

# Bradford

## Personal Details:

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**Organisation Name:** (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Bingley Central

I support the views of our Bingley Ward District Councillors as follows:

The proposed change would draw a boundary straight down a town that is linked by history, character, as well as access to shared amenities and interests (e.g. shops, parks, theatres, art centres, etc). In terms of impact, the residents of the proposed Bingley East Ward for example would not have elected representatives responsible for the amenities and services they are readily able to access from their front door (e.g. Myrtle Park, Bingley Arts Centre, etc), and that form part of the community they identify with.

There are clear administrative issues that would arise from the proposed changes.

Bingley Ward Councillors are working together on a number of projects that span our ward. Through the meetings they have organised the community network has been significantly strengthened and has given rise to strong inter-community support, activities and projects.

Bingley Ward has a very clear geographical, social and community cohesion with current representation and BMDC organisation that enables councillors to pick up and respond to local issues quickly and effectively, and to support residents, the suggestion to break that up would be destructive of our natural and successful community cohesion.

This proposal would undermine the historic and contemporary arguments that ensure the interests of the outer villages (Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth and Cottingley) are represented by elected officials rooted and focused on village concerns rather than inner town interests.

Likewise, the residents of Bingley Town have sought to ensure they are represented by elected officials that articulate and reflect the town's interests within the wider district.

The proposed boundary ignores Bingley Town's historic identity and disregards the many local community groups that work within and cooperate across the town. This proposal would be akin to putting a boundary in the middle of Baildon high street separating a core community into two. It should be noted that all other core towns within the Bradford Metropolitan District sit within one ward, not two. This proposed boundary change would draw a line right through the heart of the town.

The proposed changes were submitted by a single Town Council within the Shipley Constituency with no reference to wider community consultation. It is a very ward-centric proposal that seeks to reinstate its' historic boundaries at the expense and disregard of the historic boundaries, community interests and community identities of the three other local wards.

I support the councillors in their suggestion to revert to the previous proposal recommended by the LGBCE to move a section of Eldwick into Baildon, but extend the proposed Eldwick & Baildon boundary to include the following streets: Southway, Moor Croft and Stone Hill. This would mean that Warren Lane would become the clear boundary between Bingley Ward and the Eldwick & Baildon Wards two wards.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*