

Worcestershire

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Bellheath

[REDACTED]

Last week I became aware that the Local Government Boundary Commission were proposing new arrangements for Worcestershire County Council boundaries which included our own area of Bell End, Bellheath, Madeley Heath and Chadwich Lane.

In the reasons they state for changing county council boundaries they include:

- Electoral equality: each councillor represents a similar number of electors
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities
- Effective and convenient local government : helping your council discharge its responsibility effectively

They also state that a good pattern should be based on:

- Strong easily identifiable boundaries
- Reflects community interests and identities, evidence of community links

In changing our county council division from the Clent Hills to Woodvale none of the above would be

attained. There are only just over 200 residents in our area. This would make little difference if any to electoral percentages and numbers within Clent Hills or Woodvale. When I found out about the proposals a week ago I spoke to a neighbour in Quantry Lane. She had no idea about it all and suggested that I go to a nursery close by and speak to the owner. He had set up a 'What's App' group called Bellheath lookouts. She said he would put me on as I lived in the area so I could send information regarding the draft proposals to the group.

This happened and the response throughout the area has been amazing. People have objected to the proposals for so many different reasons. There are over 80 residents in the 'Whats App' group. People are so outraged that they were not informed over a change that could make so much difference to their lives. Our area has a predominantly rural area as you know and we would be joining a group that had a far more urban outlook.

On the website Worcestershire LGBCE There is a map which clearly identifies the area.

In the documentation there is a draft response to LG BCE for Worcestershire County Council. Re Bromsgrove they detail the divisions. At the end of the Clent Hills they say, and I quote, 'The Council acknowledges that its original proposal not to change the boundary of this division does not achieve electoral equality but having examined alternatives which do not meet the criteria, suggests that in this instance the local community links and constraints imposed by the division's location have sufficient weight to enable the current boundary to be retained.'

I would be grateful if you could raise our concerns and if possible support our efforts to maintain the county council division we are currently in. The closing date for submissions is the 18th March which I am sure that many neighbours will respond to the Boundary Commission.

[Redacted signature]

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted name]

Attached Documents:

None attached