

Bradford

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Bingley

Object to Baildon proposal. Support previously recommended proposal.
Sending file again as I am not sure if it sent first time

Attached Documents:

- proposed-local-ward-changes---objection-[REDACTED]

Proposed Local Electoral Ward Changes - Objection

Personal Information

I am a Bingley resident and live in central Bingley within the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Conservation Area. I am a Local History researcher and author, the proceeds of which are donated to local charities, community projects and school initiatives,

I have previously researched and written about the history of Governance in Bingley. As part of my general research, the Bradford MDC Solicitor has previously requested me to provide historical evidence regarding the sale of the demolished Bingley Technical School. Bingley Town Council have also requested me to carry out research and write an Appendix for the Neighbourhood Plan which they are currently preparing.

Objection

My reason for contacting you is to register my objection to the Baildon Town Council proposal to divide Bingley into two wards, namely East and West, the boundary being the Railway.

Baildon Town Council's proposed change would draw a boundary straight through the historically developed core of central Bingley and as such does not consider or take account of historical and community links, character or identity.

The changes proposed were submitted by Baildon as a single Town Council within the Shipley Constituency and there seems to have been no wider community consultation/communication of thoughts or intentions. It appears to me to be seeking to reinstate Baildon's historic boundaries at the expense and disregard of the historic boundaries, community interests and community identities of the three other local wards.

As such, the overall proposal (in contrast to the previous proposal – moving a section of Eldwick into Baildon) more readily fails to meet the statutory criteria that guide these boundary reviews (in particular criteria 2 – “Creating boundaries that reflect community ties and identities”).

I appreciate that boundary reviews are difficult in terms of satisfying all constituents. However we should be seeking to achieve the best possible solution that addresses Criteria 1 without undermining /disrupting Criteria 2 and 3. I feel that Baildon's proposal as regards Bingley totally undermines Criteria 2 and I will give the historical reasons for this view below.

As such, I support the previous proposal recommended by the LGBCE to move a section of Eldwick into Baildon which I view as the best solution to satisfying Criteria 1 - 3. I would like to register that support.

Bingley Governance and Historic Background

Sextons map of 1592 showed **Bingley as a single main street**. Jeffrey's 1775 map shows that building continued to be focussed on **one main street along both sides of the road**.

Bingley Governance was originally essentially through Manor Court, Court Leet, Court of Requests and Church Vestry.

Bingley up to 1800 was described by Dodd (1930) as follows *"There is no sign that Bingley shared in the feverish commercial activity of the 18th century, it appears to have been something of a **backwater**".* That began to change with the construction of the **Leeds to Liverpool Canal** in 1773.

A **growing trade** served by Bingley market, roads allied to coaching routes through Bingley and the canal, helped service the arrival of **cotton spinning** in the Bingley area by 1790. The 1801 Census shows Bingley as a township of 4,000 inhabitants.

There was a **growth of business from land husbandry/farming to manufacturing between** 1801 and 1831 during which spinning of worsted increased fourfold in the town. The 1832 Parliamentary Reform of old boroughs and towns, led to a **Bingley Reform Committee** being established. In 1835 old municipalities were reformed.

The immigration of people to work in factories during this period led to a consequent **growth in population** of the township which doubled in size during this period. By **1837 Bingley was an industrial town rather than an agricultural area and village**.

Cudworth (1876) noted *"By 1847 a new life may be said to have begun for Bingley."* These changes were: the building of the **railway** and a new form of Governance through the **Bingley Improvement Commissioners**.

Initially, the Commissioners introduced measures to provide gas lighting for streets, fire fighting and court facilities and addressed public health issues. In 1863 Bingley Township **Local Board Elections** were held.

Dodd (1930) observed that by 1872 all signs of the old "village" of Bingley, which was chiefly one long street, had disappeared to be replaced by a modern town, the **shape of Main Street had been altered** and imposing buildings built. He also recorded that **Local Government was a more democratic** pattern and that much of the **Improvement District had been built up**.

In 1876 Cudworth recorded *"The last 15 years have been very busy in **new buildings** in Bingley but the **greatest increase** has taken place in the **Park Road direction**. Here, places of worship, huge mills and streets of houses have risen up. In fact this district bids fair according to its present rate of increase in no long time to rival the old town in size."*

By 1876 **46 new streets** had been laid in an area identified by the Commissioners as the Bingley Improvement District. By 1892, the Improvement Commissioners were regarded as the real representative body of Bingley.

In 1894 Elections for a new Urban District Council were held and the place of the Local Board was replaced by Bingley Outer UDC. In 1898 the Urban District of Bingley, Bingley Outer and Wilsden were amalgamated.

Bingley was divided into 7 wards which remained unchanged for many years.

In 1974 the Urban District and Civil Parish were abolished.

Latterly Bradford MDC as a result of historical appraisal, has recognised the following Conservation Areas which abut each other in the valley bottom:

Bingley, Leeds and Liverpool Canal, Micklethwaite Conservation Areas

Whilst appearing to be separate entities they link to each other in showing evidence of the historic development of the town as a progressive and coherent township over a period of time.

A History of Collaboration and Contribution by Local People

Bingley also has a history of contributions by local people to support community building initiatives and local residents.

These originally included Church contributions to the Poor under Poor Law.

Contributions by Individuals were outlined in the 1898 Charity Commission Report for the Parish of Bingley as subscriptions to support The Grammar School, Prince of Wales Park, Mechanics Institute, Technical School, Free Library and Public Baths

The Input of the Improvement Commissioners also changed the shape and face of the town from a single main street, to a wider, larger and more coherent township and provided a legacy to build on for Bingley Urban District Council.

Cooperation in Bingley – The Cooperative Movement in Bingley purchased land at Myrtle Pasture to develop affordable housing which was built between 1898 and 1913 as the Myrtle Park District.

Building on the work of the Improvement Commissioners, considerable efforts were made by local officers of Bingley Urban District Council in the period 1898 to 1973, to provide Gas, Electricity, Sewage, Water, Schools, Swimming and Social facilities etc, thus providing infrastructure to support the town and local area covering the seven Wards.

In 1974 the Urban District and Civil Parish were abolished and Bingley became part of Bradford Metropolitan Council.

Funding issues nationally and locally have seen the demise of much of the local infrastructure that has historically been built up. That gap has been filled in part by the contributions of local Volunteer Groups and individuals to try and ensure continuity and survival of the remaining infrastructure of the township and local area by, organising events, raising funds and to enable maintenance and development. These bodies include:

Friends of Myrtle Park

Friends of Prince of Wales Park

Friends of St Ives

Friends of Bingley Pool

The Canal Trust

Action Stations

JER Wood Action Group

..... to name but a few

Personal Contribution and Comments regarding my Objection

I work and collaborate with other historians and networks to share information and to try to protect historical infrastructure which cannot be replaced.

I and many others donate our own time, effort and money to try to ensure that the Bingley that we live in retains the character, shape and identity that social and economic history have determined over the centuries. As someone who researches local history I do not think that the proposed boundary change by Baildon does this in any shape or form.

The proposed boundary ignores Bingley town's historic identity and **disregards the many local community groups that work within and cooperate/collaborate across the town.**

Such contribution is evidence of a **continuing history of public contribution to the town to try to help it retain its identity and reflect the history which gave the town that identity.**

Creating a boundary that separates Bingley Main Street from the substantial amount of 19th century development which changed the face of the town in the Victorian era does not do this

Additionally, as the Bingley Ward Councillors observe: *"Bingley Ward has a very clear geographical, social and community cohesion with current representation and BMDC organisation that enables us to pick up and respond to local issues quickly*

and effectively, and to support our residents, the suggestion to break that up would be destructive of our natural and successful community cohesion.”

The Baildon proposal creates a Ward boundary which separates Main Street from a substantial part of the historic development of Bingley.

The Commission’s core principles are designed to ensure that any reviews undertaken by the Commission reflect community identities and interests. For the reasons given in my objection I don’t think that the Baildon proposal achieves this, whereas the **previous recommended proposal makes a very considered attempt** to do so in trying to **address all three Criteria**.

That is why I support the previous recommended proposal (moving the outlined section of Eldwick into Baildon).

Historical and Physical Links between Eldwick and Baildon

Baildon Town Council in a supplementary statement suggest “ **Eldwick is historically and physically part of the continuously urbanised area of Bingley.**” Noted, as a current suburban area of Bingley it might appear so, but historically and physically this statement does not take account of the history and physical links of **Eldwick** and **Eldwick Glen to Baildon**.

Whereas the other Conservation Areas in Bingley abut onto each other, a separate **Conservation Area Assessment for Eldwick Beck** reflects the background to the development of Eldwick as a community.

The Assessment identifies the different stages in the development of Eldwick from an agricultural **farming community** at **High Eldwick** which declined during the 19th century as **industrialisation** and the building of **Eldwick Beck Mill** in 1800 created a core population and activity at Eldwick Beck. Here it existed as a self- contained industrial hamlet with twenty cottages (some built as Poor Law cottages at an earlier date), provisions shops, a Chapel and Sunday School facilities and two licensed premises.

15 years prior to the 1861 Gilstead Enclosures Act, a Bradford newspaper reported that hundreds of train passengers were travelling from the newly built Bradford station, to **Eldwick Glen**.

From the mid 1860s the Glen also became known as Shipley Glen, however my research shows a total of 70 newspaper articles referring to Eldwick Glen being published in the period **1846 to 1899**. It was better known as Eldwick Glen by residents of both Baildon, Eldwick and Bingley, hence being called that by local newspapers. Visitors from further afield originally caught the train to Shipley station (opened 1846). Saltaire station was opened in 1856.

Eldwick/ Shipley Glen was sited at Brackenhall Crag and Brackenhall Green at Baildon and owned by the Lord of the Manor of the Baildon , Colonel Maude

Eldwick Beck was the source of the stream which flowed through Eldwick Glen. In **1854** notable local poet Abraham Holroyd (who later lived in Eldwick) ,wrote the **twenty page long ‘Eldwick Glen’ poem** as a tribute to the many hours he had spent enjoying the scenery and location.

Eldwick Beck Conservation Area Assessment states *“In 1861 the vast swathe of unenclosed moorland between Eldwick Beck and Gilstead was divided into plots by the 1861 Gilstead Enclosure Act and enclosed. However, the purposes of the enclosure were not for agriculture or industry, but rather for housing development. The area developed in a piecemeal fashion with the occupants ranging from wealthy members of the middles classes **escaping the built up areas of Bradford, Shipley and Bingley**, to local people of more limited means who built simpler houses on their plots”.*

The Bradford Antiquary (1950) reported *“The 1861 Gilstead Moor Enclosure made the biggest difference to the appearance to the countryside, for the whole of what we now call Eldwick from Prince of Wales Park and Eldwick Beck Bottom to Gilstead Lane, is built on enclosed land”.*

From the 1870s onwards **Eldwick/ Shipley Glen** developed into a **major tourist resort** for workers from Bradford and Leeds and further afield. **Eldwick and High Eldwick** in particular **benefited** from the fact that there were no licensed premises on the Glen and the Acorn at Eldwick and Dick Hudson’s at High Eldwick became destinations for the many hundreds of thousands of people who walked over the moors to Ilkley over many years.

Eventually the **Lord of the Manor of Baildon decided to sell the rights** to the Glen. The Leeds Times of January 1897 reported:

Not before time, Shipley (or **Eldwick** Glen and **Baildon** Moor are to be taken in hand by the **Baildon** District Council. The latter body propose to take over the rights of the Lord of the Manor (Colonel Maude) by the payment of £150 per annum. The revenue at present amounts to about this sum, derived from shows and exhibitions at the glen, and rifle ranges and golf links on the moor. Great destruction has been wrought at the glen, but now, it is probable, the Council will make such arrangements as will preserve this salubrious and healthful resort from reckless injury. Everyone rejoices.

Sources of Information

Baildon and the Baildon's – A History of a Yorkshire Manor and Family – Paley (1859)

West Riding Sketches – Burnley (1875)

Round About Bradford: A Series of Sketches – Cudworth (1876)

Charity Commission Report - Bingley Parish 1894

Ancient Bingley: Or, Bingley, It's History and Scenery- Horsfall Turner (1897)

Chronicles and Stories of Old Bingley – Speight (1898)

Fifty Years of Co-Operation in Bingley – Hartley (1900)

Bingley – Dodd (1930)

Bingley Guardian Yearbook (1936)

Bingley Enclosures – Dodd (1950)

The Story of Baildon – La Page (1951)

Eldwick in Times Past- Mirfield- (1985)

Eldwick a Village oft Removed - Mirfield (2003)

Bingley – A Living History – Cattell (2016)