

Brighton and Hove City Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I am a former Brighton & Hove councillor now living in the Brunswick area. This comment is mostly about yet another attempt to create a "Brunswick & Regency" ward. Although the unofficial sign saying WELCOME TO HOVE ACTUALLY has long since gone from the wall of number 1 Western Road Hove, the distinction between Hove and Brighton is very apparent to local residents, and should be even to visitors who look at the street surroundings. Compare Brunswick Road or Cambridge Road in Hove with Borough Street or Dean Street in Brighton. Look at the width of Lansdowne Place compared with Montpelier Road. Go down to the seafront and see the totally different layout of the promenade as soon as you pass the border. And the seafront railings are painted a different colour, even by the same council BHCC, because it is tradition that's respected even 25 years after BHCC was invented. Here is what a local resident journalist has written about the matter <https://www.newstatesman.com/culture/life/2022/01/as-i-walk-from-brighton-into-hove-i-seem-to-pass-through-an-invisible-portal> The Conservatives who proposed these wards of 12-13k in size have not had a councillor elected here since 1992, well before BHCC came along. They make basic mistakes like talking about "uniting representation over services for the homeless" when one of those St Patricks in Cambridge Road Hove doesn't do so any more, and the other First Base in Montpelier Place is on the north side of that road so isn't even part of the same ward! The Tories have a strange idea of what residents here are interested in probably based on their own prejudice and the rudeness to the dwellers of Brunswick (and Hove more widely) extends to writing them out of existence by proposing a ward simply named "Regency" even though two thirds of it is in Hove and only one third in Regency ward Brighton. Since BHCC was created, both Brunswick and Regency wards have elected councillors from the Green Party, Labour and earlier Liberal Democrats. As councillors in each ward we worked together when common issues arose - across parties and across the boundary - but the boundary was always there and certainly still is. Brighton people use Brighton library, train station, shopping centre, Brunswick and Hove people go to Church Road, Hove station, the Brunswick conservation area is in Hove and the Regency Square area is in Brighton as is the Montpelier and Clifton Hill area proposed to be split in two by this Tory scheme. We still love each other but we live in different places and have no need to compete for our councillors' attention with residents from over there. For the last 20 years each of these two wards has been comfortably represented by 2 city councillors. Brunswick should retain a 2-member ward (does not need the 'and Adelaide' which refers to a previous ward merged into Brunswick perhaps in the 1970s?). Regency should retain a 2-member ward covering the existing Regency area. The rest of SPNL ward as proposed makes a suitable sized 2-member ward which could be called "Trafalgar" as Trafalgar Street is the well known road name that links the area with Brighton Station at the centre of that area.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded