

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 July 2022 11:11
To: reviews
Subject: Derby Electoral Review
Attachments: Boundary Commission Review July 2022.pdf

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

FAO: Mr Paul Nizinskyj

Dear Mr Nizinskyj,

Please find attached a letter for your attention. A hard copy of the letter has been posted.

Kind regards,



Assistant and Office Manager to Pauline Latham OBE MP
The Old Station
Station Road
Spondon
Derby DE21 7NE

Constituency Office Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 9.30 a.m.-3.00 p.m.



Pauline likes to keep residents informed about how she has been working for the constituency across both Mid Derbyshire and Westminster through a monthly e-newsletter. If you would like to receive the newsletter please click [here](#).

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Please note that this office uses data from the open electoral register for referencing and filing purposes.

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PAULINE LATHAM OBE MP

Working hard for Mid Derbyshire



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Paul Nizinskyj
Review Officer (Derby Electoral Review)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 133
Blyth NE24 9FE

Our Ref: PL/SHB

Friday, 8th July 2022

Dear Mr Nizinskyj

I would like to offer my comments in relation to the consultation regarding the Boundary Changes in relation to the Derby Electoral Review.

As a former councillor for the Oakwood Ward of Derby City Council, prior to my election as the Member of Parliament for the Mid Derbyshire Constituency, of which Oakwood is part, I shall focus my submission on the Oakwood Ward, as you have proposed no changes to either the Spondon or Allestree Wards, which are also within my constituency.

Firstly, I agree with the proposal that it is logical that a school with an Oakwood address will now be part of Oakwood Ward rather than remaining in Chaddesden, especially given it is used by a number of Oakwood residents. Many residents in the Copes Way/Cavendish Close School area are a short walk away from a significant number of Oakwood services, which they will and do use, whereas they would have to drive to facilities in Chaddesden. During my time as an Oakwood Councillor, I was always surprised this area was not included in the ward.

In addition, it is logical that the Dale Acre Road site should be moved into the Oakwood Ward as many residents there already identify with Oakwood and use Oakwood services and provisions. Indeed, you cannot leave the estate without driving on an Oakwood Ward Road; the houses, some of which are still under construction, hold more similarities to those on Minster Road, Abbot Close and Lychgate Close in Oakwood than those on Stratford Road, Breadsall



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Hilltop; and it will simplify discussions on the A608/Mansfield Road if this area is no longer shared between two wards.

I also feel that houses at the bottom of Morley Road have much more in common with houses at the top of Morley Road than they do with those at the bottom of Cavan Drive in the South of Chaddesden. Issues affecting Morley Road, including recent resurfacing, traffic calming, expansion of a neighbouring authority etc would all be dealt with by one ward rather than two.

If there were to be two Chaddesden Wards, one with three councillors and another with two, I believe it will be confusing for those who do not closely follow politics, who may not know how many councillors they have. If there are two Chaddesden Wards, both with two councillors, and a separate Breadsall Hilltop Ward with two councillors, alongside an Oakwood Ward with three councillors, it will improve people's understanding, rather than creating confusion regarding the number of councillors Chaddesden has, how many votes the electorate have and who their elected representatives are.

The Chaddesden area itself is clearly far too large to fit into one ward, being the size of around 6 councillors in total. Thus, given that a two three-member ward split was not felt to have been a workable solution, I do believe it is a practicable solution to amend the boundaries to create three two-member wards.

There is presently often confusion for residents living in the Chaddesden Area when trying to determine which ward they reside in, with 'Derwent' ward inappropriately named, 'Chaddesden Ward' not covering the whole of the Chaddesden Area and Oakwood Ward stretching as far as Taddington Road, while not incorporating streets like Moncrieff, Oakleigh and Morley Road, which in many ways are incredibly alike those in the Oakwood Ward. Consequently, this split is an incredibly logical one to make.



Other proposals, without making Oakwood a three-member ward, leave Oakwood significantly over the city average of percentage of electors to councillors, 9% over in the Labour Party proposals, a higher percentage over than Chaddesden East was proposed to be. Thus, again for the reasons above, but also because the number of houses contained within the Oakwood Ward Boundary is very likely to increase, it is very logical that the Chaddesden Wards are two-members each, Breadsall Hilltop is two members and Oakwood and Spondon remain three member wards.

The area proposed to be moved into Oakwood from Chaddesden has a strong reliance on Oakwood Ward – they use the medical centre, shopping precinct, Woodland and green public spaces.

The houses on Morley Road, and their respective side streets, do not face away from Oakwood, they continue in a fashion alike to the northern/upper end of Morley Road. The split down Morley Road has never been a definitive, logical, defined boundary, having been drawn many years ago as Oakwood's construction was finishing, and never updated since.

If Oakwood were to be a two-member ward, it would be the largest disparity of electorate to councillors in this area of the city, and one of the largest, if not the largest, in the city as a whole, being more than 9% over the average. This is especially large when compared to Spondon, which is nearly 10% under the city average, but would, and should, retain three councillors.

Oakwood cannot be logically reduced into smaller wards, so it is by far the most sensible option for Oakwood to remain a three-member ward with the additions of Dale Acre Way from the current 'Derwent Ward' and the Cavendish Close School Area, with Morley Road, from the existing 'Chaddesden Ward.'

With the on-going potential for building on Oakwood's Green Wedge at the top of the city, which could see several hundred houses built on existing green space in the Oakwood Ward, any decision to reduce Oakwood to two Councillors, would not be supported by local residents and the ward would

not be in a very unhelpful position on the basis of percentage of electors to councillors. This could very quickly leave a two-member Oakwood Ward significantly and drastically over the percentage to councillor ratio by the addition of thousands of new residents. A small building on the green wedge already added nearly 500 new residents in the last 4 years, as well as the increasing HMO usage of larger properties in Oakwood as the cost-of-living crisis continues.

There is a similar occurrence with a potential development area known as 'Brook Farm,' which is also set to be included in the Oakwood Ward, which may also become a future home of hundreds of properties. Again, this would bring hundreds of residents into the Ward, further reinforcing the need for Oakwood to remain a three-councillor ward. These proposals consequently plan for the future of what Oakwood Ward is likely to look like in a few years, rather than Oakwood being reduced to two members and it quickly becoming larger than any other ward.

The area of the current Chaddesden Ward proposal to move into Oakwood does not have a distinct identity that separates it from the Oakwood Ward, and is in fact very closely linked to it, even if postal addresses may not always be the same.

Western Oakwood remaining in Oakwood Ward is incredibly logical, well within the wishes of the residents in the area and prevents an illogical split on ill-defined lines. I know from my time as a Councillor in Oakwood, and from my time as the Member of Parliament that Western Oakwood has a strong community identity with the wider Oakwood estate. It has always considered itself to be as 'Oakwood' as any other street in the Oakwood neighbourhood and Oakwood Ward, because it is as 'Oakwood' as them all.

I am pleased to see that Western Oakwood remains within the Oakwood ward as there is no logic in an area that so strongly identifies with Oakwood being moved to a different ward. Your decision for it to remain in the Oakwood Ward



keeps the community together and protects its identity, no doubt support for this will again be reflected in submissions from Oakwood residents.

There is a very logical splitting point at the roundabout at the Wilmot Arms, rather than Oakwood beginning a portion of the way up Morley Road at a stage which has no real 'reason' for being the boundary except the continuation of an invisible line hidden by houses. This proposal brings a boundary line into clear view for clear reasons which will be appreciated as people move around.

Finally, I think it is important that the Parliamentary boundaries ought to be coterminous with these new ward boundaries, again to aid people's understanding of who their elected representatives are.

I support the draft proposals which you have set forth for the Oakwood Ward and I hope you will consider these comments when reviewing the boundaries.

Yours sincerely,

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