

I want to make one general comment and then focus on some issues for the general area of West Bridgford.

My general comment is that I think we are best served by having single councillor wards. This makes accountability much clearer and avoids a situation, which is quite common, where the same party takes up to or three places, while this may not have happened with single councillor wards.

Applying this general principle to West Bridgford and the immediate surrounds, I am not in agreement with the creation of two new wards with 3 councillors. I can see that there are various factors that mean it is difficult to divide the area so that all wards have single councillors while meeting expectations of the numbers of electors and integrity of the geographical region, however, I would like to see this achieved where it is possible and otherwise have two councillor wards.

Some of the areas around West Bridgford are easier to deal with than others. For instance, why not split Compton Acres into two. There are older and newer areas here. A split of the current wards would make sense, with the current CAB1 and CAB2 being a more Northern ward and CAB3 the other. I believe the numbers work for this.

A similar principle can be applied to Edwalton. The obvious split here would be the old railway line which separates most of the older part of Edwalton from the newer housing either side of Melton Road. These different parts tend to use different amenities and hence some different concerns, so having separate councillors makes clear sense in this instance.

I think Gamston can also be easily split between North and South as well, though I am not sure that local concerns would make this switch to be felt as important.

The other parts of the West Bridgford area are more complex given the commission's starting point of wanting 2400 electors per councillor. However, I want to oppose the commission's proposals in dealing with this. In particular, the way Lady Bay, Trent Bridge and Abbey are being reorganized into wards of three councillors. Some of these changes also mean that dissimilar areas of West Bridgford would find themselves together in the new wards. As I have stated above, I want to see one member wards where possible. However, I can see this is very difficult to achieve in terms of the changes that would be needed to Abbey, Lady Bay, Lutterell, Musters and Trent Bridge. I have spent some time discussing this with neighbours from across these wards and listened to their perspectives. Based on that, my view is that it is possible to meet the issues of numbers of electors and more community coherence by reducing Musters ward to a single councillor ward and adjusting some of the other boundaries so that they remain two councillor wards. The proposal to split up Trent Bridge in order to increase the size of the current Lady Bay and Abbey Wards is one that makes no sense in terms of communities and, in particular it undermines the clear Lady Bay community identity.

In seeking to suggest an alternative I want to draw the commission's attention to the Green Line. I walk my dog along there most days. This is the old railway line and it is a natural split between the east and west sides of the Musters ward. The eastern side would seem to me to be closer to current Abbey and Trent Bridge wards, with their proximity to the Melton Road shops and cafes, as well as easy access to the centre of West Bridgford, while the west side is more closely linked to the shops along Loughborough Road, including Asda. So in order to cater for the issues of councillor numbers I want to support the notion of splitting the existing Musters ward up into four and moving three of those into other wards. I believe this will be more appropriate in community terms and enable 2 member wards to be retained. This would be implemented as follows:

Area 1: The area north of Eton Road and Devonshire Road, which includes the following: Kingston, Hampton, Wordsworth and Musters Road north of Kingston/Devonshire.

Solution – move this area to the current Lutterell ward. This would satisfy numbers of electors and this area has more in common with the existing Lutterell ward.

Area 2: The area east of the Green Line north of Devonshire and Carnarvon Road, which includes Cromford, Haddon and Melton Road north of Devonshire.

Solution – move this to the existing Trent Bridge Ward. This area is next to the existing ward and people tend to share amenities like the shops along Melton Road in particular. This is where the Green Line is instructive as they have a closer relationship to the Trent Bridge ward than with those on the west side of the Green Line. This would take Trent Bridge up to just over the required number of electors.

Area 3: The area east of the Green Line and south of Devonshire and Carnarvon, which includes Taunton, Exeter, St Helens, Willoughby, Mellors, Ludlow Hill, Wenlock, Whitcliffe, Covedale, Stokesay and Mowbray Gardens

Solution – move to Abbey ward. However, this would make Abbey Ward too big, so it would mean moving part of the north of Abbey Ward to Lady Bay (see below).

Area 4: the rest of the current Musters

Solution: this becomes a single councillor ward.

Implementing these solutions alone would make Lady Bay too small and Abbey too big. That means further movements would be needed. The solution to this would be to expand Lady Bay by moving the roads east of Albert Road and north of Davies Road from Trent Bridge ward and Abbey ward into Lady Bay. These include Florence, Priory, Violet, Cyril and northern part of Davies Road. Both Albert and Davies roads are clear dividing lines geographically and community wide as the area bounded by them has far more in common with Lady Bay then Trent Bridge or Abbey. So this further change does make some sense in terms of geography and is clearly part of a better solution than the current proposals.

Talking and checking through this with a number of other interested residents, I believe these changes would mean that the wards would be as follows:

Ward	Councillors	Forecast Electors (2027)
Abbey	2	5000
Lady Bay	2	4500
Lutterell	2	4600
Musters	1	2600
Trent Bridge	2	4500

This solution is a compromise for me, as I would really like one councillor wards. However, it is far better than the current commission proposal as it avoids 3 councillor wards and has much better community coherence. The key to this solution is the split of the current Musters ward, perhaps

something that was missed by the commissioners. A visit to the area will confirm the sense of this. The increase in the size of Lady Bay to include roads close to the canal and Radcliffe Road enables this to work in terms of electoral numbers.

Thank you for considering my views on this matter.

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