

Chesterfield Borough Council's Labour Group's response to the LGBCE consultation on Warding patterns for Chesterfield Borough Council

The Labour Party believes there are two particular issues with the boundaries proposed by the LGBCE. This belief has been reinforced during the consultation period by listening surgeries the MP for Chesterfield and councillors have held with the electorate about the boundary proposals.

The first is that the Whittington Moor ward actually excludes the community/area of Whittington Moor, which the LGBCE proposal seeks to move to Dunston ward. In addition, there is a big variance from the average in Brockwell ward in the LGBCE's proposals for Brockwell, and an over allocation in Whittington Moor and under-allocation in Dunston. Labour has proposals which would address all these issues.

The second is that whilst accepting the argument that Brampton is a distinctive community and naming a ward Brampton, the LGBCE proposals actually remove even more of Brampton from the former Holmebrook ward and shift the boundaries of the ward further south up Boythorpe Road only exacerbating the split of Brampton that Labour was arguing to end.

We also record again our regret that the Loundsley Green ward will be abolished but accept that the LGBCE appears resolute in its view that Loundsley Green Road (B6150) is the most appropriate boundary in that area.

Whittington Moor ward

Whittington Moor can reasonably be described as the area around the Whittington Moor roundabout, travelling down Sheffield Road towards the town centre to Stand Road. Yet the LGBCE proposals take this area which includes Whittington Moor Doctors surgery, Whittington Moor Post Office, and Moor Food (all named after the area they are based in) and moves them into the Dunston ward.

Labour proposes returning that area, all of which was previously within Moor ward (570 voters) to the Whittington Moor ward, and instead transferring 1298 voters from the Western end of Moor ward around Littlemoor into Dunston ward. These voters would all be in the Dunston Primary school catchment area, are positioned at the end of Dunston Lane and in any case do not live in or identify as being part of the Whittington Moor community. It also has the benefits of reducing the size of Whittington Moor ward to much closer to the average level and increasing the Dunston ward to be closer to the average level too.

We also suggest moving the border between Brockwell ward and Whittington Moor ward which is currently very convoluted as indicated on the attached maps, which will move 346 voters on Edinburgh Road and surrounding areas into the Whittington Moor ward which will reduce the amount that Brockwell ward is above the average.

We believe that taking the border between Brockwell and Whittington Moor further west along Newbold Road to bring all Tapton View Road and Edinburgh Road and surrounding streets into the Whittington Moor ward will both reduce the imbalance in voter numbers, simplify the boundaries and ensure that all Tapton View Road is in the same ward.

Loundsley Green ward

The Labour Party continues to believe that the Loundsley Green ward has been a success and that the proposal that we made in our original submission to extend rather than abolish the ward was a sensible one. However, we accept that the LGBCE has decided that Loundsley Green Road provides a natural boundary and, on that basis, believe that the current allocation of areas from the former Loundsley Green ward into the Linacre, Brockwell and West wards is the most sensible one.

Given that most of the Loundsley Green area itself (as opposed to Holme Hall) would be in the West ward, and that nobody considers that the area they live in to be called West, we propose renaming the West ward as **Brampton West and Loundsley Green**.

Brampton, Walton & West wards

The Labour Party believes, as it set out in its original submission, that Brampton is one of Chesterfield's most distinctive communities/ areas and that this should be reflected in the area being re-united. We welcome the LGBCE's intention to name a ward Brampton, but this has coincided with further parts of Brampton on Old Hall Road and west of it moving out of this ward and into the new West ward.

There has been considerable opposition to this LGBCE proposal from voters we have spoken to in Brampton, and despite the low level of awareness of the consultation, we had a number of responses, almost exclusively against splitting Brampton in the way proposed.

We propose returning all the streets north of the Old Hall Road/Old Road crossroads, that were previously in Holmebrook ward, to the Brampton ward. This would add approximately 440 voters into Brampton, bringing Brampton's electorate up to around 4,050, which would be within 2% of the average, much closer than the LGBCE proposal, which would leave it 8% below average now and 10% below by 2027. Even with our proposal, a fair bit of Brampton would still be outside of this ward, so we suggest naming this ward Brampton **East and Boythorpe** as the electorate that lives in the Boythorpe part of this new ward is nearly as large as those that live in Brampton. This complements the renaming of the new West Ward, as suggested above, to **Brampton West and Loundsley Green**.

Regarding the boundary between Walton and West we agree with the LGBCE decision to have the Somersall Park as a natural boundary between the two wards as we believe that houses in the former SA4 polling district are better placed within Walton ward and not West ward.

We remain of the view that Walton Road presented a natural boundary between the ward heading West and the one heading towards Boythorpe and believed our proposed Walton East and Boythorpe ward presented a neat alternative but accept the LGBCE's view that the proposed Rother ward was unacceptably small and so agree with the decision to add voters on Whitecotes Lane and roads off to Walton ward and add voters on Boythorpe Road and roads off to the 'Brampton' ward.

We are baffled by the LGBCE's suggestion that uniquely the electorate of West ward will fall in actual terms between 2021 and 2027. There are already plans for 47 new electors from two specific developments. Around 16 in the former Heaton Court site and 31 in the Ashbrook Hostel site off Cuttholme Road.

West ward also has a far larger than average proportion of larger houses with extended garden areas of the sort that often get turned into small developments, so we expect that as a minimum the electorate of the current West ward is likely to increase by around 75 voters between 2021 and 2027.

It should be pointed out that Heaton Court was in the old Holmebrook ward and Ashbrook Hostel was in the old Loundsley Green ward so it is possible that this housing growth has been mis-allocated but we would like to ensure that the LGBCE is aware of these developments.

Hasland & Rother wards

We are pleased that the LGBCE accepted our suggestion that the railway line be used as a boundary between Rother and Hasland and agree with the decision to add parts of Birdholme that were in St Leonards ward to Rother and to use Boythorpe Road as a boundary between Rother and Brampton.

On Harehill Road in the proposed Rother ward the local councillors have requested that Fisher Close which can only be accessed from Harehill Road is left in Rother Ward. The rest of the new housing which is currently being built on land that was formerly part of Walton Hospital only has an access from Whitecotes Lane therefore it is accepted that it is right that it be placed in the proposed new Walton Ward.

We also agree with the decision to bring Spital to within the Hasland ward despite the fact that this will give Hasland a +12% variance from the average. We understand that this is necessary due to the amount of growth there will be in Spire ward between 2021 and 2027.

Spire ward

We agree with the makeup of the Spire ward.

Staveley & Brimington

We are pleased that the LGBCE chose to adopt Labour's proposals for Staveley and Brimington. There has been some misleading opposition created in local media suggesting that this move would result in Hollingwood being excluded from the Staveley Town Deal. This move would not have any impact on Hollingwood's involvement in the Staveley Town Deal, neither does it change their place in the Staveley Town Council area because as the LGCE's notes in their report this would be subject to a community governance review which would have its own consultation process. The Brimington Division of Derbyshire County Council covers both Brimington and Hollingwood. It has been the practice of a succession of county councillors to attend both Staveley Town and Brimington Parish Council meetings, hold surgeries, attend events, and take up casework within Hollingwood proportionately with the rest of the division and in accordance with the needs of that community. This works well and we envisage the same will be the case in the proposed Brimington North ward of Chesterfield Borough Council.

This publicity may have been successful in attracting opposition to these proposals, on what we believe is the basis of a misrepresentation of the impact of these proposals.

We continue to believe that the significant distance between Hollingwood residents and most of the other voters in the previous Hollingwood and Inkersall division and the proximity of Hollingwood to Brimington North make this a more sensible configuration.

In their report the LGBCE ask for community views on their choice of Hall Road (A619 west bound) as the boundary between the proposed Brimington North and Brimington South wards. This has been the boundary between the Wards at least since the last boundary review. This arrangement also makes the Village Green which is the site of many community events throughout the year equally accessible by residents from both Wards but also a natural and valued green space between them. Local councillors have received no comments against the LGBE's proposal and therefore we support the LGBCE's proposal.

Whittington ward

We were surprised that the LGBCE were so indifferent to the impact of these proposals on the Boundary Commission's plans for the Chesterfield parliamentary constituency as the creation of the Whittington ward will mean either a Borough Council ward that is in two different parliamentary constituencies which is unusual for a district council ward of only a few thousand voters or will require a change in the constituency proposals.

The Labour Party's plans for a 2 seat New Whittington ward and an Old Whittington/ Whittington Moor ward would have avoided that. However, we understand the LGBCEs objections to crossing the Whittington Moor roundabout.

On that basis we can see a logic to the proposed Whittington ward.

9 January 2021

Appendices

The written responses received to the listening surgeries we have held with residents in the areas mentioned in this submission will be forwarded to the LGBCE via email separately, we would like each of these responses to be treated as individual responses to the consultation.

Effect of changes to ward sizes

Which voters	No of voters	From	To
Voters at North West end of Proposed Whittington Moor ward (List A)	1298	Whittington Moor	Dunston
Voters at South Eastern (Whittington Moor) end of Dunston ward (List B)	570	Dunston	Whittington Moor
Voters at Eastern end of Brockwell ward (List C)	346	Brockwell	Whittington Moor
Voters at Eastern End (Old Hall Road) of West ward (List D)	440	West ward	Brampton

Ward sizes with Proposed changes

Ward Name	No of Cllrs	Electorate (2021)	No of electors per Cllr	Variance from average%	Electorate (2027)	No of electors per Cllr	Variance from average
Brampton	2	4050	2025	3%	4225	2112	0%
Brockwell	2	4133	2066	5%	4156	2078	-1%
Dunston	3	6033	2011	2%	6859	2286	8%
West	3	5391	1797	-8%	5466	1822	-13%
Whittington Moor	2	4031	2015	3%	4047	2023	-4%

List A

MA2	(MA2) Moor	Littlemoor	42
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Littlemoor Centre	12
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Littlemoor Flats	3
MA2	(MA2) Moor	St Johns Road	51
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Amesbury Close	12
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Blandford Drive	92
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Cranborne Road	72
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Elm Close	16
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Pembroke Court	24
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Pevensey Court	13
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Ringwood Avenue	206

MA2	(MA2) Moor	Salisbury Avenue	195
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Salisbury Crescent	127
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Wimborne Crescent	125
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Winchester Road	67
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Dukes Drive	154
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Pevensey Avenue	17
MA2	(MA2) Moor	Highfield Lane 2-84 (Even)	70
			1,298

List B

MA1	(MA1) Moor	Allsops Place	17
MA1	(MA1) Moor	Elm Lodge Farm Close	25
MA1	(MA1) Moor	Grove Road	26
MA1	(MA1) Moor	Highgrove Close	4
MA1	(MA1) Moor	Kenilworth Court	8
MA1	(MA1) Moor	King Street North	50
MA1	(MA1) Moor	Occupation Road	57
MA1	(MA1) Moor	Racecourse Road	69
MA1	(MA1) Moor	Shaw Street	47
MA1	(MA1) Moor	Sheffield Road	88
MA1	(MA1) Moor	St Chads Way	52
MA1	(MA1) Moor	St Lukes Court	17
MA1	(MA1) Moor	Stand Road	110
			570

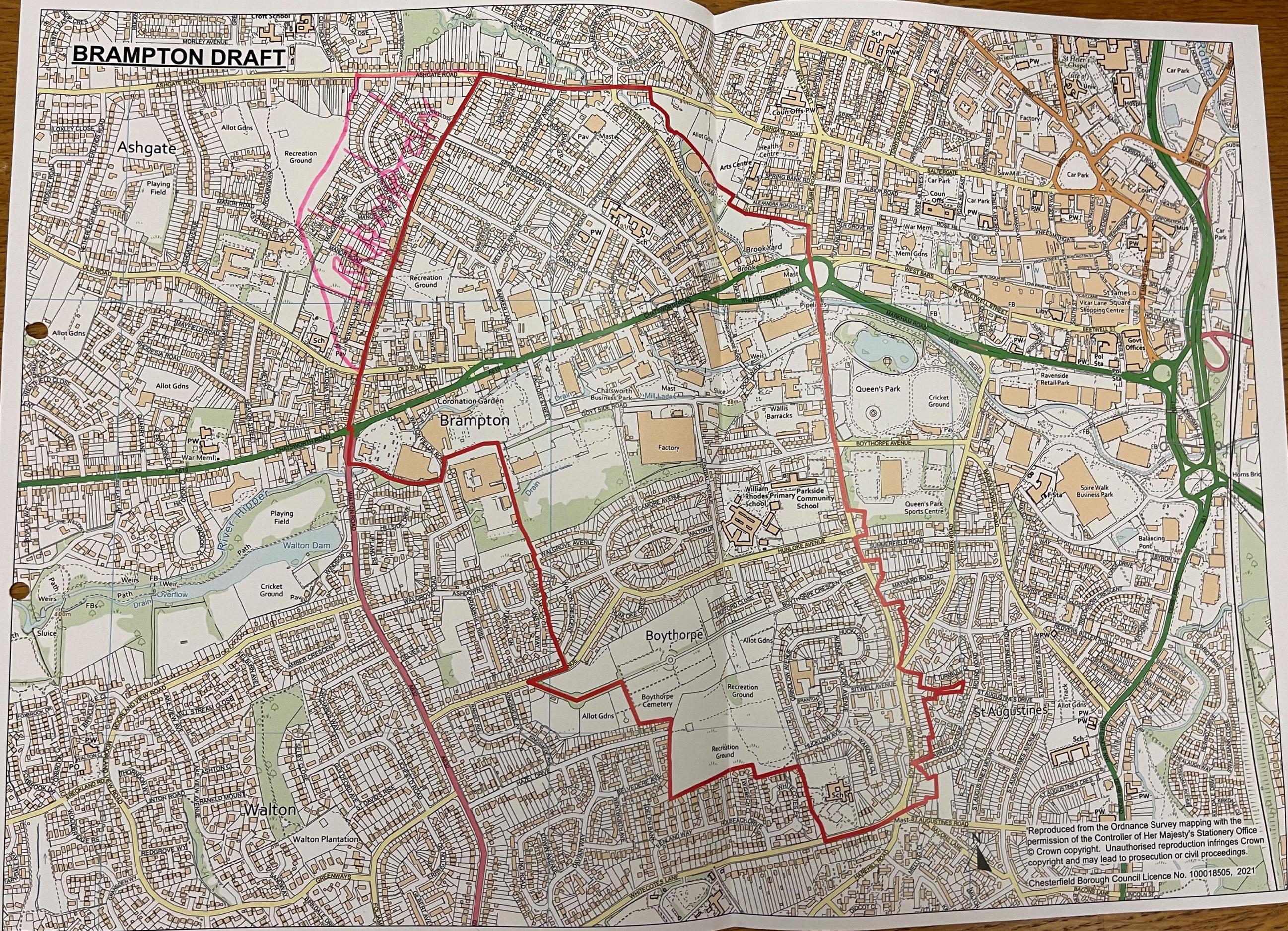
List C

PA1	(PA1) St Helens	Appleyard Court	7
PA1	(PA1) St Helens	Edinburgh Mews	17
PA1	(PA1) St Helens	Edinburgh Road	108
PA1	(PA1) St Helens	Eyre Gardens	35
PA1	(PA1) St Helens	Highfield Road	42
PA1	(PA1) St Helens	Kent Close	13
PA1	(PA1) St Helens	Newbold Road	42
PA1	(PA1) St Helens	Rhodes Avenue	101
PA1	(PA1) St Helens	Trinity Close	33
PA1	(PA1) St Helens	Trinity Court	5
PA1	(PA1) St Helens	Trinity Mews	4
			346

List D

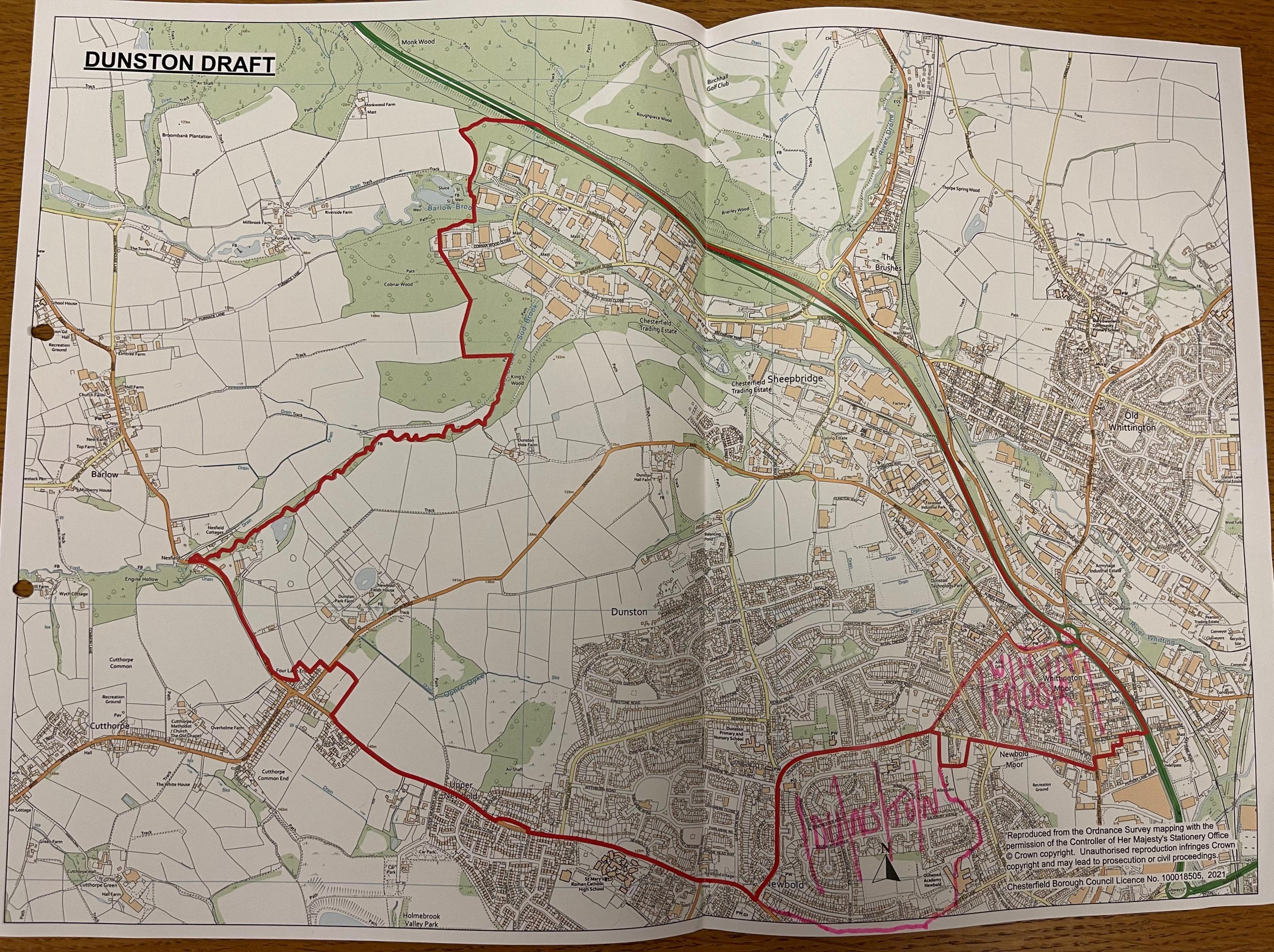
HA2	(HA2) Holmebrook	Churston Road	90
HA2	(HA2) Holmebrook	Manor Crescent	24
HA2	(HA2) Holmebrook	Manor Drive	45
HA2	(HA2) Holmebrook	Manor Road	40
HA2	(HA2) Holmebrook	New Hall Road	80
HA2	(HA2) Holmebrook	Old Hall Road	81
HA2	(HA2) Holmebrook	Old Road	80
			440

BRAMPTON DRAFT



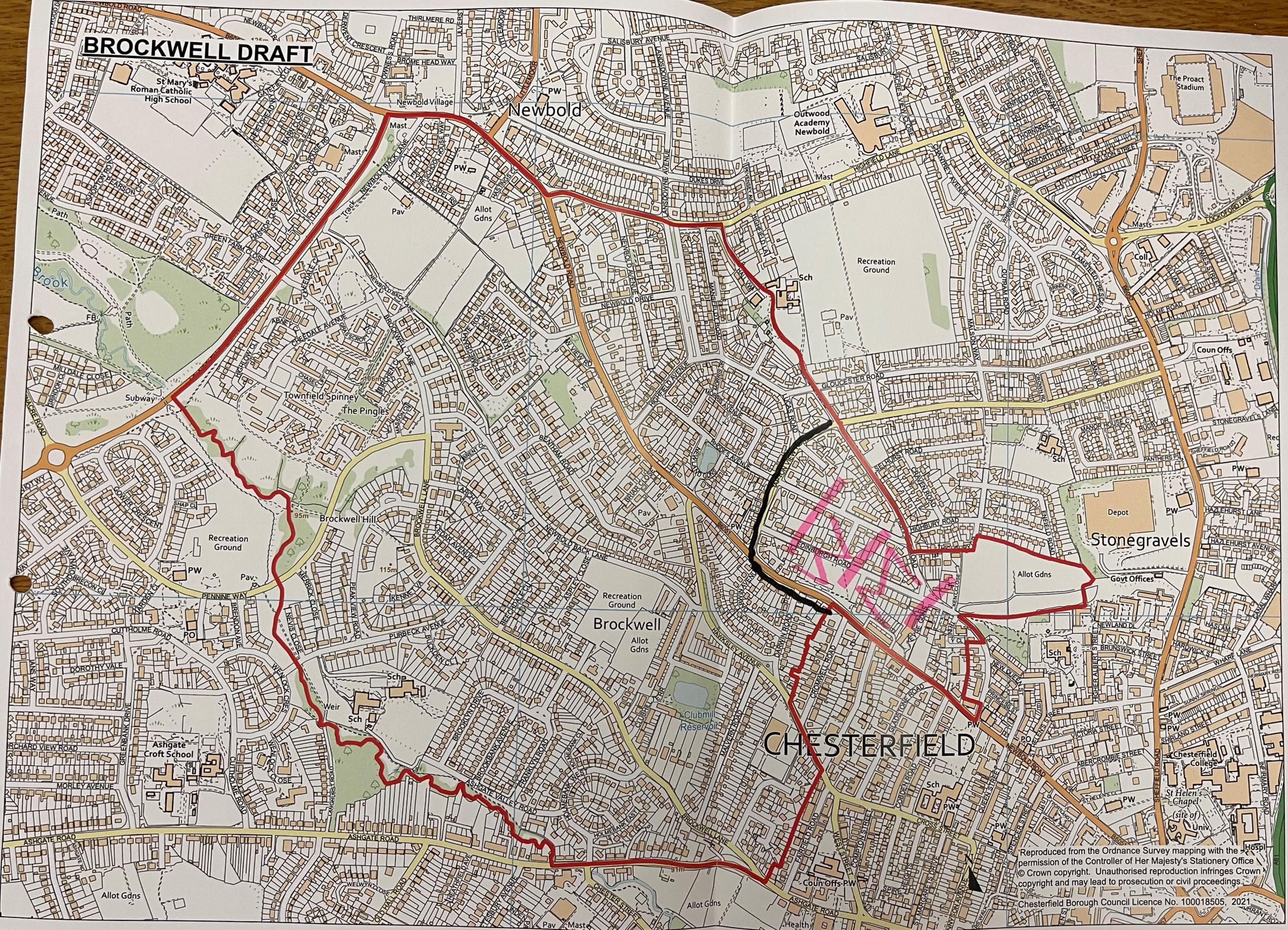
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DUNSTON DRAFT



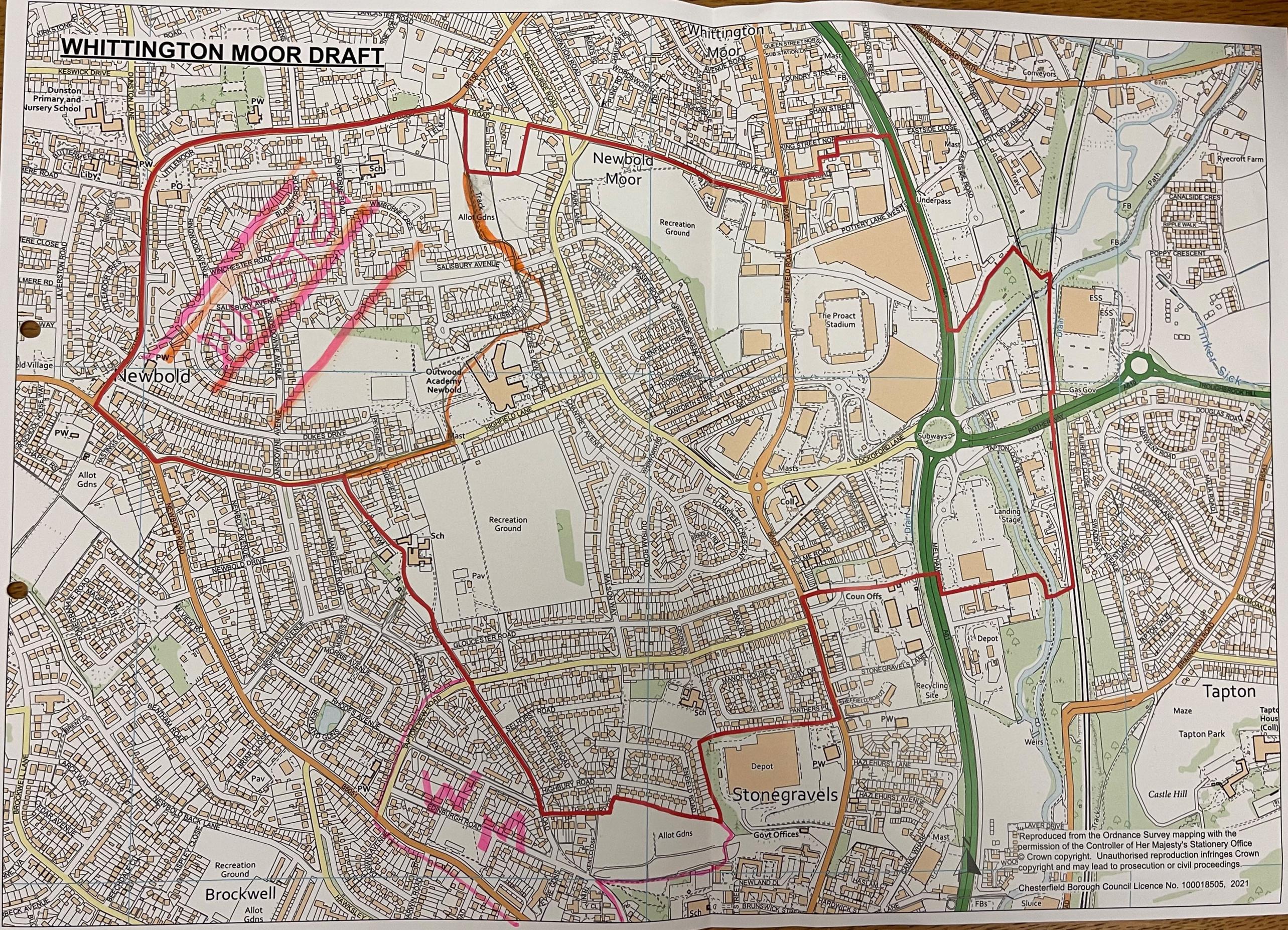
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BROCKWELL DRAFT



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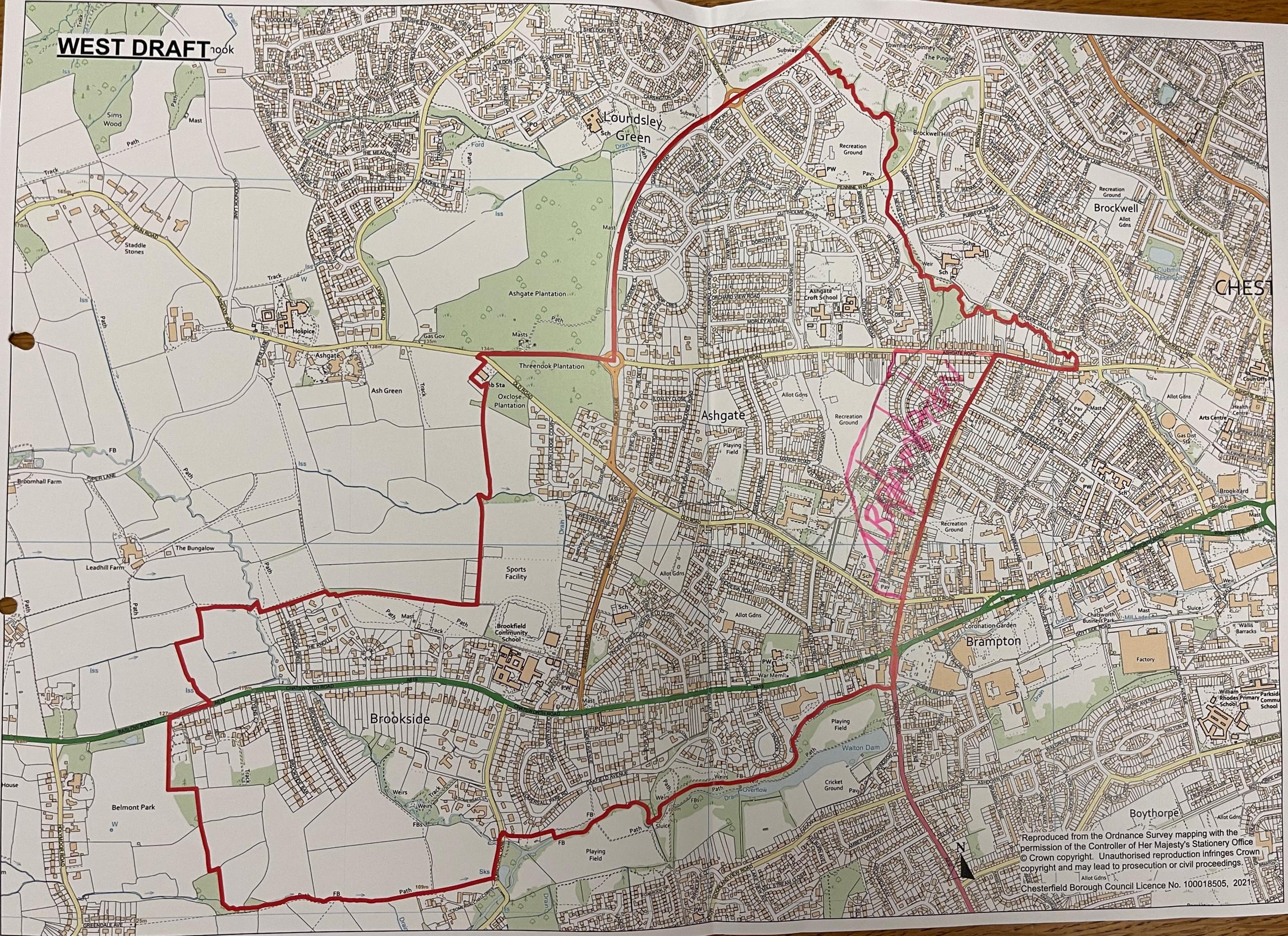
WHITTINGTON MOOR DRAFT



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WEST DRAFT



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Mansfield, Simon

From: Tricia Gilby (Cllr) <Tricia.Gilby@Chesterfield.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 January 2022 20:01
To: reviews
Subject: Chesterfield Borough Council's Labour Group's response to the LGBCE consultation on Warding patterns for Chesterfield Borough Council - Brampton Map
Attachments: LGBCE Brampton Map.jpg
Categories: Submissions, Simon

Dear Commissioners

Please find attached map, in support of the Labour / Majority Group of Chesterfield Borough Council's response to your consultation on warding patterns for the Council submitted to you earlier today.

If there is any further information you require from us please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Yours sincerely

Tricia

Councillor Tricia Gilby
Labour councillor for Brimington South Ward
Leader of the Council
Chesterfield Borough Council
Tel: [REDACTED]

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Mansfield, Simon

From: Tricia Gilby (Cllr) <Tricia.Gilby@Chesterfield.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 January 2022 16:29
To: reviews
Subject: Chesterfield Borough Council's Labour Group's response to the LGBCE consultation on Warding patterns for Chesterfield Borough Council
Attachments: Chesterfield Borough Council's Labour Group's response to the LGBCE consultation on Warding patterns.pdf
Categories: Submissions, Simon

Dear Commissioners

Please find attached the Labour / Majority Group of Chesterfield Borough Council's response to your consultation on warding patterns for the Council. As you will see we have worked in partnership with Toby Perkins MP, the wider Party membership in Chesterfield (800 + voters) and held listening surgeries in areas across the Borough to collect the community's views on your proposals. This has taken sometime but has been very worthwhile and illuminating.

Most people gave us their opinion verbally, which we have used to formulate our response. We also provided them with opportunity to read the proposals more fully and then respond to you directly or to us in writing.

We will be forwarding to you the written responses we have received to our community engagement activities to date which we ask that you will treat as individual responses. We are concerned that due to the Christmas and New Year holiday as well as increasing Omicron related isolation in Chesterfield (we have had the highest rate of COVID infections in Derbyshire since Christmas) that there may be some responses still in the post to us. We will forward these on as they arrive.

If there is any further information you require from us please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Yours sincerely

Regards

Tricia

Councillor Tricia Gilby
Labour councillor for Brimington South Ward
Leader of the Council
Chesterfield Borough Council

Tel: [REDACTED]

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