

Bradford

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Baildon, also Shipley and Bingley

I am writing as a resident of Baildon to strongly support your July 2024 revised Ward Boundary Proposals for Baildon, Bingley and Shipley. This proposal corrects a long-standing anomaly where part of Baildon is located for electoral purposes in Shipley ward. The boundary for Baildon in the south has always been along the River Aire.

For the avoidance of doubt, whilst I wholeheartedly support the response from Baildon Town Council, this submission is a personal one and therefore does not represent the views of Baildon Town Council.

The importance of re-uniting Baildon into one ward.

As a long standing town councillor of over 12 years, and a resident of Baildon for over 40 years, I am very familiar with all parts of Baildon. Polling District 22A (Baildon South west) comprises a substantial population of 1,157 electors (2023 figures), an area which includes some of the poorest housing in Baildon (former council housing). It is a community which feels neglected by public authorities, and with some justification. It forms a very small and geographically separate part of Shipley ward, and not surprisingly, has very little “weight” within representations in that ward.

PD 22A also contains Titus Salt School , attended by the majority of 11-18 year olds in Baildon , and Baildon Glen Primary Academy Primary School, which is easily the school with most disadvantaged pupils in Baildon, as measured by the proportion of free school meals. (As context, in 2022/3, Baildon Town council partnered with our local primary schools to direct £10,000 towards struggling families, and the majority of these

funds were allocated to Baildon Glen) . The point I wish to emphasise is that the representational disadvantage arising from being “tagged on” to Shipley ward serves to compound the economic and social disadvantage which is widespread in this community. This is why your proposals to include PD 22A in Baildon ward is so welcome and potentially beneficial.

Further to the above, the current boundary, as can be seen on-line, runs along a feature known as “Baildon Bank” (up to a point just west of Baildon Green hamlet), a steep escarpment which is central to the experience of Baildon. This boundary along the bank also has numerous negative consequences. A pertinent example is of Shipley Glen Tramway, a historic recreational route which has existed since Victorian Times and still running today as a charity. The foot of the Tramway now sits in Shipley ward, the top of the tramway is in Baildon. (BTC also financially supports the Tramway). It is vital that the approaches to the Tramway are protected from development, yet relevant planning applications can fall currently into Shipley or Baildon wards, depending on location. As stated previously, BTC is midway through the preparation of Baildon Neighbourhood Plan, and Baildon Bank, currently straddling two wards, is a very important feature integral to Baildon life.

Support for the current proposals from Eldwick

I have yet to meet anyone from Eldwick who supports the previous idea of a Baildon and Eldwick ward. I understand that councillors for the area have urged the population of Eldwick to respond to you directly. Your current proposals indicate that you have accepted the many arguments already put forward as to why this proposal did not meet your criteria and I trust that this will remain your position. Eldwick has always been part of Bingley, falls within the Bingley parished area, and has no connection either physical or social, with Baildon.

Opposition to the current proposals from Bingley.

As you acknowledge in your report, the parish of Bingley has always spanned two wards (Bingley and Bingley Rural) . Bingley Town Centre has always been an issue of great importance for both wards. There has been much positive progress recently, particularly in relation to the hoped for preservation of Bingley Pool.

It is accepted that the population of Bingley ward has to reduce to meet electoral criteria. Unfortunately, the need of Baildon to be united and Eldwick to remain in Bingley, appears to some to be the cause of Bingley being “spilt in two”, with the majority of the Town centre moving into the Bingley West / Bingley Rural.

A compromise would be to move either PD 2A (containing Bingley Pool) or PD 2G , back into Bingley East/ Bingley ward, and this adjustment would still leave the electoral numbers within your acceptable criteria.

Bingley Rural

The more rural areas of Harden, Wilsden and Cullingworth remain the core of the Bingley West/ Bingley Rural ward, but in either option, with the removal of Denholme, this ward will include more urban neighbourhoods - either parts of Cottingley or Bingley- neither of which could be described as rural. I think it could be argued that there is a better fit with Bingley (PD 2J, and either 2A or 2G) , than with Cottingley, as Bingley town centre predominantly provides services and shops for these villages. This then supports the current proposal.

The current Ward names of Bingley and Bingley Rural, instead of the proposed new names of Bingley East and Bingley West, could be retained if 2A or 2G are moved into Bingley ward.

A positive change for Shipley ward

Your proposal for Shipley ward has much greater cohesion than currently pertains.

Including the Manor Road area of Cottingley, which is directly adjacent to Nab Wood in Shipley and forms part of a continuous urban area, is a change which works with community linkages which already are numerous and used frequently along this very busy route along the Aire Valley. Moving part of Cottingley into Shipley ward, recognises the presence of a main road and good transport links, schools used by both Shipley and Cottingley, etc

This seems vastly preferable to including a chunk of Baildon in Shipley ward which is physically estranged from Shipley by the River Aire, except via the only vehicle crossing at Baildon Bridge.

NB There is no built part of the World Heritage Site of Saltaire which sits within the proposed Baildon boundary. Roberts Park is a hugely important space for both the communities of Baildon and Saltaire, and is actually the only park within Baildon (not counting playgrounds), So this proposal offers no detriment whatsoever to Saltaire which is not split as asserted by some.

Low Springs

This is very much a minor issue relative to all the others, comprising as it does less than 50 electors. I refer you to the submission from Baildon Town Council earlier this year for the detail.

You say in your July report:

We also do not propose to include the settlement of Low Springs in Baildon ward. To do this would require us to create a parish ward for the settlement within the Bingley Town Council area. This parish ward would only have 38 electors and it is the Commission's policy to not create parish wards with less than 100 electors, as we consider they do not provide for effective and convenient local government.

As has previously been pointed out, including Low Springs into Baildon ward does NOT require this hamlet to be moved out of Bingley Town Council parish. We accept this is not practical. However the important issue for these residents is the Bradford district Baildon ward boundary, and we urge you to reconsider your argument to not include Low Springs within Baildon ward. Low Springs would remain within Bingley Town Council parished area. To accept this this change to Baildon ward would not be creating a parish ward with less than 100 electors, as the hamlet would remain in its existing parish ward as part of Bingley Town council.

I would like to close by acknowledging and appreciating the care being taken by yourselves in undertaking this review, and I hope very much that you feel able to confirm your current proposals in October this year.

Kind regards



August 15th 2024

Attached Documents:

- gd-response-to-bc-august-24.docx

**Response to The Local Government Boundary Commission's July 2024
Revised Ward Boundary Proposals for the Baildon, Bingley & Shipley areas
of Bradford Metropolitan District Council**

I am writing as a resident of Baildon to strongly support your July 2024 revised Ward Boundary Proposals for Baildon, Bingley and Shipley. This proposal corrects a long-standing anomaly where part of Baildon is located for electoral purposes in Shipley ward. The boundary for Baildon in the south has always been along the River Aire.

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