

Bradford

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

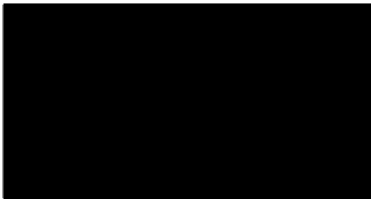
Comment text:

Related subject: Bingley

See attached

Attached Documents:

- 0000495_202408071129.pdf



Dear Sir,

I have just seen the latest proposals to replace the Bingley Rural ward by a Bingley West ward and I am very concerned about the proposal to include the settlement of Lee Lane in the Shipley constituency rather than Bingley West. It is, of course, currently in the Bingley Rural ward. It has no relationship with Shipley whatsoever. Local facilities such as the doctors, post office, co-op, butchers, hairdressers and pharmacy are all located in Wilsden. The buses which go down Cottingley New Road or Wilsden High Street all go to Bingley which is where the Lee Lane residents go for more extensive shopping opportunities and to access leisure facilities such as restaurants, bars and the theatre. Not Shipley.

With regard to political considerations the community has been well served by Bingley Rural councillors who see the hamlet as an integral part of their ward and who act accordingly. Whilst meaning no disrespect to Members for Shipley I suspect that they will not, quite understandably, view our community in quite the same way with the many housing, town centre and other issues competing for space in their in boxes. On a similar theme, we are represented locally by the Bingley Town Council, not Shipley, which is an indication of where our links are. My address and post code are both Bingley.

I suspect that the importance of a sense of place to the residents of Lee Lane has not featured highly in the decision to draw the boundary where it is proposed. We are, after all, a small population so maybe that is not surprising. I suspect, rather, that mapping considerations may have played a greater part instead of the Commission's stated aims that boundaries should reflect communities, be easy to understand and convenient for local people. The current proposals for Lee Lane do not achieve any of these aims. Whatever the reasoning I don't believe that changing the Bingley West/Shipley boundary to include the Lee Lane hamlet in the former rather than the latter would cause a problem for the electoral integrity of either constituency. It would, however, mean a great deal to the residents of Lee Lane and I hope you will be able to accommodate us.

Yours faithfully

