

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 December 2022 21:09
To: reviews
Subject: Personal Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Re. Epping Forest District - Ward Boundary Review (2nd Consultation - December 2022)
Categories: Submissions, [REDACTED]



Epping Forest District – Ward Boundary Review

12th December 2022

Review Officer (Epping Forest)

LGBCE (Local Government Boundary Commission for England)
PO Box 133
Blyth NE24 9FE

Email to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Dear Sirs,

Epping Forest District Council – Ward Boundary Review – 2nd Public Consultation

Having considered the suggested re-Warding of Epping Forest District, as now put forward by the Boundary Commission, I would like to make the following comments, as part of a personal response. I should add that these are my own views and are not intended to reflect those of any other party or representative body.

As previously, I'm still of the view that the significant reduction in the number of Wards will not achieve a greater level of involvement by local residents in how their respective communities are shaped for the future, even if there are three Ward Councillors representing each. Amalgamating many of the existing Wards, primarily based on the total number of those eligible to vote, would

not reflect the individual character of such environs and, in some cases, would endeavour to combine areas administered by a number of separate parish councils.

The primary concern I wish to raise, therefore, would be the extent to which each Ward Councillor would be expected to be, or to become, familiar with each of the parishes they would represent, and whether the workload would be feasible. It cannot be presumed that all three Councillors will be members of the same political parties, or groups, and/or that such responsibilities will be shared out between fellow Ward colleagues.

Areas to the south, and west, of the District are more densely populated and the One, or Two, Councillor Wards often reflect cohesive boundaries in terms of the type of housing, amenities, and landscape, within their perimeter. A single Three-Councillor Ward in the more rural area to the north and east could result in a vast swathe of land being banded together under the governance of local representatives who may not have practical knowledge of the history or character of all of the many areas within it. I would, therefore, anticipate that further concerns may be raised with respect to the suggested designation of 'Rural East', in particular.

Separately, I still believe the present two-Councillor combination works well for Theydon Bois, with one Councillor being elected for Passingford. However, if these two Wards are to be combined, I would suggest the description is given as 'Theydon Bois & Passingford' - rather than 'with' Passingford, which sounds rather awkward, to my mind!

Please keep me updated re. the next part of this process, and thank you for your consideration of this response, which is much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.