

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 December 2022 15:12
To: reviews
Subject: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]
Categories: [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

Please see attached.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

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Submission by: [REDACTED]

6th December 2022

My full name is [REDACTED] and I have lived on Canvey Island all my life and was born in West Ward on [REDACTED] 1942.

After growing up and having my primary school and secondary school in West Ward and starting my family I was asked if I would stand for election in 1968 and was elected [REDACTED] to become a Councillor on Canvey for Canvey West Ward.

What I did not know at that time was I would be the Elected Member for the western end of Canvey Island until [REDACTED], some [REDACTED] years with-out a break, although I lost my district seat [REDACTED] in 1995. I was still a County Councillor as indeed I was a Canvey Town Councillor when that started for 8 years again for Canvey West Ward and was also a member of the Essex and Regional Flood Defence Committee for 43years.

Throughout that long period from when I first got elected in 1968 I represented West Ward which was very large in area indeed was probably a third of Canvey Island. When the developers started building in the Winter Gardens area in the early 70s it was decided to form a Winter Gardens Ward in 1971.

I have always been told that Canvey Island Urban District Council started in 1926. I am sure you will understand how upset I am to hear of your proposal because some of Canvey's well known people who helped to improve the community of Canvey Island through some very difficult times such as the 1953 floods in which some 59 people lost their lives represented Canvey West Ward before me. Indeed you have decided that Canvey East, North, South and Central will remain but you have deleted West for Winter Gardens which only came into being in the year of 1971. As for myself living in the furthest western part of Canvey where I have lived most of my life I am told that I will be in Central ward and find that an insulting statement.

I can state from my long experience as an Elected Member representing Canvey Island the elimination of West ward and the reduction in the number of councillors on Canvey Island compared to Benfleet will lead to fierce opposition and resistance from local residents and should therefore, be reassessed to avoid the whole review leaving a bad taste with the people of Canvey Island.

Places like the Dutch Village, the Saint's estate, Canvey village and Deepwater Road, which is the road I was born in with our Canvey village Junior and Infant schools just to name a few will be moved into a different ward which will mean that the whole area is altered beyond recognition. Your members of the commission, possibly living a long way from Canvey Island, would not understand the feeling that we locals have for our Island community and as someone who gave his life to public service I feel very badly let down.

Commenting on some details, I will end by saying it is totally unfair that your review would have Benfleet having 24 members and Canvey 15 members.

My suggestion for Canvey would be to keep the wards the same with some small adjustments such as putting back the north side of Long road at Canvey village in West ward that was changed at the last review. The roads called Edith Rd,.Edith Close, Village Drive, Green Ave.and New Rd.which were always West ward and put Sandy Bay (Thorney Bay) into South ward instead of having it in two wards.

Although I have no comment on Benfleet wards I would add that I was Essex County Councillor for Canvey West for 32 years which is one of the largest strategic authorities in England. When Southend and Thurrock were part of Essex County Council there were 97 members representing nearly 2 million population when they came out of Essex we were left with 75members representing approx 1.5 million population dealing with a huge amount of public service's far more than a district authority.

When I first got elected there was only the telephone and post that you could contact your Councillors and residents would want you to visit them particularly on Canvey Island which was slowly developing after the terrible 1953 floods.

Today you have the internet which in my view has reduced the workload of Ward members and I do believe that 2 members per ward for the whole Council should be right for a small council such as Castle Point Borough Council which would mean two election's every four years, savings money that is desperately needed in local government today.

I am available to talk to you face to face or by telephone and hope you will sincerely take my views into consideration on this very very important matter.

[REDACTED]