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From: Paul Holmes [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 July 2021 16:12
To: reviews
Subject: Boundary proposals for Chesterfield Borough Council
Attachments: Boundary Review Chart v05.pdf; Proposal for a Revised Walton Ward.docx; Proposed Boundaries for Brimington Wards.docx; Proposals for Whittington.docx

Categories: Submissions, Simon

Enclosed are proposals for 12 of the 19 Wards in the current CBC area namely:

1. A chart encompassing 8 new Ward boundaries which also abolishes 2 further Wards.
2. A proposal ref the two Brimington Wards.
3. Two documents containing explanatory notes on community rationale/links for some of these changes.

Cllr Paul Holmes. Chesterfield Liberal Democrats.

Ward	Current Size	2030 Size	Comments
Walton	3		
Existing Walton ward	4464	4932	
Additional voters from Rother Ward. (Fenland Way, Delph Bank, Rother Close, Whitecotes Close, Bennimoor Way, Wisbech Close, Holbeach Drive, Whitecotes Park & Whitecotes Lane)		290	Additional housing including Whitecotes Lane down to Boythorpe Road. Part of Rother Polling District OA1
Additional voters from West Ward within "Walton" community: Atholl Close, Belvedere Close, Endowood Road, Faversham Court, Horsewood Road, Landon Close, Meadow View, Miriam Avenue, Netherfield Road, Norfolk Close, Norton Avenue, Park Hall Avenue, Park Hall Close, Park Hall Gardens, Royston Close, Sackville Close, Somersall Hall Drive, Somersall Lane, Somersby Avenue, Walton Back Lane, Woodvale Close, Yew Tree Drive		893	This is Polling District SA4, which ends at Somersall Park.
Total 2030 =		6115	
Optimum Size =		6372	
Variance =		-4.03%	
West	3		
Existing West ward	4941	4899	
Transferred voters from West Ward within "Walton" community: Atholl Close, Belvedere Close, Endowood Road, Faversham Court, Horsewood Road, Landon Close, Meadow View, Miriam Avenue, Netherfield Road, Norfolk Close, Norton Avenue, Park Hall Avenue, Park Hall Close, Park Hall Gardens, Royston Close, Sackville Close, Somersall Hall Drive, Somersall Lane, Somersby Avenue, Walton Back Lane, Woodvale Close, Yew Tree Drive		-893	This is Polling District SA4, which ends at Somersall Park.
Add the area to the East of Loundsley Green Road, from the Loundsley Green ward		1797	Polling District KA2 - Loundsley Green
Add from Brockwell: Heathfield Avenue, Linden Park Grove, Old Hall Road, Shaftesbury Avenue, Welwyn Close, Ashgate Road		371	Mostly from Polling District DA2 in Brockwell.
Add in the area West of Old Road from Holmebrook: Church Street West, Churston Road, Jebb Gardens, Manor Crescent, Manor Drive, Manor Road, Meynell Close, Old Road, Victoria Street West		366	Part of Polling District HA2
Total 2030 =		6540	
Optimum Size =		6372	
Variance =		2.64%	

Ward	Current Size	2030 Size	Comments
Linacre	2		
Existing Linacre ward	3149	3461	
Additional voters from Loundsley Green.		1055	Polling District KA1 from Loundsley Green, West of Loundsley Green Road.
Move School House Way (41) Newbold Village (11) and Newbold Back Lane (5) into Brockell		-57	
Total 2030 =		4459	
Optimum Size =		4248	
Variance =		4.97%	
Holmebrook	2		
Existing Holmebrook ward	3084	3103	
Delete the area West of Old Road from Holmebrook (moved to West ward) : Church Street West, Churston Road, Jebb Gardens, Manor Crescent, Manor Drive, Manor Road, Meynell Close, Old Road, Victoria Street West		-366	Part of Polling District HA2
Add Polling District OA5 from Rother. Boythorpe Crescent, Boythorpe Road, Hunloke Avenue, Hunloke Crescent, Rufford Close, and Sycamore Avenue		423	OA5
Add Polling District QA6 from St.Leonards		1259	QA6. Add the part of St. Leonards to the west of Derby Road. Excluding Redvers Buller Road (46), Lord Roberts Road (45), Dundonald Road (27) total 118 from St Leonards QA6 plus the small number of houses on Baden Powell Road (25) from the junction with Redvers Buller Road down to Derby Road
Total 2030 =		4419	
Optimum Size =		4248	
Variance =		4.03%	

Ward	Current Size	2030 Size	Comments
Whittington Ward	3		
Add the existing New Whitt AA2 & AA3 and Old Whitt NA1 & NA2 together to create a new 3-member Ward of 6,822 voters		6726	96 voters could be moved to what is currently Moor Ward by transferring out Thompson Street, Pottery Lane East, Eastside Close, Brimington Road North and Station Road from NA1 and Station Road from NA2. These are for the most part areas that used to be part of the Moor area until the construction of the Chesterfield Inner Relief Road (A61) severed them and left them adrift.
Total 2030 =		6726	
Optimum Size =		6372	
Variance =		5.56%	
Barrow Hill, Hollingwood & Inkersall Ward.	3		
Hollingwood and Inkersall GA1, GA2, GA3	4994	5567	
Barrow Hill (AA1)	649	711	
plus Hunters Close, Stormont Grove, Cromford Drive, Litton Close, Tideswell Close, Paisley Close, Hobnar Lane, Monyash Close, Wessington Drive, Ringwood Avenue, Paisley Close and Dale Close (270 voters) from LA2		270	
Total 2030 =		6548	
Optimum Size =		6372	
Variance =		2.76%	
Middlecroft, Poolsbrook & Duckmanton Ward	2		
Existing LA1, LA2, LA3, LA4 (3,535 voters)	3387	3535	
Add GA4 – Duckmanton		1195	
Minus roads moved to Barrow Hill, Hollingwood & Inkersall Ward.		-270	
Total 2030 =		4460	
Optimum Size =		4248	
Variance =		4.99%	
Lowgates and Woodthorpe	2		
Existing Lowgates and Woodthorpe ward	3424	4565	Transferring Eckington Road (including Gratton Court which faces onto Eckington Road) and Hall Lane from JA1 to Middlecroft would move 109 voters and drop Lowgates to just under the +5% variance. However this would be a very artificial dividing line and a +7.4% variance on Lowgates would be preferable.
Total 2030 =		4565	
Optimum Size =		4248	
Variance =		7.46%	

Proposed Boundaries for Brimington Wards

The existing Brimington North (2 members) and Brimington South (3 members) Wards only have the voter numbers to justify two 2-member Wards in the reorganisation. A good geographic/community split would be:

1. New Brimington and Tapton Ward

Comprising CA2 and CA3 polling districts from the current Brim South Ward plus BA1 from the current Brim North but minus 178 voters from John Street, Cross Street, High Street)

Equals 4,109 voters at a variance of -3.3%. Two-member Ward

Tapton Lock Hill (Varley House, Stevenson House, Henshall House, Heathcote House, Brindley House) – 79 voters, could be added from MA1 polling district in Moor Ward to bring the total to 4,188 voters at a variance of -1.75%.

The latter are separated from Tapton by the railway lane but even more separated from Moor Ward by the Canal, River Rother and By Pass.

2. Brimington Common Ward

Comprising CA1 and CA4 polling districts from the current Brim South Ward plus BA2 and part of BA1 (John Street, Cross Street, High Street) from the current Brim North Ward.

Equals 4,151 voters at a variance of - 2.4%.

Both Wards retain a geographical and community integrity running in one case along Manor Road and in the other along the B6050 from Tapton to Brimington. Old and New Brimington, at the junction of these two roads splits geographically to the left and right.

Proposal for revised Walton Ward

The existing ward of Walton includes a number of anomalies, some of which are the result of residential growth as well as the last Boundary review changes in 1998. So for example one side of Somersby Avenue falls into West and the other into Walton. But then the boundary line dissects across the top section of Somersby and puts it into West Ward.

Looking at the electoral map I would like to suggest rationalising Walton Ward as follows:

1. Extending the ward to the west using Walton Back Lane as the boundary line. As the name suggests this falls within the wider Walton identity. And would restore the original community, part of which was removed in the last boundary review. The properties and environment are similar in nature to those which fall within the existing Walton ward boundaries. This would add around **893** voters to the ward, and would include Atholl Close, Belvedere Close, Endowood Road, Faversham Court, Horsewood Road, Landon Close, Meadow View, Miriam Avenue, Netherfield Road, Norfolk Close, Norton Avenue, Park Hall Avenue, Park Hall Close, Park Hall Gardens, Royston Close, Sackville Close, Somersall Hall Drive, Somersall Lane (from number 136 to Walton Back Lane), Somersby Avenue, Walton Back Lane, Woodvale Close, and Yew Tree Drive.
2. To follow the natural demarcation line between HorseWood and Somersall Playing Fields as a ward boundary across to Somersall Lane. This has the benefit of using geographical features such as the river and road bridge to define ward boundaries.
3. To the South the effective boundary would be the main roads of Matlock Road and Whitecotes Lane, this includes Walton Hospital as is the case now, and the new housing development called Walton Peaks, at the side of the hospital.
4. Another anomaly is that currently Walton ward contains only numbers 1 to six of Fenland Way. Houses in the streets and roads off the North side of Whitecotes Lane have a look and feel more in common with Walton, rather than Rother ward. This is also supported by the primary school being re-named as "Walton Peaks Flying High Academy". These additional roads from Rother Ward would increase the number of voters by around **290**. The roads would include Fenland Way, Delph Bank, Rother Close, Whitecotes Close, Bennimoor Way, Wisbech Close, Holbeach Drive, Whitecotes Park & Whitecotes Lane.
5. The additional numbers in proposals 1 & 4 would add to the 2030 number of 4932 for the original ward, providing a total number of voters of 6115. This is 4% under the target number of voters to have a three member ward.

Adoption of the above proposals would ensure that Walton would have a more cohesive community identity with clearly understood boundaries.

Regards,

Cllrs Tom Snowdon, Maggie Kellman & Nick Redihough

Community rationale in Whittington, Barrow Hill and Lowgates areas.

1. Whittington Ward.

The present 2-member Old Whittington Ward and three-member Barrow Hill and New Whittington Ward are both too small in electoral numbers to continue as they are. Merging the existing Old Whittington (NA1 & NA2) and New Whittington (AA2 & AA3) Polling Districts together would create a single identifiable community with 3 Members under the new system.

Old and New Whittington form a cohesive community that shares a community identity, a secondary school, a High Street (the B6052 which changes its name from High Street New Whittington to High Street Old Whittington along its length), a central park at Brearley Park (adjacent to the secondary school), two churches with the same Vicar and a bus route that runs every 20 mins (whereas no bus runs between Barrow Hill and Whittington). Among a variety of very active community organisations Old and New Whittington share a Scouts Group, Dance Schools, Friends of Brearley Park and the Websters Trust that has been disbursing charitable funding to residents of the Whittington's since 1857.

At 6,822 voters it would be +7% but given its separation from other communities by a By Pass in one direction (A61 Unstone-Dronfield By Pass plus a large industrial estate is a barrier with the Dunston area) and by the Midland Main Railway Line, Chesterfield Canal and River Rother (with the Brimington area) it is hard to see how this can be avoided if a coherent community is to be maintained.

96 voters could be moved to what is currently Moor Ward by transferring out Thompson Street, Pottery Lane East, Eastside Close, Brimington Road North and Station Road from NA1 and Station Road from NA2. These are for the most part houses that used to be part of the Moor area until the construction of the Chesterfield Inner Relief Road (A61) severed them and left them adrift. Moving these scattered households would reduce the proposed Whittington Ward to 6,726 voters a variance of + 5.5%, although it would not give them any better community identity in reality.

The only other feasible area to consider would be along Sheffield Road/Mallory Close/Mary Ann Street in the current Old Whittington Ward but they are entirely separated from the only other possible area they can link to (Dunston) by the By pass and industrial estate. A slightly over large Ward would be preferable in community terms.

2. Barrow Hill.

Barrow Hill is a small community with its own clear identity having been first built as an industrial village in the nineteenth century. Before the 1999 Ward Boundary re-organisation it formed a small Ward with adjacent Hollingwood which was also built as an industrial village some years after Barrow Hill. Since 1999 Barrow Hill has been attached to New Whittington which is further away than Hollingwood although still a fairly short geographical distance.

The new, reduced, number of CBC Cllrs however means that Old and New Whittington together can form one slightly over large 3 Member Ward. The continued inclusion of Barrow Hill would make this Ward massively over size for a 3-member Ward but still would not provide enough electors for 2 two member Wards. The only other community link is back to Hollingwood which is both a shorter distance to drive/walk to than Whittington and has a bus connection which Barrow Hill and Whittington do not. Barrow Hill and Hollingwood also both elect Town Cllrs to Staveley Town Council which Whittington does not as the Whittingtons are not historically within the Staveley area.

3. Lowgates and Woodthorpe.

With 4,565 voters projected (due to a large new estate about to be built) for the existing Lowgates and Woodthorpe Ward of 3,424 voters, it can form a two-member Ward with a variance of +7.4%.

This variance can only be cut by taking out a road or two at the junction of Lowgates (A619) with Duke Street/Eckington Road/Hall Lane as in other directions there is nothing but fields and then the boundary with Bolsover in one direction and N E Derbyshire in the other.

For example, transferring Eckington Road (including Gratton Court) and Hall Lane from JA1 would remove 109 voters and reduce the Ward to 4,456 a variance of +4.8% [and add of course 109 voters to Middlecroft].

This would however create a very artificial division between residents living at that edge of Lowgates and it might be better to make a case for the variance of +7.4% -especially as the 25% growth in the Wards electorate is only an estimate based on yet to be built houses.