

Eleanor Gregory

From: Eleanor Gregory
Sent: 01 February 2010 13:01
To: Richard Buck
Subject: FW: EC website: Online submission

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Democracy matters

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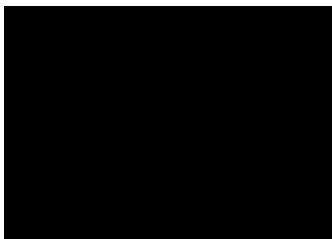
-----Original Message-----

From: Reviews@
Sent: 31 January 2010 13:02
To: Reviews@
Subject: EC website: Online submission

Form summary:

Name : Marc Asquith

Postal address :



Email address :



Area your submission refers to : Cheshire East

Organisation you belong to : other (please specify in your submission)

Your feedback : I am one of the Ward Councillors for the Macclesfield Forest Ward. I wish to object to the splitting of the Gawsorth Parish between the Gawsorth Ward and the Macclesfield Moss Ward. The proposal is to place the " Rising Sun Estate" in the Moss ward, whereas the rest of the Parish will sit in the Gawsorth Ward. The sole rationale for this split is given at Paragraph 73 of the recommendations. It would be my submission that this is a flimsy reason for splitting the Parish between 3 CE Ward Councillors. (2 for the Moss and 1 for the majority of Gawsorth). It reflects the lack of local knowledge of those drafting the recommendations, because on the face of it, the reasons given in Para. 73 "look" right. However, the following submissions must be set against that initial appearance. Firstly, it must be borne in mind how little involvement the general public have with their Councillors and how it takes a great deal of time to get the public used to who, how and where they can go to for help with problems. The County Council's Forest Division (and therefore the representation of this estate) has remained unchanged for at least a decade. The public who live on the Rising Sun estate know that they are within the Parish of Gawsorth. It will therefore create tremendous confusion for residents who live in the Gawsorth Parish to find that their Council representative is not the Gawsorth Ward Councillor, but rather one of the two that serve the Moss Ward. This confusion will be exacerbated because it is a change and it will take considerable time to educate people about this change, the Public are not looking for a change, they know their Councillor is the Gawsorth Councillor. Secondly, there will be substantial problems with representation, Those of us who serve rural Wards view Parish Councils as the main contact point with the local residents. It is my view that whilst the Gawsorth Councillor is likely to attend Parish Council meetings, given that the Rising Sun estate constitutes such a small part of the Moss Ward, the incentive for the Moss Councillors to attend is much less strong. I am concerned at the prospect of the 3 Parish Councillors representing the Rising Sun estate (as per the proposal for Warding the PC) attending a PC meeting and raising issues relating to their part of the Parish - only, either to be told that it is nothing to do with the Gawsorth CE Ward Councillor, or to see that Councillor become the de facto Councillor for the estate in any event.

Further, it seems to me that the reason for making this change is flawed. As Macclesfield expands it will always encroach on the rural parishes. (Macclesfield is surrounded by Green Belt and so expansion is going to be limited, but contraction is certainly not going to happen) Is this encroachment a reason to salami slice the representation of the Parishes which have existed for over 100 years.

Finally, the most telling factor is the numbers of electors. I cannot find an accurate count for the estate but it appears that there are fewer than 200 households - perhaps 400 electors. On the figures provided with the consultation pack Gawsorth is currently 8% below the average electors per Councillor and by 2013 will fall to 10% below. In contrast the Moss ward is 7% below now and will remain 7% below in 2013. In fact the population of the Moss Ward is projected to rise slightly but not sufficiently to change the % points. Gawsorth therefore will become increasingly in need of population whereas the Moss broadly remains stable. Further, since the Moss Ward is proposed to have 2 Councillors and the Gawsorth Ward 1. The effect on the electors per Councillor by returning the Rising Sun Estate to the Gawsorth Ward is only 50% of the detriment on the numbers of electors per Councillor in the Moss Ward whereas the gain for the Gawsorth Ward is 100% (Because it has one Councillor).

Assuming around 400 electors, the effect on the Gawsorth Ward to bring it remarkably close to the average electors per councillor at about +1.5% and given that the projection is for a steadily falling population for Gawsorth for the future, this contains an element of future proofing for the Ward.

I have to concede that if I am correct in my guesstimate as to the number of electors on the Rising Sun Estate, then this would leave the Moss Ward some 13 - 14 % below the average number of electors. If needed this could be remedied by small adjustments to the other adjacent Wards, Macc East and Macc Central both of which could lose some population and remain within the range of the other Wards in terms of electors per Councillor. In particular the East Ward is currently 1% above the average and is

projected to be 4% above average by 2013. A quick glance by an untutored eye indicates that it would be straightforward to move Blakelow Rd (Up to the right / left zigzag) from the East Ward to the Moss Ward. Other similar minor changes could be made to rebalance the numbers between the Moss and East Wards.

It seems to me therefore that this proposal is misconceived. It is capable of remedy. It should therefore be remedied.

I hope these submissions are clear.

Regards

Marc Asquith

Attachment : No file uploaded

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