is geographically logical, it uses the A619 as a natural barrier between the two wards and with the rest of Inkersall

voters being almost a mile away from the A619 it was a very inappropriate combination. I believe that the linking of Hollingwood with Brimington in the County divisions has been accepted by voters and that it makes perfect sense.

I think that the proposal for a Staveley Central ward which takes in Staveley as far as the roundabout is entirely sensible. It would be better if the roundabout was the border between Staveley Central and Staveley North, but I understand that the voter numbers are more equal with the addition of the extra roads from Lowgates and Woodthorpe being moved into Staveley Central as per the Commission's proposal.

I also think that all of the voters in the three Staveley wards identify with Staveley and that naming the three wards in the way proposed is far better than attempting to name it after sections of Staveley. Previously there was unhappiness that both Duckmanton and Mastin Moor village names were omitted from the ward name, whereas this way everyone will identify with the geographical accuracy of the ward names.

Walton & West

I agree with the decision to make the River and Somersall Park the border between Walton and West wards.

I also think that, on the basis of the Commission's view to expand Rother to the South, it makes sense for Whitecotes Lane to move into the Walton ward.

Whittington

I understand that the Boundary Commission have already announced that their review of Parliamentary boundaries will be based on whole ward units taken from the Council wards that existed in December 2020. On that basis, it seems sensible to try, where possible, to ensure that wards that are in different constituencies are not merged, so I was surprised that this review seemed to place no weight on the desirability of ensuring that, where possible, voters in different parliamentary constituencies were not put into the same Borough ward.

The Staveley North ward makes sense for many reasons but partly because it will almost all be within the current North East Derbyshire constituency. I understand why the LGBCE has chosen to merge Old and New Whittington but suggest that this will cause considerable confusion for voters who will be in different parliamentary constituencies but in the same Borough Council ward.

Hasland

I understand that the growth anticipated in the Spire ward means that there is a need to ensure that Spire ward is under the average allocation to begin with. However, it will be a surprise to voters in Spital to be placed in Hasland ward.

Brimington

I agree with the proposals for Brimington, and think that they will be welcomed by voters in the village.

Spire

I support the composition of the Spire ward. The previous St Leonard's ward was incoherent, borrowing voters from various alternative communities and this Spire ward whilst still somewhat wide-ranging does merge Hady with the Central streets around the town centre.

I wonder about whether there will be confusion between two different wards- one at County level and one at Borough level that are both named Spire but have different voters within it.

I would suggest either All Saints or Hady and Central ward as possible alternatives. The Crooked Spire church is formally known as the Church of St Mary and All Saints.

In conclusion, I think the proposals have merit but require some small alterations to improve them.

The two key issues I have with the proposals are that a ward has been created, called Whittington Moor that omits Whittington Moor and a ward has been named Brampton that omits too many Brampton voters.