

Swindon

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

In 2017 in order to increase the overall Council Tax levy, and thus avoid the necessity involving a referendum, Swindon Borough Council imposed two new Parish councils - Central Swindon South Parish Council [CSSPC] and Central Swindon North Parish Council - these were previously non Parish Areas which were a levy on Council Tax payers of some £68 but as a Parish Council cost some £166.

Not only did we gain an additional burden of additional costs but also an unnecessary additional layer of administration amounting to some 23 CSSPC Parish Councillors. Therefore in place of the councillors who were allegedly sufficient to oversee the council services on our behalf, we now had, with the additional Parish Councillors 39 councillors doing the work previously undertaken by 16. This does not sound like value for money or improved efficiency.

We are now told that "the Boundary Commission has decided that the number of councillors in Swindon should be 57, the same as now". However this statement ignores the fact that since the last review whilst the number of Councillors have remained the same (57), their responsibilities have reduced considerably by shedding responsibilities to the two new large Parish Councils. In these circumstances I see no justification for maintaining 57 Councillors; on the contrary in the wards covered by the new Parish Councils the number of Borough Councillors should be justifiably reduced to not more than 2 per ward and thus represent their reduced responsibilities to the electorate (which incidentally the new Parish Council [CSSPC] currently appears to perform far more effectively than the Borough Councillors).

LG Boundary Commission

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Attached Documents:

None attached