

Gregory, Eleanor

From: Gregory, Eleanor
Sent: 13 July 2010 18:01
To: Lawrence, Arion
Subject: FW: Central Bedfordshire Review

Attachments: Ward Review 2.docx



Ward Review
2.docx

-----Original Message

From: Julian Murray [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 July 2010 12:35
To: Reviews@; Julian Murray
Subject: Central Bedfordshire Review

Corrected document from Councillor Murray

Submission to Boundary Commission

Central Bedfordshire Review.

11th July 2010

Dunstable Northfields Ward

I acknowledge your change of mind about splitting Dunstable Northfields Ward in two. I understand your point about the knock-on effect of leaving the area, bounded by High Street North east side, Dog Kennel Walk and the line of the old railway, in Dunstable Central Ward.

However, as I realised that no political party had actually asked the electorate in that neighbourhood what their views were, I conducted a survey, writing to every house.

I received eighteen replies, all unanimous in their wishing to remain in Dunstable Central Ward. The great majority stated that they had no identity with Northfields Ward and, indeed, shared the view I proposed in my previous submission that they felt that they belonged to the town centre. You should have received some e-mails from the affected residents. I have included those who copied me their points of view in my figures

So, what to do?

I propose that the new boundary of Dunstable Northfields Ward is redrawn along High Street North, south from Chiltern Road until Union Street. The boundary is drawn the length of Union Street until it meets Chiltern Road. The Ward should include the houses on both sides of Chiltern Road, on its way to West Street and include Nursery Close.

In this way, the residents of the area to the east of High Street North would be able to remain in Dunstable Central Ward and Dunstable Northfields Ward would have a councillor/elector representation very close to the mean.

Other Wards in Dunstable

There is a lot of unrest about the layout of Ward boundaries.

The boundary causing the most concern is Dunstable Watling Ward, which seems to encompass a fair proportion of the existing Chiltern Ward. The residents in the area off the Totternhoe Road appear to be of the view that – according to your criterion on strong community identity and boundaries – they have absolutely no connection with the electorate of the southern part of the proposed Watling Ward i.e: the Oldhill estate encompassing the streets on each side of Lowther Road.

One can see their point. For an electorate which has considered itself to be part of Central Dunstable, it looks as though, with current thinking, there was no alternative to lumping the west and south-west side of the town together.

I propose that it is Dunstable Watling Ward which has one Central Bedfordshire councillor and three town councillor and Central Ward is enlarged by the retention of the contentious are east of High Street North, includes part of Watling Ward, has two Central Bedfordshire councillors and five town councillors.

If one extends the boundary line along Canesworde Road south west along the footpath until it meets the Caddington Ward boundary, and redraws the boundary line on High Street South, southwards from just south of Friars Walk until Garden Road, along that street until Bull Pond Lane, then left and follow around and include Langdale Road until it reaches the existing boundary near the shops, this would seem to answer the dissatisfaction which has been raised. In order to equate the electorate as much as possible, it might be necessary to move the boundary to include Periwinkle Lane and the house off it. I am not privy to the figures.

None of the political parties seems to have considered this.

I hope that you will take my views into consideration and I thank you for the close attention you have given during this review.

Thank you

Councillor Julian Murray
Independent Northfields Ward.