

Bradford

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Bingley

I write in relation to the above. As a local community activist, I was fully aware of the original proposals to move part of Eldwick out of Bingley Ward and into Baildon Ward, thus meeting the need to decrease the size of Bingley Ward and increase the size of Baildon Ward. I did not comment in support of this proposal at the time as I had wrongly assumed that as the most sensible suggestion with minimal impact there would be few objections.

I was surprised to see that the Boundary Commission had therefore issued alternative proposals, particularly without reference to Bingley or Shipley Town Councils (or so I am told)

These proposals are so nonsensical that I feel compelled to comment. I also strongly believe they do not represent the majority view of the Town Council, but one very vocal individual who has a vested interest. I know a number of Baildon Town Councillors and whilst the original proposal is not ideal they do see it as the best solution.

In objecting I would like to make the following points:-

1. The revised proposal completely devastes the Bingley community by dividing the town in two. Bingley is a clearly identified town with shared shops, a theatre, parks etc. Your suggested dividing line is right down the middle of our town. Eldwick by comparison is a small suburb of Bingley and whilst it does have a Post Office and a couple of pubs it identifies as Eldwick and not so

much as Bingley so moving it to Baildon would be no different. The people who live there will still identify as Eldwick.

2. Not only does this proposal devastate Bingley Ward, it also has massive impact on Shipley and Bingley Rural Wards. To the lay person it looks like a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

3. I have only been in Bingley for 6 years and I have never lived anywhere with such a strong community identity. It's an example of community cohesion at its best. The voluntary sector is strong and there is a myriad of organisations you can get involved with, covering all organisations and demographics. These include everything from music, creative arts, mental health, skateboarding, food banks and the nationally co-ordinated Totally Locally Initiative.

4. Regarding Bingley Rural Ward. This has long been seen as made up of the 5 distinct villages of Cottingley, Cullingworth, Denholme, Harden and Wilsden. Hence the name 'Rural' to include all these individual communities. This proposal would move part of Cottingley into Shipley, and likewise splits a very small community in half just to add a few numbers to Shipley and is totally unnecessary in my view.

In conclusion I feel that the revised proposal impacts on far more wards than the original proposal to move a small part of Eldwick into Baildon. I also believe the recent objection is politically motivated by one individual on Baildon Town Council and would urge the Boundary Commission to actively seek the views of both Bingley and Shipley Town Councils as the consequences of the latest proposal will significantly impact on a greater number of communities.

The original proposal will definitely result in the least disruption and I am in full support of it.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views and I wish you well in your deliberations.

Attached Documents:

None attached