

Brighton and Hove City Council

Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I support the further draft proposals for the five wards listed in the northern and central areas of Brighton and Hove City Council. I recognise our local communities in the wards shown by these further draft proposals for these five wards, which I did not with the previous drafts. My comments below respond directly to questions raised by the LGBCE in its report of 5 July: Hove Park ward - I agree that Hove Park ward should be a separate two councillor ward entirely in Hove and observing the Brighton / Hove town boundary. The LGBCE is right to reinstate the town boundary as Brighton and Hove are separate towns with distinct cultures. I disagree that Hove residents' use of Hove Park (in Hove) is evidence of "clear shared use of facilities", establishing a community with Brightonians living in Westdene, as is suggested at paragraph 8. People travel from across Sussex to use the sports and leisure facilities at Withdean Stadium (in Westdene) and to walk on the South Downs (in Westdene and Patcham). There is no more a local community created with those visitors from outside Brighton & Hove than has been suggested with people using Hove Park. Additionally, as the further draft proposals now maintain Hove Park ward as a separate two councillor ward, this ward's boundaries should revert to including the whole of Dyke Road Park inside Hove Park ward, in Hove - and not be altered so as to place Dyke Road Park (situated in Hove) into the Preston Park ward of Brighton Pavilion constituency. Westdene & Patcham ward - I agree with the comments of local residents and Withdean Labour Branch reported at paragraph 12 regarding the barrier Dyke Road presents, impeding pedestrians crossing from Westdene into Hove; as well as the absence of direct public transport links between Westdene and Hove Park. Westdene and Patcham are neighbouring Brighton communities, with ready access to each other, including multiple, pedestrian-prioritised crossing points on the London Road, which are served by the same bus services (5, 5A, 17, 273, etc), have similar housing, merged Local Action Teams and already established joint community newsletters across Withdean and Patcham. This proposed ward of Westdene & Patcham is the arrangement that best reflects our local communities. Link Westdene with Patcham as a two councillor ward, and keep Hove Park as a separate two councillor ward. Hollingbury & Carden ward - Since people from outside Hollingbury or Carden often struggle to distinguish these neighbouring communities from each other, it is unarguable that this proposed ward has a strong local identity and many links. The proposed ward of Hollingbury & Carden is the arrangement that best reflects our local communities. Link Hollingbury with Carden as a two councillor ward, and keep Patcham paired with Westdene in a separate two councillor ward. Hollingdean & Fiveways ward - I agree that this should be a three councillor ward and agree with the comments of local residents and Withdean Labour Branch reported at paragraph 23. I agree that the network of streets west of Balfour Road to Surrenden Road, in which I live (Bates Rd), 'form part of the community around Preston Park, not Fiveways'. The Commissioners have better reflected community identities by moving the ward boundary so that those streets are within the further proposals for Preston Park ward. I also agree with the renaming of this ward as "Hollingdean & Fiveways" and that this ward is the best fit for the 'Friars' estate, as those streets orientate towards the Fiveways neighbourhood. I am concerned that the Commissioners have not extended the ward as far east as the Lewes Road, as discussed at paragraphs 23 and 26. I believe that Hollingdean Road east of the railway line to the Lewes Road, and the residential areas of 'Saunders Park estate' (ie, Freehold Terrace, Popes Folly and Saunders Park View, including Richard Allen Court, Saunders Park Rise and the other lodges) should be kept with the Hollingdean community within this Hollingdean & Fiveways ward. I note the Commissioners overriding concern regarding the electoral variance and wonder if this would be kept at an acceptable level by only moving these named streets (the area south of the University of Brighton's Moulsecoomb campus) into the Hollingdean & Fiveways ward. Preston Park ward - I agree that this should be a three councillor ward and agree with the comments of local residents and Withdean Labour Branch reported at paragraph 23. I agree that the network of streets, in which I live as a resident in Bates Road, west of Balfour Road to Surrenden Road, 'form part of the community

around Preston Park, not Fiveways'. The Commissioners have better reflected community identities by moving the ward boundary so that these streets are within the further proposals for Preston Park ward. I support the alternative proposed name for this ward of "Preston, Stanford & Varndean" as I think this will help voters distinguish the new ward arrangements from the preceding Preston Park ward. I disagree with the inclusion of Dyke Road Park in the proposed Preston Park ward as this transgresses the Brighton / Hove town boundary, by bringing a park which is wholly within Hove into a ward of Brighton Pavilion parliamentary constituency. I do not think that any evidence has been presented to support the assertion reproduced at paragraph 24 that this park is "most heavily used" by residents of Preston Park ward. Whether in general comments or in relation to any particular ward, overwhelmingly, respondents to the previous consultation expressed the view that the Brighton / Hove town boundary should be observed and not "straddled" or "blurred" by the LGBCE. As the further draft proposals now maintain Hove Park ward as a separate two councillor ward, as it passes Dyke Road Park, Preston Park ward's boundary should revert to running along the centre of Dyke Road, so that Dyke Road Park remains wholly inside Hove Park ward, in Hove - and not be altered so as to place Dyke Road Park (situated in Hove) into Preston Park ward of Brighton Pavilion constituency. In addition, I support the further draft recommendations for Hanover & Elm Grove ward, being the reversion to the existing boundaries for this well-defined ward. Thank you to the Commissioners for their work developing these much improved further draft recommendations.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded