

Bradford

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Tong Ward councillors (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Tong Ward

Tong Ward councillors welcome the second proposals put forward by LGBCE that acknowledge the significant dissatisfaction of the community in Bierley with the first proposals that would result in dividing the Bierley Estate between two wards.

We acknowledge that the role of the LGBCE means there will be no perfect outcome that completely represents community feelings and the need for similar sized wards. The current proposals reflect the best outcome for our ward that satisfies the Commission's three statutory criteria. Tong Ward in its current and proposed format will have clear community representation.

The ward boundaries are clear, straightforward, and easily explainable to residents. They allow effective local government and mean that the communities we represent continue to be represented by a single team of ward councillors.

In taking into account any additional comments, please do continue to consider in particular the petition we submitted from residents in Bierley and the strength of feeling dividing the ward along Bierley Lane. There are issues that we are currently dealing with which would be administratively challenging if the original proposal was taken.

In terms of other possible outcomes for Tong Ward, we feel that there are none which satisfy your objectives. The community of Bierley has closer links with Holmewood than it does with Wyke. The M606 is a very significant physical and societal marker. Some of the comments in the petition pointed to a lack of connection with Wyke.

We have noted Bradford Council's comment that they would want the Swain Green / Laisterdyke area moved into Tong Ward but we feel there is no good community based reasoning behind this. Bradford Council chooses to align its areas around constituencies. Other authorities base their areas around clusters of wards. Bradford Council could very easily change their area boundaries to align with the ward boundaries rather than the parliamentary constituencies. It is a poor basis for how local representation should be decided and sets a precedent that puts council needs before local residents.

Attached Documents:

None attached