

Bradford

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Bingley

Dear Review Officer,

I am writing in response to the latest recommendations for changes to ward boundaries published in July 2024. I am a District Councillor for the existing Bingley Rural Ward and an elected member of Bingley Town Council. I am also a former district councillor for Bingley Ward (2019- 2023).

I appreciate the challenges faced by the review commissioners in attempting to balance your statutory aims of ensuring broad electoral equality and the need to take account of established local communities. I accept that pragmatic and sometimes difficult compromises need to be made in any boundary review which will sometimes mean splitting some communities.

I am supportive of the proposal to create two new Bingley Wards (East & West) which I believe will be a rational split, workable and enable effective local government for the foreseeable future. Selecting a boundary between East and West was always going to be controversial but using the railway line is clear and will be understandable to residents. Important that these are seen as new wards and not a continuation of the existing Bingley/Bingley Rural division

The residents in Bingley Rural (the ward I represent) look to and see themselves as part of wider Bingley. Cullingworth, Harden and Wilsden have thoroughly demonstrable, strong community ties going back generations, with their town of Bingley. People living in the villages of Harden, Wilsden and Cullingworth use the services in Bingley Town Centre (supermarkets, transport and leisure facilities, schools, and businesses) and

have a long historical connection to the town, not least under the old Bingley UDC. There is no good reason the proposed Bingley West would not be a viable and cohesive ward. Not least because the proposed loss of Denholme and much of Cottingley will make the new ward more manageable for the ward councillors to represent and support residents/local businesses.

That said, it remains disappointing that the arithmetic will require much of Cottingley to be transferred into the Shipley ward. Cottingley residents also claim close connections to Bingley – but I can't think of a workable solution that would enable electoral equality that is required.

There is a small adjustment to the proposed Bingley West boundary which I would urge you to consider - that Lee Lane (that connects to the B6164 Cottingley Moor Road) is included within the boundary of the new Bingley West Ward. The last 39 houses of Lee Lane are separated from Cottingley village by several fields and substantial woodland but for electoral purposes, are currently deemed part of Cottingley and under your latest proposal would transfer to Shipley. A minor adjustment – please see attachment - would recognise Lee Lane has strong community ties to, and has always physically been part of, Wilsden village. I have received several representations from residents of Lee Lane on this – it would be helpful if the ward councillors who represent Wilsden also have responsibilities for Lee Lane.

As a Bingley Town councillor, I recognise that similarly, the semi- rural villages to the east of Bingley – Eldwick, Gilstead, Micklethwaite also continue to see themselves as part of Bingley and remain keen to be part of one of the Bingley wards. Your earlier proposal to split most of Eldwick from Bingley created much local concern – you subsequently recognised the lack of significant community links or interests with Baildon. I know that the local councillors for Eldwick have been contacted by “hundreds” of residents them campaigning for Eldwick being retained in a Bingley ward. The overwhelming view of Eldwick residents is that they must stay unified in a Bingley Ward. I support the proposed the proposed establishment of a Bingley East ward that includes the village of Eldwick.

I would ask that you re-consider the position of the small hamlet of Low Springs, which is currently deemed to be in Eldwick. This settlement is geographically connected to Baildon and ideally should be in the new Baildon ward. For Bingley councillors to travel to Low Springs requires travelling out of the Bingley Ward and through parts of Baildon ward. Despite the low numbers of electors (circa 40), and the fact that it is part of the Bingley Town Council area, it would be sensible that it was included as part of the Baildon for purposes of Bradford Council.

I hope this is of assistance.

Councillor Geoff Winnard
Bingley Rural Ward

Attached Documents:

- lee-lane-boundary-map.pdf



https://lgbce.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=622111



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