

Cheshire East

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Please find my letter, dated 29 March 2024, regarding Cheshire East's proposed boundary change between Macclesfield and Bollington.

Attached Documents:

- lettertolgbc.docx

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REF: Cheshire East, Macclesfield/Bollington boundary

29 March 2024

Dear Sirs,

I object to Cheshire East Council's (CEC) initiative of transferring my house from the parish of Bollington to the parish of Macclesfield (Tytherington ward). If a change is necessary then my wife and I believe, our thoughts should be of paramount importance to this decision. Given a choice, Prestbury is our preference and definitely not Tytherington.

My wife and I have lived at Wellwood Bollington for 39-years, which is the longest stay of residence in our lives. This particular area has been subjected to a history of huge upheavals vis-à-vis the construction of the new Silk Road (A523) and Tytherington Business Village. These major enterprises are now complete and we had thought: peace at last. But no: a Bollington councillor knocks on the door --- '*Did you know CEC wants to transfer your house from Bollington to Tytherington?*' Here we go again, it never seems to end!

Prior to Wellwood, I lived 2-years at Prestbury (Mottram St Andrew) within half kilometre of the village. My dentist was and remains, the Prestbury practice and my dentist was Mrs Eden – now retired. Then, as a single man Prestbury was idyllic: pop up the road to the *Bull's Head* for a steak or down the road into the village's *Admiral Rodney* pub. *Steak & Kebab* and the *Leigh Arms* pub were other favourites. Also, the village had two banks: *RBS (Williams & Glyn)* and *Nat West*, plus its old *Post Office*: each housed in splendidly old buildings and close together - within this charming village. All very convenient, in days when the internet and mobile phones (bricks then) were in their infancy.

My introduction to Bollington was at its Leisure Centre's squash courts. A work colleague, who lived there, challenged a friendly; we were both members of a Manchester squash team. This is where I met my wife and later invited her for a meal at Prestbury's *Bull's Head*. The *Bull's Head* was a *Beefeater*. Sadly, modern day *Beefeater* restaurants are but a shadow of their former selves. But in those days with its open kitchens, chefs could be seen cooking flame grilled steaks. Ding-ding (microwave) or packet meals were not on the menu in those days. We seemed to dine in Prestbury and play squash together in Bollington.

Wellwood's sale was advertised in Prestbury's *J R Bridgfords* estate agents [no longer there]. Its attraction was its spacious house and large garden with open fields to front and rear. Later, our 3-children were educated at Bollington Cross's infants/primary school with their

secondary education being at King's (2) and Fallibrome (1) – both in Macclesfield i.e., none at Tytherington's secondary school.

Parents meet other parents from their children's schools and friendships flourish. Indeed, I recall some great social evenings at Bollington's St Gregory's catholic social club with parents.

Maintaining social groups and friendships, in these parts, has become increasingly difficult because of the deteriorating bus service. When I arrived in Prestbury/Bollington 41-years ago the bus service was excellent. The last bus leaving Macclesfield to Prestbury or Bollington was 23:15; a decade ago it was reduced to 20:15 and 2-years ago reduced to 18:15. On return, the last bus back from Bollington to Macclesfield was at 23:45 - but nowadays 18:45.

Years ago, we could hop on a bus, meet our Bollington friends at any of Bollington's 20+ pubs. We would arrange to meet between 7 or 8pm, knowing the last bus back was 11:45pm. We could have a pub's cheap chicken-in-basket meal, sup a few ales and catch a bus home. Oh, what heady days. Our friends are still there: but buses aren't!

Also, parking will soon be charged across all parish car parks 7-days a week from 8am till 10pm: currently these are free. Free Sunday parking will end. This will impact both Bollington and Prestbury.

Whilst Prestbury was, and still is, a mecca for restaurants and bistros, Bollington most definitely used to have its own jewel-in-the-crown: *Mauro's*. This restaurant was located at the far end of Bollington – away from Wellwood but later decamped to the *Bull's Head* premises and opened as '*Osteria Mauro*'. Not a problem: we would now take the short drive from Wellwood to Prestbury's *Osteria*. Later, *Mauro's* decamped again to Manchester. However, the premises was rescued yet again. The place was reverted to its *Bull's Head* name and now paired with its sister pub/restaurant *Sutton Hall* from Sutton. *Sutton Hall* is a 16th century building set in its extensive grounds in Sutton. A characteristic of both *Sutton Hall* and the *Bull's Head* are their large open log fires; especially welcoming in winter. Our nearest favourite restaurants are now Prestbury's *the Coast* and still the *Bull's Head*.

Whilst I seem focused on the topic of pubs and restaurants, they become increasingly important as one gets older for socialising. We usually don't play squash etc as we get older. But we are now in an era when driving has become essential. Paying for a taxi, there and then again back, makes a casual drink with friends a really expensive evening.

Tytherington: It has a prestigious golf course called the *Tytherington Club*. That's really it - in total. It has but one solitary pub/restaurant called the *Brocklehurst Arms*. The *Brok Arms*, as locals' call it, has absolutely no CAMRA [Campaign for Real Ales] reviews. The area lacks pedigree of any sorts and is nothing but an area of affluent housing devoid of character. Tytherington totally lacks identity, unlike Bollington or Prestbury. The *Sunday Times* rates Bollington as being amongst the top 100 villages to live. Yet, most '*locals*' would rate Prestbury higher than Bollington. Tytherington is but an *impotent* ward of Macclesfield Town Council.

For example: The most frequent bus from Bollington to Macclesfield (no.10), which used to service Tytherington, is now diverted to Hurdsfield – meaning residents living south of the *Brocklehurst Arms* get a bus every 1.5 hours instead of every 30-minutes. Dear, dear me. Tytherington has significant Council Tax Precept revenues but these are diverted to Macclesfield Town Council (MTC). I would suggest, Tytherington could implement a bus service targeted to its particular residents were it a parish rather than ward --- instead of those slanted to MTC needs. Facebook comments from Tytherington's residents and CEC's own analysis show Tytherington's residents want it to become a parish. But it isn't, and its current *Independent Councillors* seem unwilling to engage in this debate.

The other factor, and perhaps the elephant in the room, concerns those residents living within the new Tytherington Business Village. Our houses were built decades ago; well before the construction of the TBV and Silk Road (A523). We would hope that the LGBC considers our particular circumstances and does not view us as collateral damage in this rezoning scheme.

Tytherington: definitely and absolutely is NOT for me nor my wife. These are our thoughts.

