

Bradford

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Cottingley Community Centre (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

FAO The Review Officer (Bradford)

Please find attached comments from Cottingley Community Centre with regard to the proposed ward boundary changes for Bingley and Shipley wards.

Many thanks

Helen Eteson
Centre Manager
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Attached Documents:

- response-to-boundary-review-for-bingley-august-2024.docx



Response to Boundary Review for Bingley, Bingley Rural and Shipley.

As a community centre we work closely with the people of Cottingley. This is a distinct and close knit community. Cottingley is considered, and considers itself, a village. Time and development has decreased the amount of green space around Cottingley but it still very much considers itself a village.

Cottingley Community Centre works to improve the conditions of life of people residing permanently or temporarily in Cottingley by:

- advancing education,
- providing items, services and facilities for elderly people in need;
- relieving sickness and preserving health;
- relieving disability
- providing facilities for recreation and other leisure-time occupation

As a community the people of Cottingley feel more affiliation towards Bingley than any other larger towns. For those without their own transport, Bingley is accessible by walking or public transport, the same cannot be said for Shipley. Most local residents will head to Bingley for shopping at a supermarket, most secondary school age children in the area attend Beckfoot or Bingley Grammar School. The community of Cottingley chose to become part of the Bingley Town Council area when it was formed.

We feel that the current boundary proposals are not in the best interests of the community of Cottingley. The proposal splits a small community in two halves, the interests of this single community cannot be fairly represented if it is split between two different ward boundaries.

The lines which the boundary split is proposed could also increase social tensions in the area. The part of Cottingley which would fall under Bingley West is, for the most part, higher value homes with a higher percentage of owner occupation. The area due to fall under Shipley contains lower value homes and a mixture of owner occupied, privately rented and housing association accommodation. Incomes are generally lower in this area as well. This would perpetuate and strengthen a long standing perception (even if this is a misconception) that Bingley is a 'nice, well to do



area' leaving the residents of Cottingley who would then fall under Shipley to feel shunned and 'not good enough for Bingley', a community they currently feel part of. This integration with Bingley has increased in recent years due to the work of Bingley Town Council and the Town Councillors ensuring that the interests of Cottingley are heard within that forum.

We strongly feel that Cottingley should remain fully under one ward and this should be linked with Bingley in some way. We do not feel that the interests of our community could be served if it were split between the two wards. We believe that with the existing affiliations of the community and working partnerships with Bingley Town Council that the interests of the community of Cottingley would be best served by maintaining these links and keeping our representation tied to Bingley.

We fully support the alternative proposal made by Bingley Town Council.

Cottingley Community Centre

15 August 2024