

Gloucestershire

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Comment text:

Related subject: New Boundaries Proposals in Cheltenham

The original divisions Pittville & Prestbury and Swindon Village & St Pauls are well established communities. They have closely knit highways networks, transport links, local groups and amenities. Severing these wards would cause major disruption to local communities.

The new proposed divisions are badly matched. As an example, the new proposed Swindon Village & Prestbury division has wards that are in completely different geographic parts of the town, with separate population centres separated by several miles, with different political interests.

Anyone local to Cheltenham knows the biggest issue in the area is the Cheltenham Racecourse and managing race week. The proposals will create a division line between the racecourse and the centre of town, making the management of the event politically harder, with mixed representation and muddled responsibility to hold councillors to account for the decisions they make.

There is widespread anger at the suggestion of a Cheltenham "Outer Division". The current arrangements keep people in Prestbury and Swindon Village more in touch with Cheltenham politics and don't feel part of the town's discussions. Removing them into an "Outer Division" will alienate them even further.

There are better ways of dealing with electoral equality between the 2 current divisions by moving certain residential areas around Tommy Taylors Lane and Swindon Lane.

I implore the Boundary Commission to take a step back and stop this proposal, it would do massive damage to the area, destroy a well-established set of divisions and give local residents worse representation and government.

Attached Documents:

None attached