

South Gloucestershire

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

Dear Review Officer, As the Member of Parliament for Kingswood, and also a local resident, I am writing to express my support for the majority of the Local Government Boundary Commission's proposals in South Gloucestershire affecting my Kingswood constituency. One proposed ward that stands out as being a bit of a mismatch however is the proposed 3-Member Staple Hill ward. As the local Member of Parliament for Kingswood and also a local resident, having lived in the Kingswood constituency nearly all my life I believe there needs to be some careful reconsideration of the Staple Hill boundary. Your proposal expands Staple Hill across constituency borders into Mangotsfield Village, the heart of the current Rodway Ward, an area very distinct from Staple Hill. Mangotsfield Village is a self-sustaining community that would be better served with its own representation. Perhaps a 1-Member ward, leaving Staple Hill with 2-Members. Below are a number of reasons I believe show Mangotsfield to be a separate community and exemplify why it needs its own councillor, separate to those in Staple Hill.

- Mangotsfield Village not only has its own supermarket, Tesco, but also its own high street with shops such as florists, cafes, a barber and crucially its own Post Office. This means local residents do not rely on the separate high street found in Staple Hill, being able to buy groceries, bank, use the postal service and generally shop within Mangotsfield Village.
- Like Staple Hill Mangotsfield Village also has its own public toilets and as a testament to the strength of its own high street a public car park so that people can visit and shop.
- Children and parents from Mangotsfield don't have reason to meet with one another as Staple Hill residents and Mangotsfield Village residents go to different schools. Residents of Mangotsfield Village generally attend the two Mangotsfield Village Primary Schools – Stanbridge Primary School and Barley Close Primary School. In addition children in Mangotsfield generally attend the Mangotsfield School for secondary education.
- Children in Staple Hill generally attend their Primary Schools – The Tynings Primary School and Staple Hill Primary School. For secondary education children in Staple generally attend the Downend School. From an early age children in these two areas have very little interaction with each other, due to them living in two distinct communities.
- Further to different schools Mangotsfield Village and Staple Hill have different Scout Groups – Staple Hill = 74th Scout Group, Staple Hill Methodist Church, High Street, Staple Hill BS16 5HQ and Mangotsfield = 1st Mangotsfield Scouts, Baden Hall, Northcote Road, Mangotsfield BS16 9HF. This is another clear example of Staple Hill and Mangotsfield Village being two separate and independent communities, where again children are not mixing.
- Mangotsfield Village has both very successful rugby and football clubs – Cleve Rugby Football Club and Mangotsfield Football Club. Both forming the sporting heart of Mangotsfield Village.
- There are also two local pubs centred in Mangotsfield Village – the Lamb Inn and The Red Lion. This gives local village residents places to socialise, both in the day and of an evening, away from Staple Hill.
- Mangotsfield Village has its own war memorial at Mangotsfield Green, separate to the one found in Page Park in Staple Hill. In addition, there are two different war memorial services for Remembrance Day ran by two different Legions – one held in Staple Hill and the other in Mangotsfield Village. This further demonstrates the two unique identities of Staple Hill and Mangotsfield.
- Perhaps one of the strongest arguments for Mangotsfield Village having its own identity is the Mangotsfield Village Festival held every year at the Cleve Rugby Club - www.mangotsfieldfestival.co.uk. Part of this festival involves awarding local Mangotsfield groups and societies with the Mangotsfield Community Village award. This is an award given to various groups for the work they do for Mangotsfield Village residents. This includes St James Parish Church, which has been the heart of Mangotsfield Village since the 13th Century, and the restoration of its hall.
- Another significant difference between Staple Hill and Mangotsfield Village is that Mangotsfield Village is a more rural community than the more urban Staple Hill. This is exemplified by the greenbelt land which can be found in Mangotsfield which joins up with the greenbelt land found at Short Wood. Additionally, Mangotsfield also has its own woods – Charnwood. This can be viewed on google maps here: <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Charnhill+Dr,+Bristol+BS16+9JS/@51.4791866,-2.4888276,521m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x48718550ddd450a7:0x5f885fb232158da818m2!3d51.479348!4d-2.4918308>. Despite having a park, Staple Hill does not have greenbelt land, does not enjoy its own woodland and does not have its own Parish Church in St James. All things related to a more rural way of living.
- A crucial point also is that in a 3-Member Staple Hill and Mangotsfield Ward Councillors will need to work with two members of Parliament as residents will reside in two constituencies. This could lead to unnecessary delays in response to issues, confusion in who to write to and prevent residents from receiving the best representation they deserve. An obvious solution is to have a 2-Member Staple Hill Ward within the Filton

and Bradley Stoke Constituency and a 1-Member Mangotsfield Village Ward within the Kingswood constituency. Appreciating the need to keep good electoral quality, if it isn't possible to keep all Kingswood constituents within the Mangotsfield Village ward then as few should be placed into a new Staple Hill ward as possible, to help ensure residents receive the best levels of representation at every level of government. In summary I support your proposal for the South Gloucestershire Council ward boundaries that affect the Kingswood constituency except for the proposed Staple Hill and Mangotsfield ward. As outlined above, by almost every measure Staple Hill and Mangotsfield are two completely different wards. I would respectfully ask that you look again at this proposed ward and see if it is not possible, for all the reasons stated above, to create a 2-Member Staple Hill ward and a 1-Member Mangotsfield Village ward. This would ensure that both unique areas received the best representation possible. I encourage this not only as the Member of Parliament for Kingswood, but as a local Kingswood resident. Yours sincerely, Chris Skidmore Member of Parliament for Kingswood and Minister for the Constitution

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded