

Cheshire East

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Related subject: Cheshire East

See attached file.

Attached Documents:

- local-government-boundary-commission-2024-submission.docx

Local Government Boundary Commission

Review of Cheshire East Ward Boundaries November 2024

Review Response for the Bollington Ward Cheshire East Council.

Introduction

The Local Government Boundary Commissions recommendation for the new Ward of Bollington and Rainow in preparation for the elections to Cheshire East Council in 2027

The Boundary Commission recommends the current Bollington Ward which includes the Parishes of Bollington and Higher Hurdsfield should lose Higher Hurdsfield Parish and be configured to include the adjacent Parishes of Rainow and Pott Shrigley. The name of the new Ward is proposed as Bollington and Rainow reflecting the larger populations of those two Parishes.

Main Request to Local government Boundary Commission: Please ensure whatever arrangements are finally decided on, the Civil Parish of Bollington, governed locally by Bollington Town Council is wholly contained within the Bollington and Rainow Ward to ensure effective and understandable governance for all the residents of Bollington Civil Parish.

If the Bollington and Rainow Ward is to be created as a Ward of Cheshire East Council then all three lower tier authorities within that Ward, Bollington Town, Rainow Parish and the Parish of Pott Shrigley in their entirety should be in that Ward.

The current proposals of the Local Boundary Commission fulfil that request and are therefore strongly supported.

The current Borough Councillors representing the Bollington Ward accept the logic of this position. Bollington is designated as a Local Service Centre in the Cheshire East Local Plan. A variety of stores, restaurants, pubs, and medical, dental and leisure services are available to the local residents of Pott Shrigley and Rainow in Bollington, as well as clubs and societies and cultural activities organised by the Bollington Arts Centre.

All these services are conveniently available to Bollington Parish residents to the south of the Silk Road.

Pott Shrigley has very good road connections with Bollington whereas Rainow's connections are solely on rural roads.

We understand Rainow Parish Council has opposed the new warding. However, there is a former history of local government links with the previous Cheshire County Council Warding and a strong natural geographical connection through the shared valley of the River Dean and its tributaries. The Dean valley was the cradle of the industrial revolution in this area from the 1780's and the shared responsibility for Kerridge Ridge and the iconic monument of White Nancy, visible throughout the new Ward gives a natural unity to the Ward belied by the transport system.

We also note the strong social and economic connection of the area through walkers in this part of the Peak District. The new ward will be a walkers paradise stretching from Kerridge to Shining Tor.

The current Borough Councillors therefore believe that there are more than sufficient natural, economic and social links within the three separate communities to ensure coherent governance from the point of view of Cheshire East.

We understand that Rainow Parish wishes to remain within a rural Ward. We can only say that a significant part of the Bollington Settlement Area is already in Rainow Parish so we share significant concerns over housing development, particularly in Ingersley Vale where we have a joint interest in the redevelopment of a significant brown field site with planning permission for 66 houses. Those houses, if built, will rely on Bollington for all their services as their only exit and access to the A537 which connects Bollington with Macclesfield and rail to London and Manchester Airport will be on to Church Street in the heart of the Bollington Conservation Area, and out through Bollington on the B5090.

We refer to the recent Community Governance Review of 2021/22 when BTC wrote to Rainow Parish

We have cooperated recently very positively over establishing Mill Lane as a scheduled by way, providing all the information necessary for the designation to be made. Rainow has a proud industrial history, as has Bollington. We are sure we can build very positive relationships with Rainow Parish Council and our successors will be very happy in representing their interests.

Similarly with Pott Shrigley Parish. Virtually all traffic exiting Pott Shrigley goes through Bollington. The small Pott Shrigley School is sustained by pupils from Bollington and in the past has been federated with St. Johns C of E Primary School in Bollington. Pott Shrigley's famous film shows, 'Flix in the Sticks,' are strongly supported both organisationally, and in terms of audience attendance from Bollington.

The south western border: Bollington and the Macclesfield Tytherington Wards

Bollington Town Council

A section of the very large Parish of Macclesfield governed locally by Macclesfield Town Council, an additional portion of the Springwood Estate, is included as a transfer from the Tytherington Macclesfield Ward in the proposed Bollington and Rainow Ward.

It is clear from the Boundary Commission's description of the electoral warding pattern proposed for Macclesfield that it requires Hurdsfield Parish to be transferred from the current Bollington Ward to join with Macclesfield Hurdsfield. That significant transfer is an integral part of the complex considerations surrounding warding within Macclesfield.

Para 125 of the LGBC Review states: Bollington & Rainow, Gawsorth and Sutton

'To conclude, we are recommending the Bollington and Rainow Ward as proposed by the Council and the Liberal Democrats, with a modification as a result of warding arrangements in north-east Macclesfield which we addressed in the Macclesfield Tytherington section.'

The current Bollington Ward Borough councillors note that the transfer of Higher Hurdsfield to Macclesfield Hurdsfield means that the arrangements in Macclesfield propose to change the representation for the Tytherington Ward from 2 Councillors to 1. This change arises from the need to readjust the size of the Tytherington Ward as sections of the Ward in Macclesfield (Bollinbrook) are more strongly linked from a community point of view to Broken Cross and Upton Ward. Paras 106 and 107 describe the LGBC's thinking.

We agree strongly with the proposal that the northern part of the current Tytherington Ward (the Springwood Estate) should be included in the Bollington and Rainow Ward. This will help to reduce the electoral inequality experienced in the Tytherington Ward and will also produce a better match for electoral equality for the Bollington and Rainow Ward of -3% by 2030.

Moreover, in the longer term, the resolution of the anomalies in Bollington's Border with Macclesfield Town Boundary can be overcome by a further Community Governance Review settling the Parish Boundary between Macclesfield and Bollington along the proposed Cheshire East Ward line. This is a more natural based line recognising the integrity of the current Bollington Neighbourhood Plan Area accepted by Cheshire East Council when the plan was created in 2018 and in its recently presented review of 2024. We understand neither Tytherington as a ward or Macclesfield as a Town Council has a Neighbourhood Plan therefore such a change would not affect their future administrative and planning objectives in the same way that dividing Bollington Parish would as Cheshire East Council seems to want to do.

We realise that this proposal does create a small area of the Springwood Estate that will remain in the Parish of Macclesfield yet be in the Bollington and Rainow Ward. But since this arrangement preserves the whole community and Neighbourhood Plan Area of Bollington within the Bollington and Rainow Ward we strongly support the Boundary Commission proposal. As we note above this can be adjusted in the future through a Local Governance Review.

We refer back to the Community Governance Review of 2021-22 when Cheshire East proposed that the Parish of Bollington border should be the Silk Road.

Bollington Town Council argued three reasons why this would be inappropriate.

1. Community cohesion. Referenced by the Local Government Boundary Commission.

2. The Silk road was a means of access o Macclesfield and Manchester for Bollington Residents on either side of the road and NOT a barrier. Indeed, given that the dual carriageway stops at Bollington it could be said the road was built to provide necessary improved access for Bollington residents to Macclesfield and the railway station.

3. The Silk Road was clearly not a barrier as there was a daily bus route across it, there was a roundabout for ease of vehicle access, there was a pedestrian controlled crossing with a refuge to allow all to cross safely and there was a raised footway across it carrying the Middlewood Way. And finally, during every school day young people of secondary school age use these crossings to walk to their secondary school in Tytherington.

During intense discussions resulting from the recent Community Governance Review in 2021 Cheshire East Council accepted this situation as described and changed their proposals for the Bollington Parish border to retain the integrity of the Parish.

It has been a great disappointment to the Borough Councillors that Cheshire East Council has produced Warding proposals that fail to recognise the integrity of the Bollington Town Neighbourhood Plan and Administrative area that they represent and once again propose the Silk Road as a border for the Cheshire East Ward ignoring the Bollington Parish Boundary and proposing to divide Bollington Parish once again.

This would mean that part of Bollington Parish would be represented by the Borough Councillor from Tytherington.

There is a perception of basic unfairness when two rural parishes are included in their entirety in a newly created Ward called Bollington and Rainow yet the main core parish is proposed to be split in two for no good reason.

We note that the broad submission from the Macclesfield Labour Party that is supported by the Local Government Boundary Commission relating to Warding in Macclesfield is also supportive of this Ward Boundary on the northern Border of the Tytherington Ward recognising the whole of the Springwood Estate being in Bollington and Rainow Ward.

We accept that the political management of this area is a little complicated. And would ask the Boundary Commission to consider creating the Springwood Estate area of the proposed Bollington and Rainow Ward as a polling district.

The Springwood Estate would sit comfortably electorally within the West Ward of Bollington Town Council. This situation can only be settled by a Community Governance Review.

With the proposals before us. The Springwood Estate sits with its northern portion in Bollington Parish and with its southern half within Macclesfield Parish.

We would ask that the Town Ward of Bollington West Ward remain the same and similarly with the Tytherington Ward of Macclesfield with its one Councillor.

Therefore, we would suggest a polling district for the Southwood Estate should be created to manage a single electoral register for Cheshire East elections and a double register for Town/ Parish elections.

Conclusion

Therefore, on the grounds of basic electoral equality, community cohesion, and good governance the Borough Councillors currently representing Bollington strongly support the Local Government Boundary Commissions proposals for the Bollington and Rainow Ward as a Ward represented by two Councillors to be introduced for the new Warding arrangements for Cheshire East Council in 2027.