

Brighton and Hove City Council

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Comment text:

These are my comments in response to the draft recommendations for local government wards for Brighton and Hove, as published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England ("LGBCE") on 1 February 2022. First, I endorse in their entirety the alternative proposals made by [REDACTED] in her submission to the LGBCE on 7 April, as detailed in the attached document. I hope that the commissioners will adopt these in full. Secondly, as a resident of the proposed Seven Dials, St Peter's and North Laine ("SDSPNL") ward, I add some further specific comments on this area. As these draft recommendations propose, the north eastern ward boundary with the Round Hill ward will run north/south down London Road (A23) before traversing along St Peter's Place. I suggest that a more fitting boundary would be for the boundary to run along London Road only as far as the junction with Baker Street, then run along the centre of Baker Street, across the traffic junction at Ditchling Road and continue to the east along the centre of Union Road, so that the area bordered by London Road, Baker Street, Union Road, Lewes Road and St Peter's Place is moved from the recommended ward of Round Hill into SDSPNL. Further, as the proposed boundary with Preston Park ward at the Seven Dials is inexplicably clipping off a small corner of the Prestonville neighbourhood, I suggest that it would be more fitting for the boundary going along the centre of New England Road to continue directly to the Seven Dials along Chatham Place and not – as is currently proposed by the draft recommendations – detour along Howard Terrace, Russell Crescent and a tiny portion of Prestonville Road. Finally, the area bordered by Montpelier Place, Montpelier Terrace, Upper North Street, Dyke Road (at this point shown as the B2121 on the consultation map), the Seven Dials junction and the Brighton / Hove town boundary should remain in Regency ward. This is Brighton's historic Clifton Hill and neighbouring Montpelier areas. The grand regency houses and Edwardian mansions in many of those streets have little in common with the railway cottages of the North Laine and West Hill neighbourhoods which comprise the main community within the recommended ward of SDSPNL. Overall, the ward name would more rightly be West Hill and North Laine. Not only would this be a more succinct formulation than the proposed mouthful of Seven Dials, St Peter's and North Laine, but it recognises the two established communities comprising the proposed ward, where there are established community groups, street networks, festivals, etc. These are the communities with which local residents identify. Much was made after the last census of Brighton being the least godly place in the UK. If the commissioners feel moved to make a religious reference, St Nicholas, in the heart of both communities, was Brighton's first parish church and would make a more appropriate reference than St Peter's, left as it will be on the outskirts of the ward. [REDACTED]

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