

Bradford

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Oakenshaw residents' association (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: South of Bradford

To whom it may concern

I note that there is again a Boundary Commission consultation for Bradford South.

I am writing on behalf of Oakenshaw Residents Association , who are seeking a simplification of the political situation in the village through these changes. Ideally, we would like all Bradford residents of Oakenshaw and Woodlands to be within Wyke ward with whom they share the BD12 postcode .

Oakenshaw is an ancient village set in South Bradford, with a mixed population, generally retired persons and young families. The Bradford ward boundaries are west and East of the M606. This is misleading as, it implies the motorway is a natural divider, when in reality the Tong part of Oakenshaw is accessed directly from Cleckheaton Road which is Wyke ward running from Odsal to Chain bar. Wyke ward covers all streets left and right of this road to the Kirklees boundary apart from this one road.

It is a true village across 2 communities, Oakenshaw and Woodlands, having amenities across the communities, including a CofE church, primary school, cenotaph and memorial garden open green spaces including Victoria Park, Woodlands Playing Fields and a number of designated green spaces such as Toad Holes Beck and access to the Greenway. We also have a police and community point weekly, which is attended by the police and the Wyke Ward community warden.

It has a very strong community who attend events throughout the year. Woodlands Cricket Club is very successful and wins prestigious trophies year on year. The local bowls club meets throughout the season in Victoria park. All have team members from both Bradford wards. A new Monday walking group has recently been started and this is attended, led by and explores areas from all three constituencies too.

Oakenshaw and its neighbouring community in Woodlands are on the peripheries of three constituencies; Wyke, Cleckheaton and Tong and was finding difficulties in getting meaningful representation from those three areas, no less than nine councillors. So, in 2006, the Residents association was set up, by like minded residents, across the communities, to make sure that, by working with all the councillors, that representation was in place. We have worked hard to engage with everyone, and had some successes.

The Association has traditionally held several meetings and neighbourhood forums, throughout the year at the church which is a rough confluence of the communities. All councillors, council officers and police representatives, are invited and normally Wyke and Cleckheaton councillors , council officers and police attend to answer residents queries . Tong councillors and ward officers choose not to attend Residents come from all the wards and are often disappointed to have to wait for answers as their representative is absent

It's particularly unwieldy working with a politically split ward, we as an Association and residents in general find great confusion as a great many residents will have no great knowledge of which area they're under and moving towards more coherent future arrangement would be very helpful. We therefore request that you consider joining the two Bradford communities within Wyke ward

Thank you

Rosie Watson

Chair of Oakenshaw residents' association

Attached Documents:

None attached