

Cheshire East

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Knutsford

I object to the proposals for Knutsford as presented.

From a parish perspective, I object to the splitting of the town's Cross Town ward into two. This would leave me in a single member ward for the Town Council, rather than the existing three member ward. This gives me less of a voice in Town Council elections (voting only for one candidate rather than three) which disproportionately disadvantages residents in this new ward compared with other parts of the town. This would create parish wards that do not match the rest of the town (the rest being three member wards)

I also object to the naming - all town council wards were carefully named based on parts of the town to reinforce local identity and connection to the ward. I do not like the "North/South" convention. If you do split the ward, call the North section "Manor Park" and the south section "Cross Town"

From a borough perspective, I do not support the disproportionate allocation of representation for the town. Either:

- a) The whole of Knutsford should be in the same, three member ward as it currently is
- b) The whole of Knutsford should be divided into three single member wards (Knutsford Nether for the north west, Knutsford Over for the North East and Knutsford Norbury Booths for the south)

There does not seem to be a reasonable justification for the split as proposed. It is noted that this was proposed by the Labour party and appears overtly political in its intent (i.e. to elect a labour councillor by developing a ward based around social housing). Wards should not be gerrymandered to deliver political outcomes. In a small town such as Knutsford, unity is important.

I would support three single member wards. This would be a reasonable proposal and ensures equity across the town and would not be politically designed. To deliver this, you would need to design a six-ward Town Council (each CE ward comprising two town council wards); this could lead

to a 12 member Town Council (as it was until 1999). If this is taken forward you should develop these proposals with the Town Council to ensure they reflect local identity.

Attached Documents:

None attached