

Rushcliffe Borough Council

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Comment text:

I strongly object to all multi-councillor wards and so I am opposed to more three councillor wards. Under the first past the post system multi-councillor wards are intrinsically undemocratic and will cause 'minority' voters in an area feeling even more disenfranchised than they may do now. This will lead to reduced engagement which must be a bad thing. I would make this point anywhere in the country and anywhere in the borough and it is not a party political point. Furthermore multi-councillor wards leads to confusion as to who is doing what which leads to lack of accountability to residents. Such confusion will also waste time for councillors and officers (although Cllr Buschman and myself work well together). As has been said by others, the work load per councillor is also higher as residents rightly expect all councillors to respond to everything. I'm sure we can all support each other in the case of councillor illness. I responded to the original consultation. At that time my main comment was that ward boundaries should be aligned with divisional boundaries to create a sense of place (which would be trivial with single councillor wards with reasonably equal populations). I continue to say this. Beyond this I would say less messing around with boundaries the better for residents and indeed councillors as we know people in our areas. On the specifics in central West Bridgford, I cannot understand how the reviewers could have reached this position. Major roads generally form community boundaries but more importantly, schools and shops form community centres. Lady Bay (which is where I live and which is in my county division) Lady Bay is a very tight knit urban village and it is completely wrong to undermine this by subsuming it in a larger area. Kendall Court and everywhere north of Radcliffe Road and west of Regatta way could be included in Lady Bay.. this would make no material difference to numbers but fits with geographical and psychological boundaries. The Ella Road area could be removed and added to the Priory Road area but it feels like Lady Bay because it is also cut off by the parks. Abbey (where I am a borough and mostly county councillor) The proposed area is far too large and the boundaries appear arbitrary: a ward crossing Gordon Road makes no sense at all (see below re Melton). The new proposals removes all sense of place from a suburban area which is already devoid of facilities which will again lead to lack of representation and engagement. If we are going to change existing boundaries then Davis Road is a natural geographical boundary and the division along Abbey Road around Priory Road does lead to a small amount of confusion for residents. A simple change would be to take all of Eltham and Blake into Abbey and all of Priory, Florence etc into Trent Bridge (although this would make TB quite long, Priory Road area would sit well with the Henry/Millicent area with similar issues around housing and parking). It 'feels' to me as Carnarvon belongs in Trent Bridge, in part because of the location of the school right at the boundary. Ideally the boundary would go up Gordon Road to Burleigh or Stamford, or further north depending on numbers. The current division at Leahurst is fine and does not need changing: it is good for residents on both sides of this relatively minor street to be in the same ward (I agree that the few houses in Alford south of Leahurst should really be in Edwalton). Musters (some of which is in my County Division) This is a neat ward which should not be changed Lutterell /Trent Bridge (some of which is in my County Division) I agree north end of Lutterell would seem to belong in Trent Bridge. The area either side of Melton Road just south of Rectory Road is linked by the shops and similar problems related to cars and housing and should be in one ward. I guess there could be other changes to the west of Lutterell but I am not an expert on that area. I did have suggestions for splitting the current wards into two one councillor wards but I think that is too complicated at this stage. However changes would clearly be easier with one member wards.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded