
From: Ian Roselman [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2009 18:19
To: Reviews@
Subject: Proposed Changes to Ward Boundaries in Leighton Buzzard/Linslade

Dear Sir/Madam

As secretary of the Plantation/Heath and Reach Ward Committee for the Conservative Party, I would like to make the following comments regarding any change that is proposed.

1. I understand that it is likely that Heath and Reach may once again be divided from Plantation Ward, and treated as one of the surrounding villages. Having lived in Leighton

Buzzard for twelve years, I can say that residents in both Plantation and Heath and Reach see no separation between the village and the town.

Schooling is combined,

as are leisure activities, transport links, traffic flow and social activities. However, I do understand that people living in Heath and Reach are loath to let go of their parish status,

so obviously this aspect must be taken into account.

2. More importantly, I believe that it is essential that the placement of the four middle schools and two senior schools to be taken into account.

Leighton Buzzard is often

referred to as a commuter town, and this means that vast swathes of the population remaining during the day in Leighton Buzzard are either students or non-working

parents. Therefore traffic flow, social relationships and leisure facilities are built up around schools, and these natural divisions of population should be

considered when determining boundaries. It is not easy for a councillor to perform effectively in representing his/her ward when the ward doesn't reflect the collective

activities of the people in that ward. As such, It would make sense to maintain Grovebury Ward with the junior and middle school in it, to group Planets with Plantation,

and to link Southcott and Linslade. As a mother whose children have and do attend school in Leighton Buzzard I can understand the social networking that links a

school to a community. It is a very strong force indeed.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Yours sincerely

Shar Roselman