

Gloucestershire

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Stroud

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to you about the current review proposals and in particular the decision to split Trinity Ward in Stroud away from Stroud Central and to place it into the Bisley and Painswick Division. I am writing to you in my capacity as the current County Councillor for Stroud Central and previously the MP for the Stroud Constituency. Whilst I welcome one new Division being created within the Stroud area of the County this has very deleterious consequences.

I am strongly opposed to this proposal because Trinity is an intrinsic part of Stroud Town with numerous key buildings and facilities that make it part of the town. I have kept my counsel so far but now feel that I must speak out such has been the reaction of constituents. When I raised the idea at a recent meeting of Stroud Town Council there was unanimous opposition to the proposal. I know that they and many constituents will have written to you or will be writing to you to make their own opinions known but I wanted to put on the record my own opposition.

What makes the proposal so unfair is that the new arrangements will literally split a road in half, Bisley Rd, with the Trinity part going into the Bisley and Painswick Division whilst the other side of the road in Slad Ward, remaining in Stroud Central.

I realise that this is all about the numbers of electors in each Division and that it is about keeping within the variance from the mean. However if Trinity was to be maintained within Stroud Central given the geographical and historical importance of doing so it would still be within the variance

of +7.6% at 10,222 electors in 2029. Whilst I understand that this leaves a problem with what would be left of Bisley and Painswick with a variance of -20.2% and 7,583 electors I do not think it fair that an urban area such as Stroud is being sacrificed to make the numbers up elsewhere in a rural area that Stroud does not identify with in any way.

I am therefore asking you to make a special case, as you have done in Parliamentary reviews, to leave Stroud Central as a unified entity rather than to undermine the representative role that has long been established in treating Stroud as a clearly accountable place whose representative is best able to deal with the requirements of Trinity Ward as part of an established Stroud Central Division.

I am very happy to give further evidence as to the wisdom of this modification of the existing proposal, and given that it only affects to two Divisions in question it does not have wider ramifications.

I therefore hope you will act on this intervention and bring good sense to bear, something that will satisfy thousands of Stroud's residents.

Yours sincerely

Attached Documents:

None attached