

Trafford Borough Council**Personal Details:**

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Comment text:

Local Government Boundary Commission for England Proposals for Trafford Representation suggesting a reversal of changes to the existing Bowdon Ward and a discontinuance of the proposal to place four Parish Councils into one Ward by Councillor Michael Whetton, Councillor for Bowdon Ward, Trafford Borough Introduction I have lived in Trafford since 1987. I write as an existing elected councillor for Bowdon Ward in Trafford, elected in May 2021. Previously I have been a councillor for Ashton upon Mersey Ward in Trafford for a period of fifteen years until 2019. My role in Bowdon Ward gives me great insight into the existing make up of the Ward, especially the areas of Dunham Massey and Warburton, each of which has a Parish Council. My years of experience as a Trafford councillor have given me insights into many aspects of life in the Borough. Challenging splitting Dunham Massey and Warburton away from Bowdon I maintain that the parishes of Warburton and Dunham Massey are significantly linked to the Bowdon area, much moreso than they are to any other area. The dynamics of Warburton and Dunham Massey typically work on a south easterly /north westerly basis, Warburton to Bowdon. One road links Warburton, Dunham Massey and Bowdon. There are few notable connections to Partington or Carrington other than a road connection and onward destinations. I attend the Parish Councils' meetings in Dunham Massey and Warburton. I have become very familiar with the issues, cultures and priorities of these areas. What I see in Warburton and Dunham Massey are two communities which are very close to each other geographically and socially. Both have significant agricultural communities, established local residents of many generations history and incomers who seek the benefits of a rural setting for homelife within easy reach of a quality urban town. What is clear though is that all of these sub-communities relate extensively to the Bowdon area. In particular, schooling provides a key linkage between Warburton, Dunham Massey and Bowdon. Many children of pupil age from Dunham Massey and Warburton will attend Bowdon schools or nearby Altrincham schools. Other linkages are medical in terms of GP surgeries, a minor injuries unit and the various services of Altrincham General Hospital located on the border of Bowdon Ward. Library services too and, of course, retail shopping in Bowdon and over the boundary into Altrincham are part of Dunham and Warburton life. Even petrol station needs are met in Bowdon, there being none in the Partington direction. There has been a bus route connecting Warburton, Dunham Massey and Bowdon operating since 1920. One hundred years of bus services connecting these communities. It is a regular service running through the day providing people with essential means of travel. Recently a technicality over the height of a bridge has caused this bus service to be suspended. A significant campaign was mounted locally (despite limitations imposed by the Pandemic) to get the bus service re-instated. The local MP for Altrincham & Sale West was drawn into this issue, it being very relevant to his constituents. The campaign has recently become successful, a solution having been found and the service resumes shortly. The National Trust property at Dunham Massey is a significant local employer, drawing paid and volunteer workers significantly from the Bowdon area and the wider Altrincham conurbation. It draws many visitors from far and wide but notably it draws significant numbers of walkers from the Bowdon area. There are well worn unofficial walking routes from Bowdon to Dunham Massey and beyond. Historically, Lord Stamford of the Dunham Massey estate influenced buildings, developments and progress well inside the Bowdon area. Dunham Massey Parish Council conducted a survey via a social media application. The findings were heavily against the concept of the Western Parishes Ward and strongly in favour of retaining the Ward connection with Bowdon. These survey results are being supplied as a representation from Dunham Massey Parish Council. As a 'belt and braces' measure, not to double the submission of the survey, I am attaching an extract from that survey which features the comments made by all of those responding to the survey. The document is titled EXTRACT FROM DUNHAM MASSEY PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY ON PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES IN TRAFFORD, an Excel file. It illustrates the level of support for retaining Dunham Massey in the Bowdon Ward. Many of the individual views reflect those some of those featured in this representation. Challenging the Four Parish Council areas in one Ward The Disconnect between Warburton/Dunham Massey and Partington/Carrington The notion that it makes sense to combine the four Parish Councils in Trafford makes actually makes little or no sense at all. It is co-incidence that Trafford's four Parish Council areas abut and that there are no others in Trafford. There is no shared history involved. As Parish Councils, they evolved at different times. There is nothing to be gained by grouping the four Parish Councils into one Ward. They do not have much to show in the way of four-way linkages, they vary significantly in community and social respects. Partington is predominantly the product of a City of Manchester overspill estate from the post-War slum clearances in the City itself. Partington is an area of Multiple Deprivation, blighted by various social problems. Indeed, a 2019 survey assessed the current Bucklow St Martins Ward, which includes Partington and Carrington as being high on the scale of Multiple Deprivation with Partington in the highest category of deprivation and Carrington in the second highest. Warburton and Dunham Massey however are very much lower on that Multiple Deprivation scale, almost at the other end. Refer to the map titled INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (2019) uploaded with this representation with EXTRACT FROM DUNHAM MASSEY PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY ON PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES (Note:- Two different items have been put together on one Excel spreadsheet in order to be able to submit both.) The map of deprivation starkly illustrates the difference between Partington/Carrington (in BucklowStMartins) and Warburton/Dunham Massey (in Bowdon). Partington itself has a current population of around 5,300 within its Parish Council area. The three other Parish Councils have much lower populations, in the 300 - 400 region each. That one Parish Council is so much bigger, more than ten times bigger, highlights the lack of synergies and lack of purpose in bundling the Parish Councils into one Ward. In too many respects the two sets of Parish Council areas do not make comfortable bedfellows, so why attempt to lump them together as a Ward created simply because they are Parish Council areas The social economic differences, the lack of linkages, the lack of any opportunities to be gained from a grouping of four Parish Council areas, the relative populations differential cry out for a rethink of the proposal to form Western Parishes as a Ward. Maintaining Warburton and Dunham Massey in Bowdon Ward retains long-established linkages, retains communities and holds together important social servicing and retains population proportions in sizes that co-exist so well. Population numbers adjustments It is understood that the essential focus of the Boundary Review is to create Wards of equal size within an acceptable tolerance. Just as with the existing Wards created in the 2003 review which created the current Bucklow St Martins Ward, the reviewed Ward that includes Partington and Carrington will again be the smallest Ward population in Trafford. Therefore, that is not an unacceptable situation, not a deal-breaker. Even with Warburton and Dunham Massey, the proposed Western Parishes Ward would be the smallest in Trafford in population terms. As such, it is an outlier. With this proposal, to leave Warburton and Dunham Massey in Bowdon Ward, a reduction of 644 is applied to the Western Parishes population count. That means it is still an outlier, but not sufficiently so to negate the review. In any event, it remains an area with many housing development ambitions and opportunities, including the land required to build upon. Keeping Warburton and Dunham Massey with Bowdon, means adding back 644 into Bowdon's numbers. This would place Bowdon nearer to the average Ward population targeted by this review. If that were thought to be inappropriate, it may make more sense to return Oldfield Brow to Altrincham Ward, which is also below the average figure target. So, such a move can accommodate the add back in Altrincham Ward. Oldfield Brow has stronger Altrincham linkages than it has Bowdon linkages in community and transport terms to say the least. In simple terms, these proposed adjustments can be accommodated within two or three Wards without creating further 'knock-on' effects which disrupt the overall calculations. Ward Names Under my suggestions, the proposed Ward name of Western Parishes becomes inappropriate. For that Partington/Carrington area, I suggest the Ward name of 'Partington', not least because Partington does dominate the area of Ward geographically and in population terms. For a better display of inclusivity, I suggest that Bowdon (having been reconstituted with its two Parish Council areas) could be renamed 'Bowdon, Dunham & Warburton Ward'. Conclusion The ad lib or perhaps ad hoc suggestion of the Green Party to brutalise long established linkages has not been proposed with communities in mind. Their rather strange idea is for their own ends. Such ends may be an accepted part of this Boundary Review process but if equalisation of ward sizes can be achieved without the heavy-handed use of a metaphoric carving knife, then that should be the way forward. Boundary reviews seek equalisation of Ward populations,

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1644078742_EXTRACT+FROM+DUNHAM+MASSEY+PARISH+COUNCIL+SURVEY+ON+PROPOSED+WARD+BOUNDARY+CHANGES+IN+TI)

EXTRACT FROM DUNHAM MASSEY PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY ON PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES IN TRAFFORD
REFERRING TO THE PROPOSAL FOR BOWDON WARD
COMMENTS FROM ALL OF THE DUNHAM MASSEY RESIDENTS

Overall I would rather:	Why do you say that?	Any Other Comments?
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	The new proposals place Dunham and Warburton in a ward with two other areas which have completely different needs and completely different socioeconomic values and interests.	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward		
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	Dunham Massey has more commonalities with Bowdon. Our school age children attend Bowdon schools. The church parishes of St Marks and St Margaret's are in the benefice of Dunham Massey and share the same minister. The residents have similar values and aspirations as those living in Bowden. Dunham residents shop, socialise and use the facilities available to them in Bowdon and central Altrincham.	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	If the proposed changes take place I think as a community we would lose are separate identity and as we have always been part of the bowdon ward I see no reason to change	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	Bowdon Ward more suitable for our small village.	
I have no strong views either way	Having only lived under the Bowdon Ward we have no comparisons so difficult to assess one way or the other !!	I feel that as we have developed close connections with Bowdon Ward and councillors over the years there is no reason to change unless we are been offered a better alternative which we haven't so better the devil you know !!
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	Dunham Massey has a closer cultural and demographic affinity with Bowdon.	We use services in Altrincham, Hale and Bowdon such as schools, shops, restaurants and leisure facilities. By contrast we have little if any contact with Partington and Carrington. Partington is an area with high social deprivation and has nothing in common with Dunham Massey which like Warburton is primarily a rural community. Likewise there is little in common with Carrington especially as it is developed as part of the New Carrington project. Partington has c.7000 residents and Carrington will in the future have a population of c. 10000 residents as opposed to c.400 residents in Dunham Massey. There is a real risk that councillors would be elected principally by Partington and Carrington and would see their main task to represent their interests rather than those of Dunham Massey.
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	I think partington has totally different needs to the other more rural communities	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	No reason to change	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	The proposal will dilute the unique nature of Dunham Massey and its conservation zone which is supported by Bowdon and Warburton residents but scoffed at by, and regularly abused by a minority of flytippers and thieves travelling from, Partington and Carrington.	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward		
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	National Trust and Listed properties	Where in Partington are there listed property
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	Proposed new ward will be too big and will dilute the interests of Dunham Massey.	This proposal is a political waste of time
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	Our Parish Council have a good record of collecting and explaining our views.	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	Because there greater ties of our community with Bowdon in regards to schools, amenities etc.	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	Better representation as it is	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	We are most closely linked to Bowdon and therefore the wards should not change.	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	Residents use facilities in the bowdon area- schools, churches, drs, libraries etc. not known of any established/historical links with the partington, carrington ward.	This appears to be change for changes sake.
I have no strong views either way	I think there may be different benefits either way, but unsure of the long term benefits or consequences at the moment	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward		
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	We use the services in Bowden, hale and altrincham as well as the shops, schools, colleges and leisure facilities. We do not use any of these in partington or carrington and I do not believe joining us will be of any benefit to the residents of dunham in any way and we will be lost in too big a ward	
I have no strong views either way		
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	Because Dunham has much more synergy and connection to the Bowdon parish with an established sense of community - schools, shopping, community spaces, leisure spaces and hospitality etc. The history between Dunham Massey Hall and the wider Dunham Estate with Bowdon (and Altrincham) goes back generations and it would be destructive to bring that to an end - I have read nothing to convince me that this proposed change would be in the interest of Dunham residents.	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	Because we have a great relationship with the Bowden ward and are well represented by them. We have shared services with them and have a similar demographic (I have more in common) This would not be the case if we joined with Partington and Carrington.	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	The views of the local community will be lost in a sea of debate around by-passes etc. also the loss of the historical importance of Dunham and its rich history with Lord Stamford etc. who's influence spread far into the Bowden ward too. There is a real harmony of views between the citizens too.	It feels like politics by numbers. It's such a Westminster view. So much for "levelling up" this has no consideration for local views at all. It's an exercise done blind by some overpaid consultant or civil servant. Bar this very proactive approach (thank you Dunham Parish Council) we've seen no big push by government to get any views. No big TV campaigns like we had for Brexit despite this impact century old wards and impact almost ever citizen. It feels very much like it's tried to be pushed through under the radar.
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	Representation within the Bowden Ward works well.	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	We have little to no ties whatsoever with carting ton and Parrington. Our children attend schools in Bowdon and we are represented by the same MP	We implore you to allow us to remain with the Bowdon Ward to ensure our continued cultural, educational and religious alignment.
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	I feel Dunham Massey has more connection traditionally, historically, culturally, demographically and socially with Bowdon than it does with Partington and Carrington.	A merge with Warburton would be fine.
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	The residents of Dunham have more in common with the residents of Bowdon and Warburton than with those of Partington and Carrington. Common interests include schools, GP services, shopping, employment, and travel.	
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward		
Dunham Massey stay within the Bowdon Ward	Our schooling as always been in Bowdon.What does it mean to change that we would not qualify for Bowdon church school .Young families deserve a choice.	Why should we be less represented if we stay in the Bowdon ward that's served us very well.

Prepared by Councillor Michael Whetton (Bowdon Ward Councillor)
Using comments from the Parish Council's survey completely unedited.

INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION IN TRAFFORD

