Bradford

Personal Details:

Name: Miss Helen Thornton
Email: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name: Baildon Town Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Baildon and parts of Shipley and Bingley

See attached document

Attached Documents:

- Baildon Town Council Ward Boundary Final.docx

2 Northgate
Baildon, Shipley, BD17 6ND
01274 593169
enquiries@baildontowncouncil.gov.uk
www.baildontowncouncil.gov.uk

Bradford Ward Boundary Review 2023
Baildon Town Council's Consultation Comments

Summary

Baildon Town Council wish to propose two changes to the boundaries of the Baildon ward of Bradford District Council. These are set out below. One is a substantial change and one is a minor change.

Introducing Baildon:

Baildon is an historic community in the Aire Valley with a clear and distinctive identity, and is largely surrounded by Green Belt land. During the 19th century many of Bradfords wealthy industrialists chose to locate their mansions within a carriage ride from Bradford, but outside of the pollution and dirt of the then industrial powerhouse of Bradford. Baildon itself was home to a great many mills and industries, which form part of the industrial heritage of the District.

Baildon is bounded:

- to the north and east by Guiseley in the Wharfe Valley, which is part of Leeds City Council
- to the west by moorland and by Bingley, with just one connecting moorland road
- to the south by Shipley, with just one connecting road, the A6038 Otley Road over the River Aiire

The River Aire forms a physical barrier between Baildon , and Shipley and Saltaire. There is only a single road crossing across the River Aire at Baildon Bridge into Shipley, which is therefore the only road crossing of this river in the 10 kilometres length between Bingley and Apperley Bridge. This is the key point in relation to Polling District 22A- see below – as residents of this PD have to travel to the only road crossing of the River Aire (which of course is very heavily congested and often log jammed with traffic) in order to reach the remainder of the ward of Shipley of which they are currently part.

Boundary issues regarding Proposal 1 – moving Polling District 22A into Baildon ward

The town of Baildon, which is commonly understood as the boundary of Baildon Town Council, is all of Baildon north of the River Aire, which forms the boundary of the entire southern side adjacent to Shipley. Baildon has defined a boundary for Neighbourhood Plan purposes and this includes that part of Baildon which is currently in Shipley Ward (polling district 22A).

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Baildon is currently split between two Bradford City Council Wards. Approximately 90% of electors are located in Baildon Ward of Bradford Council, and about 10% of electors are located in Shipley Ward.

Baildon's current City Council Wards:-

1. **Baildon Ward**: 6 out of 7 Polling Districts of Baildon/ Baildon Town Council (PDs 01A, 01B, 01C, 01E, 01F & 01G) () , plus Esholt (PD 01D)
2. **part of Shipley Ward** : 1 Polling District (PD 22A) within Baildon which forms Baildon Town Council's South West Ward

Baildon Town Council itself has 6 wards, 5 of which correspond to the Baildon Ward of Bradford Council (West, North, East, South East, South & South respectively) with one ward (South West) which is currently part of Shipley ward. Esholt village is not within the area covered by Baildon Town Council.

City of Bradford electorate numbers in relation to Baildon

- Total Bradford Electorate 2023: 370,124; 2029: 393,754
- Average per ward: 2023: 12,336; 2029: 13,125

Range within 10% 2023: 11,102 to 13,570; 2029: 11,812 to 14,438

Wards more than 10% larger or smaller than average number of electors:

- >10% above average: 4 Wards: Bingley, Bingley Rural, City & Craven
- >10% below average: 4 Wards; Wharfedale, Wibsey. Worth Valley & Wyke

Current Baildon Ward: in 2023 it was **-3% of average** electorate; in 2029 -**2% of average** electorate

Baildon Town Council's Proposal 1

BTC propose that Baildon Ward should expand to include the whole of the Baildon community within one City Council Ward by adding Polling District 22A (2023 electorate 1,157; 2029 electorate 1,234) which is located on the Baildon side of the River Aire. The new Baildon Ward would therefore be:

- 2023: 13,122 electorate
- 2029: 14,109 electorate.

Rationale:

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- The community of South West Baildon (PD22A) is geographically separate from Shipley by the River Aire, and requires a long travel detour via Baildon bridge to reach the remainder of the ward.
- Many public services are operated on ward boundaries – both Council services and the NHS. Operational staff (such as street cleaning, social care staff or home health services) who provide services to the ward of Shipley rightly focus their efforts on the largest area of population in the ward, as PD 22A comprises only a small proportion of their area of responsibility. (1,157 in 2023) The detour to reach PD22A is geographically not straightforward and does cause confusion at an operational level as staff are usually not familiar with local geography
- From the other perspective, from the point of view of the residents of PD22A, the confusion of living in Baildon but being part of Shipley ward can lead to difficulties in reaching and engaging with ward based services none of which are based within PD22A.
- From a Baildon Town Council perspective, residents sometimes are unclear about their entitlement to BTC services as " we are in Shipley". People generally do not grasp the difference between Bradford District boundaries and Baildon Town Council boundaries. Would it not be better for everyone if these two were aligned.

Proposal 2 : moving the hamlet of Low Springs into Baildon ward

Introducing Low Springs:
This is a very old hamlet of approximately 20 residences, with a population currently of under 50.
It includes Low Springs Farm, which is a working (and prize winning !) dairy Farm which also has a Fresh Milk vending machine and small farm shop.
The farm has had a stall at the very successful monthly Baildon Farmers market (held in Baildon Centre) for many years, and the farmer is one of the 4 Directors of this not for profit organisation.

Boundary issues for Low Springs

The boundary of Baildon ward here follows the beck, which lies directly in front of the farmhouse and track to reach the farmhouse. The boundary therefore bisects the community of Low Springs.
The population of this hamlet (ie the actual houses) is currently placed within Bingley ward for reasons which BTC is unable to discover.
This means for example that local residents have to travel to a polling station in Eldwick to vote, rather than the much nearer and more accessible polling station in Baildon centre. The road to Eldwick crosses Baildon Moor and is treacherous in adverse weather – which is no longer confined to winter months. This is therefore an issue where boundary issues are working against local democracy.

As with other boundary anomalies, falling within Bingley ward affects access to services which are geared to ward boundaries. A recent example was a resident from Low springs being told they were ineligible to sign up to the local Baildon GP practice due to not falling within Baildon ward.

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Most significantly, residents of Low Springs feel part of Baildon, not Bingley. They have no relationship with Bingley Town Council, and are "lost" within that ward. The main road from Low Springs is a direct road to the centre of Baildon village, containing shops, pubs, library, GP service etc. It makes no sense whatsoever for this hamlet to be part of Bingley ward of Bradford Council.

Proposal 2 : that the boundary of Bingley ward is realigned to follow the B6151 Hawksworth Road so that the hamlet of Low Springs is absorbed into Baildon ward.

- The numbers of voters involved is very small and not significant
- Such a realignment would correct a historical error which appears to be without any advocates
- This minor correction would make sense to local residents who feel part of Baildon
- Quality of life would be improved through the impact on operational services

CONCLUSION

Baildon Town Council (BTC) urges the Boundary Commission to take seriously both of these proposals. Of course, the two are unrelated and although we believe each is of great merit, they stand alone as two separate proposals for you to consider .

Our Town Clerk would be very happy to provide any further information which you might require.

Contact : Helen Thornton
clerk@baildontowncouncil.gov.uk
[redacted]