

## Gregory, Eleanor

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**From:** Gregory, Eleanor  
**Sent:** 02 July 2010 11:47  
**To:** Lawrence, Arion  
**Subject:** FW:

**Attachments:** ltr to LG Boundary Commission 1Jul10[1].doc



ltr to LG Boundary  
Commission ...

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From: R.Kelly [REDACTED]  
Sent: 01 July 2010 10:51  
To: Reviews@  
Subject:

Dear Sir

Please find an attached copy of our submission to the commission. We will forward a hard copy to you in a few days.

(Dr) Bob Kelly, Hon Sec Biggleswade Labour Party

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# Biggleswade Branch – The Labour Party

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[REDACTED]

1 July 2010

The Review Officer  
Central Bedfordshire Review  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
76-86 Turnmill Street., LONDON, EC1M 5LG.

Dear Sir,

Having considered the Draft Recommendations for the Electoral review of Central Bedfordshire, and consulted Central Beds Labour Party, members of this Branch have asked me to submit the following for consideration during Stage Three of the review.

## Proposed Central Bedfordshire Wards for Biggleswade

Experience gained over many years by our election workers and councillors, both at District (Unitary) and Town Council elections leads us to the strong view that with single member wards there are much clearer accountability lines, with electors having no doubt about who represents them and who to turn to for information and/or help. **This is very often not the case with multi member wards.** Whilst accepting that it may be difficult to achieve single member wards in more rural areas made up by a collection of villages, we can see no reason why this cannot happen in Biggleswade, with its wholly urban area. We support the single member wards submission from Central Beds Labour Party and ask for reconsideration along those lines for Biggleswade. Whilst not being opposed to minor boundary changes between the 4 wards, we can see considerable accountability advantages to local electors of single member wards.

## Biggleswade Town Council Wards.

We have two main concerns about the Draft Recommendations for these –

- 1) Fear of confusion amongst the electorate if there are 2 Central Beds wards and 3 Town Council wards within the same overall parish boundaries.
- 2) Great concern at the large electoral imbalance between the proposed 3 Parish wards, given their projected 2013 electorates and the proposed number of councillors. Although retaining the same ward names as the existing parish wards the 3 proposed parish wards are much changed in composition and size, as follows –

Proposed Ivel Parish Ward would lose Polling District (PD) AWZ to the new Holme ward and gain PD AYZ from the existing Stratton parish ward.

Proposed Stratton Parish Ward would lose PD AYZ to the new Ivel ward but gain PD's AXZ1 & AXZ2 from the existing Holme ward.

Proposed Holme Parish Ward would lose both of its existing PDs AXZ1 & AXZ2 to the new Stratton ward and gain the single PD AWZ from the existing Ivel ward.

The result of these changes means that **it is proposed that 6 Town Councillors would each represent 1111 Ivel ward electors, 3 would each represent 1781 Stratton ward electors, but 6 Town Councillors would each represent only 293 Holme Ward electors.**

This seems widely at variance from the Commission's stated aim of equalising the number of electors each councillor represents. We submit that the 4 Central Beds Council wards proposed by Central Beds Labour Party should also each elect 4 Town Councillors, a small increase in Council size fully justified by an expanding electorate. If however the final recommendation is to have 2 Central Beds wards, as originally recommended, we submit that these same areas should be used for the parish wards and should be each represented by 8 Town Councillors.

As our views are formed after many years of experience here within Biggleswade by our local members we trust they will be taken fully into account when the final recommendations are made.

Yours faithfully