

Brighton and Hove City Council

Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

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Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I am a resident of [REDACTED], which is currently in Rottingdean Coastal ward. Your previous draft recommendations were for us to be included in a new two-councillor Kemp Town (it is Kemp Town, not Kemptown, for the sound historical reasons given by Mr Russell-Moyle MP in his detailed submission to you) and Marina ward, which I thought was entirely appropriate and acceptable. However, you are now recommending, for reasons I really cannot fathom, that the Kemp Town part of the previously proposed new ward is cut up in totally arbitrary fashion and that anything east of Arundel Road, which Arundel Street is, comes within the new Whitehawk & Marina ward. The Grade II listed French Apartments, which front the A259 ('the sea road') and straddle both Arundel Road and Arundel Street also seem to be in the new W&M ward, despite the fact that they form a very distinctive part of the historical marine frontage of this part of Brighton, i.e. they fit very well with the marine frontage of Kemp Town. It is hard to believe that somebody, or a group of somebodies, in the political firmament of this city does not have an ulterior motive in suggesting such a precise and nonsensical cut-off, and it may only have to do with knock-on political or numerical effects in adjacent wards. There is now only one Conservative councillor in the current Rottingdean Coastal and East Brighton wards (which currently have three councillors each) and that person is on long-term sick leave, so I question why the Conservative group's ideas for this area (or the ideas of the Green group, which has no councillors at all in either ward) have any relevance to residents of RC/EB. Apart from the above, I cannot imagine that anybody living at the sea end of Kemp Town (originally, Arundel Street was considered locally to be part of Kemp Town and used to be part of the postal address, whether formally or informally – we are Kemp Town – and anything with Arundel in its name – such as Arundel Terrace, Arundel Road, Arundel Street – is colloquially 'the Arundels') would seriously regard themselves as having any affinity whatsoever with Whitehawk: the places are poles apart in almost any terms you care to mention. Yes, geographically there are a few shops at the southern end of Whitehawk Road, a small part of which is still Arundel Road, which we might use out of necessity, but they are mostly not good shops and don't extend very far up that road. Whitehawk may well be 'a community' in its geography and the nature of its housing and population, but Arundel Street is more akin to Kemp Town and Black Rock. We were looking forward to being part of the Kemp Town & Marina/Marine community and working together with a vision for the area, but this new idea, completely out of the blue, has put paid to all that. I could count on the fingers of one hand the number of times in the last two decades I have travelled to the northernmost extent of the proposed Whitehawk & Marina ward, and that was only to get to somewhere else. Generally speaking, there are other and better ways to get to the 'somewhere else' without having to encounter Whitehawk at all. It is recognised as a fairly deprived area (unlike Arundel Street, the Marina and Roedean) with particular issues and, without wishing to sound snobbish, the word 'Whitehawk' has adverse connotations for those who do not regard themselves as 'Whitehawkers'. Nobody in the Kemp Town/seafront area would have much, if any, reason to go up Whitehawk way – there is nothing there: in very local terms, we would go to the Marina, along the seafront or into Kemp Town. It is true that a separation is logical between Ovingdean, Rottingdean etc and the urban fringe of eastern Brighton, but this new proposal for slicing us up is far worse than what we have now and also much worse than your previous proposal, which at least made sense to me. I do not want to be labelled a 'Whitehawker', which is a term used around here rather disparagingly, so if you are intent on putting Arundel Street and Roedean (why Roedean, which has nothing whatsoever in common with Whitehawk?) in this proposed new ward, I seriously suggest that you think of a name for it that doesn't include the word 'Whitehawk'. I can't think of a better name for it personally, because I don't want to be in it, whatever it's called, but if nobody has told you what 'Whitehawk' implies to many residents, then you should ask around. Preferably, however, this strip along the sea road, which does naturally include Arundel Street and Boundary Road, the latter being an unadopted road no better than a cart track, would be put back where it

belongs – in a Kemp Town and Marina (or Marine) ward. Frankly, this new idea of being in a ward containing the word 'Whitehawk' makes me want to weep.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded