

Worcestershire

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Good afternoon,

I read with interest the current review of the Belbroughton ward change proposals in Worcestershire. We live in Heath End Road, Bell End and would be directly affected by these changes. I have read the FAQ's upon your web site, specifically in relation to schools. We are currently within the Haybridge High School catchment area in Hagley. Your FAQ mentions that local schools will not be renamed, but once we would become part of a different council ward (changing from Clent Hills to Woodvale) specifically in relation to this instance, will our school catchment area change please ?

I ask the question as although it appears that our address and post code will remain the same, our property price may be affected if we fall out of the catchment area of this excellent school, and our children have to be re-schooled. Whilst I welcome change in respect of better counselling, I clearly also need to weigh up the personal cost to the change. Our current Belbroughton community has healthy social media communication, regular and long-standing annual village events (The Belbroughton Scarecrow festival and Belbroughton food and beer festival to name but two) and our only local shops and doctor's surgery are located in Belbroughton village. Whilst we clearly don't live in each others pockets, our Belbroughton community is strong and has remained so since well before the last ward review in 2004.

As an aside, and without wishing to sound flippant, the current long standing boundary is very strong and easily identifiable. Indeed, it is the only one residents and individuals with an interest in such matters have known for generations. Looking at the new proposed boundaries, it is anything but strong and easily identifiable - a key indicator of a good pattern of divisions, as noted on the January 2024 summary report

I am also curious as to how the new proposed changes will actually help the council deliver effective and convenient local government ? Again this key element, as disclosed in the aforementioned report, is unclear and has certainly not been communicated to me, or our fellow neighbours, all of whom are directly affected by these proposed changes. I don't feel that we lack anything from our current council arrangement. We live in a semi-rural location, and our services reflect that. What extra services can we expect after the changes, and how will they be delivered more effectively and conveniently than they currently are ? A simple question, but one that appears to have not been addressed or publicised. This change would affect a lot of people...

Always happy to discuss.

Attached Documents:

None attached