

Trafford Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I am a resident of Dunham Massey and my comments are based on my personal experience living in Dunham Massey and of my knowledge of how people I know in Dunham Massey live. Although my knowledge is specific to the parish of Dunham Massey, many if not all of my comments are also applicable to the neighbouring parish of Warburton, with whom we share similar demographics. I oppose the proposal to move Dunham Massey and Warburton from Bowdon Ward into the proposed new ward of Western Parishes for the following reasons:

Equality of Representation Whilst the proposals may ensure wards of similar population size, I believe that the interests of the rural parishes of Dunham Massey and Warburton would not be served by the change.

Reflecting Community Interests and Identities The proposals take no account of the different identities and interests of the parishes that make up the proposed new ward and, in the case of Dunham Massey, the close identity and interests with the current Bowdon Ward.

1.1 History: Dunham Massey along with Bowdon formed part of the Stamford estate i.e. the land owned by the Earls of Stamford who resided at Dunham Hall in Dunham Massey. Similarly, until the middle of the 19th century, Dunham Massey formed part of the ecclesiastical parish of Bowdon. Today, St Mark's Parish Church Dunham Massey is linked to St Margaret's Parish Church, Altrincham and together form the Benefice of Dunham Massey. Whilst Dunham Massey has close historic and ecclesiastical links to Bowdon and to Altrincham, it does not share any such links to Partington or Carrington.

1.2 Use of Facilities: Dunham Massey residents send their children to schools in Bowdon and Altrincham as this is the local catchment area. Dunham residents do not ever use schools in Partington. In terms of shops and other facilities, Dunham residents use facilities in Bowdon, Hale and Altrincham. For instance, whilst I do all of my shopping in Altrincham, I never have cause to go to Partington and I do not know anyone else who uses facilities in Partington. In terms of restaurants, I, in common with other Dunham residents, go to Hale or Altrincham. In terms of pubs I would use those in Dunham Massey or Bowdon. The same is equally true of other facilities such as doctors and leisure. By contract I would never have reason to go to Partington or Carrington.

1.3 Parliamentary Constituencies: Dunham Massey and Warburton along with Bowdon form part of Altrincham and Sale West parliamentary constituency. In contrast, Partington and Carrington form part of Stratford Parliamentary constituency. The present ward boundaries ensure that all of Bowdon ward is in the same the parliamentary constituency whereas the new Western Parishes ward would cut across two parliamentary constituencies.

1.4 Demographics: Dunham Massey and Warburton are small rural communities whose principal demographic groups are professional and managerial. Dunham Massey's population is circa 450 residents and Warburton's population is circa 300. As well as being a major centre of farming, Dunham Massey is a popular tourist destination with Dunham Park receiving hundreds of thousands of visitors annually making it one of the National Trust's most popular destinations in the North West. There is nothing in common with Partington and Carrington which have the following characteristics:- Carrington has significant gas and chemical industries and is to be the site of New Carrington which will provide circa 11,500 dwellings and 750,000 sqm employment floorspace; and Partington with a population of circa 7,000 is an urban community with significant social deprivation.

1.5 Commonality Dunham Massey (and also Warburton) has significant commonality with the rest of Bowdon ward in terms of the use of schools, shops and other facilities. Dunham Massey and Warburton have commonality with each other as rural communities and with the rest of Bowdon ward as the main demographic groups are professional and managerial. By contrast, there is no commonality with Partington with its significant urban deprivation and Carrington with its history of gas and chemical industry and its future as a suburban area with circa 11,500 new homes. This lack of commonality leads to these communities having very different issues. Both Warburton and Dunham Massey have issues typical of rural areas such as preservation of the green belt, rural bus services, the volume of through traffic on rural roads. In addition Warburton has specific issues relating to the proposed route of HS2 through the

village and Dunham Massey has issues caused by the volume of traffic and visitor numbers to the National Trust property at Dunham Park. Both communities share with the rest of Bowdon ward common interests relating to the schools, shops etc. that they use in Bowdon, Hale and Altrincham. By contrast Carrington has issues specific to itself such as the proposed relief road and will, in future, have issues related to being an area of significant housing growth (in effect a new town). Partington has issues of urban deprivation. These are all significantly different to the issues faced by Dunham Massey and Warburton. 1.6 Conclusion For the reasons set out above, the proposed ward boundary changes do not take account of the very different interests and identities of Dunham Massey (and also Warburton) vis a vis Partington and Carrington. By contrast, there is significant synergy between Dunham Massey and Warburton and the rest of the current Bowdon ward. On the issue of interest and identity, Dunham Massey and Warburton should, in my view, remain part of Bowdon Ward. Providing for Effective and Convenient Local Government Dunham Massey is currently well served by our ward councillors in Bowdon ward who have consistently demonstrated an understanding and concern for the interests of residents in Dunham Massey. I am very concerned that this would not be the case under the proposed boundary changes. The proposed ward of Western Parishes would be dominated by Partington with its far greater population and, as it grows, New Carrington. As a result, councillors would be elected principally by the electors of these two communities and would serve their interests and not those of the much smaller communities of Dunham Massey and Warburton. Councillors' time would (quite understandably) be spent in trying to deal with the problems associated with significant deprivation (Partington) and the development of a new town (Carrington). Councillors would not have the time or resources to represent the concerns of the rural communities of Dunham Massey and Warburton whose concerns would, by contrast to those of Partington and Carrington, be seen as trivial. 4. Conclusion For the reasons set out above, the proposed ward boundary changes fail the tests of reflecting community interests and identities and providing for effective and convenient local government. I would therefore request that the proposed ward boundary changes be rejected and that Dunham Massey and Warburton remain within the Bowdon Ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded