

Starkie, Emily

From: Fuller, Heather
Sent: 01 April 2016 13:54
To: Starkie, Emily
Subject: FW: Comment on the warding arrangements for Lewes Town Council

Sorry this is late, at the time it came in we were unsure of who to send it to

Heather Fuller
Review Assistant
LGBCE

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Lloyd Russell-Moyle
Sent: 16 March 2016 00:28
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: Comment on the warding arrangements for Lewes Town Council

Dear to whom it may concern,

I wish to make one issues of concern, one objection to the warding arrangements of Lewes at the District and Town Council as proposed in March 2016 and one note of support for warding arrangements in Newhaven..

I am an elector, having stood for Lewes Town Council in the Wards of Bridge and LEwes Castle and also having being the Labour PArty Candidate for the Lewes Constituency.

CONCEN: Lewes

The expansion of Lewes Priory

The amendment to move the most part of Wallands (Ferrers Road, Guandra Road, Christie Road and Claire Road) into Priory Ward is acceptable because of their close relationship with Nevill and the Southern part of Wallands (Leicester Road, Vallance Road and Abergavenny/Ousdale Close). However there is little reason to include this with South Part of Lewes "Southover" (ie Southover High Street, Mountfield Road) and the South West part of Lewes "Winterbourne" (ie Roads around Winterbourne Lane/Barron's Down Close).

In terms of warding it would make more sense for Nevill and South Wallands to be moved into Castle Ward. For this ward to be created into a 3 members (district) seat. Priory Ward could then include all properties to the south of De Montfort Road, to the West of Irelands Lane and to the South of the High Street until Station Street as currently. Priory Ward would then be a 2 member ward. This would make no difference to the county electoral districts but would allow for better cohesion for the District.

Currently most children from Nevill (the estate to the North West of Lewes), Wallands (the while estate in the Central North of Lewes), Pells and Landport (the estate to the North of Lewes) attend one local School (Wallands), there is a strong community link between these children. Transport links with Wallands are shared with Nevill (to the west) and Landport (to the east of Wallands) and therefore the areas are physically linked. The areas such as Landport and the Ousedale/Abergavenny share issues of high social housing and deprivation. Finally these areas share common social activities (they are broadly covered by the same bonfire and community associations).

Southover, Winterbourne, South of the High Street and Houndean (the estate to the west of the

prison) share joint bus routes, the children tend to attend the same Primary schools (Southover and Western Road), and are broadly covered by bonfire societies, other community societies and churches which are not shared with the other parts of the ward.

Finally in your proposals Priory wraps around the town and has no physical centre. Therefore physically my adjustment would make both Castle and Priory Ward more complete in terms of geographic coverage ie Priory = South Lewes, Castle = North Lewes, and Bridge = East Lewes.

These proposed changes would make little difference to the East Sussex Electoral Districts. There is further housing development already planned in Malling (Lewes Bridge/Ouse Valley) and Ringmer (Lewes Bridge/Ouse Valley) which will balance off the development planned in North Street (Lewes) and therefore it seem unnessarily to make adjustments on this boundary.

If it felt that it's important to include Pells and North Street into Lewes Bridge for East Sussex, this is greater reason to then make Castle the larger ward and then divide it up at the parish level more equally.

OBJECTION: Lewes

One member decision for Lewes Town

On page 14 the following is stated:

Draft recommendation Lewes Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Lewes Bridge (returning five members), Lewes Castle (returning four members), Lewes Central (returning one member) and Lewes Priory (returning eight members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

It make no sense to have subdivisions of wards for a Town Council which result in mis sized wards.

If not note of concern is not taken from above then it would make more geographic sense to keep Lewes Castle as whole (ie not to divide Lewes Central). Lewes Central and Castle use the same primary school, the same transport, they are very linked in terms of community groups and there would be no sense in trying to force a central ward for the Town council which elects one member but without any explanation. It would damage the understanding of mixed wards at the Town/Parish level and engager the very nature of a town council where multi members allow for politics to be less divisive. I therefore wish to object on practical, political and community grounds. Whilst I am aware there has been planning permission for some of these area, no houses have yet been built, and other parts of the town are also due to large housing developments which whilst have not yet received planning permission would equally grow other wards. It also doesnt help to give part of the ward the same name but different areas as this will confuse electors at later stages.

As Bridge ward would return 5 members, Castle returning 5 members would make sense. (NB if my note of concern is taken on board from above, a subdivision of Lewes North-West/Lewes Nevill (including Wallands, Nevill and North of De Montfort) and Lewes North-West-Central/Lewes Paddock (Including Landport, Pells and North of High street) from Lewes Castle would make sense which would include two 4 member wards with strong geographic distribution)

I also wish to object to Lewes Priory returning eight members. As I have already mentioned above Lewes Priory is large and doesnt share any community, geographic or cultural links across the town.

If Priority is to remain then it would make sense in dividing this ward up into the cultural areas. This would be Lewes Nevill (including Wallans, Nevill and North of DeMontfort) and Lewes Southover (including Winterbourne, Southover, Mountfield Road and South of High Street) with Highdown being attached to which ever subdivision needed to make up the numbers.

Either way this would create two Parish/Town subdivisions of 5 members and two subdivisions of 4 which is more balanced that the proposal of 8,5,4 & 1 member wards at the parish level)

Again I wish to formally and strongly object to such discrepancy in the ward numbers at the town/parish level and for them to take so little regard to cultural, transport and geographical boundaries. Therefore either the proposal of the subdivision for Priory and no subdivision in Castle or my wider proposal a reduced Priory Ward and expanded castle with subdivision, both maintain equal numbers and better geography.

SUPPORT: Newhaven

Inclusion of South Heighton

I wish to support the view that South Heighton be included in Newhaven. Many of the residents live in what is Denton, and most residents that I have spoken to consider themselves as part of Newhaven in terms of services, transport and shopping. In terms of schooling this is also predominantly done via Newhaven Town area. Whilst I make no comment about dividing north south, it might be equally be more sensible to divide along the river (East/West, with a further subdivision in the Western section) providing a more equal balance of councillors (two in three wards) and also align better with the town council.

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Lloyd Russell-Moyle

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