

I am a parish councillor for Stirchley and Brookside Parish (SBPC), that spans the Brookside Ward and The Nedge Ward of Telford and Wrekin. I am not representing my parish or any other organisation. The following is my own research and a personal representation for what I believe to be a justifiable cause.

I am strongly advising the need to create new wards that will reduce the size of Brookside Ward, and to replace the parish of Stirchley and Brookside with Stirchley, Brookside Parishes.

For clarity, Inner Brookside (IB) is the area inside of the ring road Brookside Avenue, Outer Brookside (OB) etc. is outside of the ring road Brookside Avenue (BA). Brookside Parish would service IB. Stirchley Parish would service OB and all the homes previously in Brookside, Stirchley and the new Hem development. There are 4 borough councillors serving The Brookside and Nedge Wards, only one of these would be needed for the new IB parish, therefore no change needed in the number of borough councillors.

My reasons:

IB, has a very different culture and housing compared to the culture and housing of OB.

Many millions of Pounds has been spent on IB because of some very low quality of housing almost all of it rented, drug use, vandalism, fly tipping, criminal offences inflicted on individuals and property, low-income families, single parents, low standard of education, unemployment and poor prospects of some individuals, those on benefits. IB has a far higher proportion of all of these things compared to OB and the rest of the United Kingdom (UK).

IB development is based on an American design. The UK designer changed it dramatically to be a traffic free environment for residents to go to work, children to school, parents to get to the shops. The cars are in service roads and carparks. The front doors to homes are via footpaths and communal green spaces. It is possible to walk all across the estate and avoid all the traffic routes. This design was fine in the late 60's. In more recent years it has led to car theft, car vandalism and arson. The mostly unseen traffic routes are a haven for drug dealing. It could be said this is the cause of a slow but now persistent degrading of the area. The drug dealing is now more open.

I have done some light research in to IB, for the year 2020 to 2021 there were over 800 recorded crimes about 3.5 incidences per head of population. Once crossing BA to OB and Stirchley the crime figures drop very dramatically. Almost as soon as crossing BA the figures flatten out.

As a parish councillor, and resident in Stirchley, I have first-hand experience of the resentment of the OB community that a large proportion, about 80 per cent, of the precept collected by SBPC is spent on IB.

Because of the combination into one parish the statistics for IB and OB are blurred. The parish comes into the bottom 30 per cent of economic and social deprivation in the UK. The more realistic figure for IB is in the bottom 10 per cent nationally, some parts are closer to the bottom 3 per cent, this is a disgrace that is not recognised.

The reduction of the Brookside Ward to just IB and giving it its own parish will get it more recognition as an area of need and hopefully better funding to bring it up to a respectful level nationally, and dedicated community help. I have lived in the SBPC parish for 18 years and with all the spending and improvements that have been carried out nothing has changed to the underlying culture and the continue need to spend money to rectify a damaged society. Money that comes from residents that begrudge spending on what appears to be a black hole.

Soon there will be another 300 to 350 new homes built in The Nedge at Hem, almost all of this will be added to SBPC. This parish will be due for a division, my suggestion is an opportune time for it to happen. The population in IB is about 2840. The figure is fairly static as there is no available space for any building except the odd house. Although, there are very large areas of grass that get little use except for the illegal use of motor cycles and quad bikes. Parts of these grassed areas could be used in phases during a demolition rebuilding program to remove inferior housing and neighbourhoods and replace them with housing for a modern society.

In my opinion, and others I have consulted with are in agreement that, all the housing of IB would be better serviced as a Ward of special needs and have its own parish. I understand a petition for a boundary change can be brought about by the collection of 10 percent of the population of SPBC. I know this can be very easily achieved, even after the current changes of boundaries is over. It would be more efficient to include it in this current rearrangement.

I know my comments may be late, I very much hope these comments will be seen and given some consideration.

Thank you

Councillor Greg Sinclair

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M:
E:
E:

Councillor: Stinchley & Brookside Parish Council
Councillor: Hollinswood & Randley Parish Council