

Bradford

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Comment text:

Related subject: Cottingley

I have read that part of your revised proposals that affect Cottingley and have looked back at the proposal issued in November 2023. I have not looked into Baildon Town Councils wider proposals in any great detail. Your earlier report rejected the idea of splitting Cottingley and no reason for splitting the community along the proposed boundary has been included at any time.

Baildon's reason for rejecting the link with Eldwick was that they are physically separated and do not form any natural community. Further they argue that people in parts of Baildon think they are part of Shipley and not Baildon.

Looking at the matter based on residential groupings (i.e. blocks/groups of roads with residential properties) Cottingley is as distinct from Shipley as Baildon is from Eldwick with no continuous residential areas linking them. However, viewing Baildon as part of Shipley is far more logical as whichever way you approach Baildon from Shipley centre is almost continuous residential areas.

The whole of Cottingley is part of Bingley along similar lines. This is supported by the fact that Cottingley, although being in Bingley Rural also comes under Bingley Town Council which other more distinct villages (e .g.Harden & Wilsden) do not.

The increase in numbers that are predicted for Bingley as a whole are not coming from Cottingley as there is minimal expansion in the area.

Some of the proposals put forward logically address this so why split Cottingley.

If there is a need to increase Shipley numbers surely this should come from those areas that already identify with Shipley - this appears to be parts of Baildon towards Shipley. In order to meet your desired numbers this would argue for a smaller council in Baildon covering a smaller area. From my reading of the documents and the initial discussions on communities splitting Cottingley in any way goes against the grain.

At one level it seems that Baildon Town Council are doing your work for you in looking at new ways to arrange matters across areas that are nothing to do with them (as they have argued for Eldwick). One has to wonder how a Town Council has the time and resources to commit to such

an exercise and if its focus on its own community is being adversely affected because of it.

Attached Documents:

None attached