

Cannock Chase District Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I agree entirely with the submission made by Cannock Chase Green Party, predicated on the district being divided into 36 single-councillor wards. In my view, the alternative of 3-councillor wards, each containing an average electorate of 6,861 by 2027 is unacceptable in a predominantly rural/semi-rural area. Each of these wards would be geographically too large to have any real sense of community identity or shared interests and would be too big for district councillors to properly cover. If, however, the LGBCE is minded to not follow this proposal, then I make the following proposal for the area currently covered by the Rawnsley and Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury wards: Rawnsley remains a 2-councillor ward and Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury becomes a 2-councillor ward. This proposal would give priority to community interests/identity and effective local government ahead of having an equal number of electors in each ward. Both wards would still only have a variance from the target of 2,287 by 2027 of 17% or less and therefore would be within acceptable boundaries. In fact, this is likely to be less than 17% as I do not believe that CCDC has taken sufficient account of the significant new development of 60+ dwellings on Rawnsley Road in Rawnsley. It would also resolve the current issue of Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury being excessively over-represented with its predicted population and 3 councillors. This proposal is supported by the following: Cannock Wood, Prospect Village, Rawnsley and Hazel Slade have a clear, linked common identity and community interests. They are all villages right at the edge of Cannock Chase District, on the border with Lichfield District Council's area. They have a strong identity as being separate from Cannock and Hednesford towns. Residents therefore commonly look to use the larger facilities in that area, such as shopping in Lichfield and Burntwood; Burntwood Leisure Centre; childrens' groups at Chase Terrace and Burntwood Scout Huts and secondary school education at Chase Terrace and Erasmus Darwin Academies. Prospect Village has no community facilities, other than its village hall. Residents therefore use The Rag pub (between Prospect Village and Cannock Wood) or the Hazel Slade Inn; the shop and Post Office in Hazel Slade and children from the village attend Hazel Slade Primary School. The number 62 bus is the only public transport available for the villages. This service links the four villages, travelling through each of them and on to Burntwood. Recent cuts to this service have been opposed by campaigners from all three villages. The main road link is the Cannock Wood Street, Cannock Wood Road, Sevens Road artery, which joins Hazel Slade to Prospect Village via the edge of Rawnsley. The fields referred to above should remain part of this ward as there is a clear link between them and Prospect Village, Rawnsley and Hazel Slade. The fields are accessed from Sevens Road in Prospect Village and from a road which runs between Chetwynd Park and the cricket club off Littleworth Road. It does not make sense to split farmland and the access roads to that farmland between wards. Further, the Old Ironstone Road runs from "new" Ironstone Road in Prospect Village, across those fields, joining up with footpaths on the way, and down to the land of Chasewater Country Park. This is part of the proposed "missing link" of National Cycle Route 5, the reinstatement of which is supported by Sustrans and CCDC. The fields containing that route should therefore remain part of the ward. The ward contains or is surrounded by a number of long straight roads where speeding is a concern to residents – Rawnsley Road, Littleworth Road, Sevens Road, Hayfield Hill and Cannock Wood Street. The current two councillors are both members of the Hazel Slade Community Speedwatch Team, which monitors 3 of these roads. Together, both Rawnsley councillors regularly attend meetings of Cannock Wood Parish Council, Hazel Slade Residents' Association and Beaudesert Field Trust. It is appropriate to keep these bodies as part of one ward. Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury ward would remain within the Parish Council boundary.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded