

Councillor submissions to the Gloucester City Council electoral review

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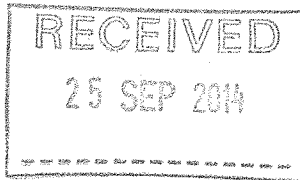
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T
22 September 2014

To the Boundary Commission

I am writing to you regarding the consultation on the Ward boundaries of Matson and Robinswood.

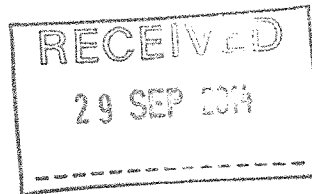
I am concerned about the White City area of Gloucester which is in the current Ward of Matson and Robinswood. I would ask when you make your recommendations that the White City area of Matson and Robinswood should be kept together. The White City has worked hard to be recognised as a community.

I would be grateful that Matson and Robinswood remain the same with the exception of properties on the other side of Painswick Road (Linnet Close, Saintbridge etc). Residents do not consider themselves as part of Matson and Robinswood. Painswick Road being a wide main busy road as a natural border.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Steve McHale
County Councillor for Coney Hill and Matson



Submission on the Local Government Boundary Review for Gloucester City Council

By Councillor Philip McLellan

The comments included relate primarily to the current City Council Barnwood ward. The City Council has put forward proposals for the ward boundaries for parts of the City. These include the Liberal Democrat group of which I am a member.

However being a councillor for the current ward of Barnwood I wish to put forward proposals for the current Barnwood ward within the City.

I am suggesting that the current three member ward of Barnwood be split to form a two member Barnwood ward and a one member Coney Hill & Saintbridge ward

I am proposing a separate one member ward for Coney Hill and Saintbridge which essentially takes the area on the East of Painswick Road identified and would leave the rest of the current Barnwood ward as a two member ward. If the electorate falls within the criteria this could include part of the current Matson & Robinswood ward which is adjacent to Saintbridge balancing pond

I am one of the three current City councillors for Barnwood which includes the Coney Hill and Saintbridge areas. I am also Vice Chair of Governors at Coney Hill Community School. I live half a mile from Coney Hill but in a very different community.

Coney Hill includes mainly 1930's council housing, much of which is now in private ownership. The community is focused around the school, local shops, local church, local scouts and guides, youth club etc and has a local GP surgery close by in Askwith Road. The community forms a close cohesive unit.

Saintbridge including the areas currently in Matson & Robinswood ward is geographically linked to Coney Hill. It has a different mix of housing but many of the people living there use the same GP (which is located in Saintbridge) and primary school. People from both communities use the local allotments, youth centre, church etc. These communities are intrinsically linked

There is currently a residents group representing the whole of Barnwood ward but its membership and therefore focus is from and on the other parts of Barnwood Ward. Gloucester City Homes is currently seeking to re-establish a residents group focused on the Coney Hill area.

The proposed Coney Hill & Saintbridge ward apart from being adjacent to Barnwood has no real social or community links. Children from Barnwood do not go to Coney Hill School, or the youth club etc but instead go to schools elsewhere and similarly folks from Coney Hill have no real community links with the rest of the current Barnwood ward.

Coney Hill and to a lesser extent Saintbridge have areas of high deprivation and would benefit from a single councillor whose sole focus would be to be part of those communities and represent those areas.

There remains one other small community known as Chequers Bridge estate which is on the City side of Eastern Avenue and on the Eastern side of Painswick Road. Its demographics are similar to Coney Hill but the community does not really have close links with Coney Hill. It was put in the current Barnwood ward partly for electoral equality and partly so the railway line could form an easy geographic boundary. This community is obviously not large enough for a single member ward and could logically be included with either Coney Hill and Saintbridge, Matson and Robinswood or Barton & Tredworth. I would suggest for purpose of electoral equality it be included in my suggested Coney Hill & Saintbridge ward.

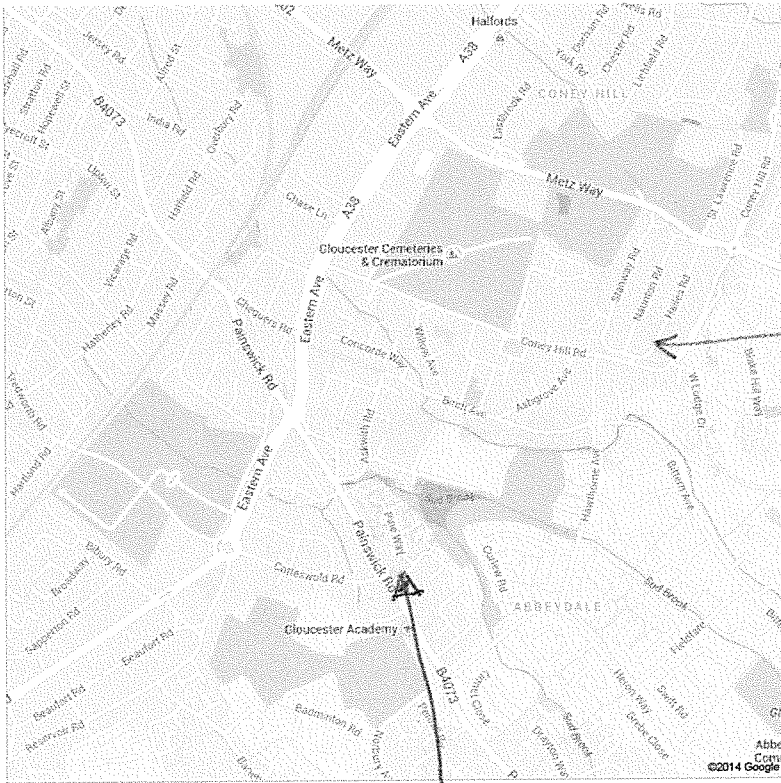
I hope you will consider my suggestions as part of the boundary review.

I attach a map setting out the proposals



Philip McLellan
City Councillor for Barnwood

Google



Coney Hill & Southbridge

Possible additional area