

Taylor, Laura

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 March 2017 21:50
To: reviews
Subject: Singleton East Ward (Ashford, Kent)

Dear LGBCE Re: (Ashford Kent),

I am writing in regards my current ward of Singleton South, Ashford, Kent, which in 2019 is due to become Singleton East . I have firstly two concerns, neither of which alter the resident count in the new wards, but which regard the make up of the public facilities in my current ward.

1) Under the draft recommendations the Singleton Environment Centre, (Wesley School Road, Ashford, Kent. TN23 5LW,) will become part of the Washford ward.

My concern here is two fold. First the name indicates it is a Singleton facility, not a Washford one. The residents will find it very strange if they are speaking to the Washford Councillor about issues with the centre, rather than the Singleton East councillor. And second it is not necessary for LGBCE to re-draw lines around commercial premises that will not affect, in anyway whatsoever, the residential count for the new wards. What I am saying is "continuity" should be maintained as it historically has been.

2) The Cuckoo Play Area (opposite the The John Wesley Primary School, Cuckoo Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 5LW)

This play area is maintained by the Great Chart and Singleton Parish Council, and indeed the Parish Council had to raise it's precept to be able to make financial plans to maintain the new park into the future. Again, this park will not affect residential counts, but will be maintained by the Parish Council with precept monies from the residents of Singleton and Great Chart.... NO monies from residents of Washford Farm have gone into this management plan/fund. And as the Parish Council boundaries aren't due to change, never will.

The two above cases indicate that this Ward needs to be looked at again. And in detail. Indeed, the draft recommendations submitted to LGBCE by Ashford Borough Council are in my opinion OVERALLY HARSH, as even these are well within the tolerances set by LGBCE guidelines.

As it is the draft recommendations already move houses from the current ward into Washford Ward, that go VERY CLOSE to the geographic heart of my ward. Whilst I accept the need to rebalance wards.... in this case a LARGE swathe of houses, are removed going down Running Foxes Lane, moving very close to the heart of Singleton which is the Singleton Bard Pub and its surrounding grounds. Many residents of Singleton, both on maps and by post code, will now be represented by a Washford councillor, even though they can throw a stone to the geographic

heart of Singleton South Ward, and soon to be Singleton East. This makes little sense both politically and demographically.

And yet homes VERY close to the geographical heart of the current ward of Singleton South will move into a ward whose Postcode and Geographical/Historical heart is approximately 0.75 miles South of these houses.

*Residents will have a postcode for Singleton, but a Councillor for Washford. **Surely this needs looking at again with reference to the tolerance percentages to give some possible leeway to the houses due to be moved that are so close to the geographic heart of Singleton.***

I look forward to your response, please confirm receipt of this email.

*Regards
Cllr Bill Barrett.(Singleton South Ward)*