

Local Government Boundary Commission for England - www.lgbce.org.uk E-mailed to reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Hi

Had difficulty finding some information on the consultation website and my earlier submission e-mailed was very rushed and in-complete.

In 20 years of involvement with Independent Loughton Residents Association (LRA), 18 years were in the role of Election Agent for candidates. Over this time I've listened to the concerns and opinions of thousands of residents in Loughton.

Very few residents know the Essex County Council Division boundaries. Loughton Central Division has had very able LRA Councillors serving the 4 Loughton wards in postcode IG10, of Alderton, Fairmead, St Johns and St Marys. The problem is many residents in the other three IG10 Loughton wards feel very un-represented with their voting choices and they resent being grouped with neighbouring towns of Buckhurst Hill IG9 or Chigwell IG7.

Residents in Loughton Forest Ward IG10 and Loughton Roding Ward IG10 are 6872 which is 44% of the electorate for the seat of Buckhurst Hill and Loughton South County Council Division (15597 electorate). Buckhurst Hill residents IG9 are un-easy voting for a candidate who's ballot paper description is 'Independent LOUGHTON Residents Association'. Buckhurst Hill residents are 8725 which is 56% of the electorate. It is understandable for Buckhurst Hill residents IG9 to feel apprehension about a candidate with the backing from Loughton, however effective. LRA has voting evidence from County Council elections in 2021 when they had a very able candidate. The electorate calculations are the latest from December 2022.

Even more unsatisfactory is that Loughton Broadway IG10 residents are 3408 which is 24.8% of the electorate for the seat of Chigwell and Loughton Broadway (13735 electorate). Broadway residents IG10 think they have no effective representation because 10327 voters, 75.2% of the electorate live in Chigwell - a town three miles away from them (IG10 2HY to IG7 5AF). The electorate calculations are the latest from December 2022.

In practice, electoral equality and opportunity for three sevenths of Loughton IG10 residents in wards Forest, Roding and Broadway has been very poor, for the past 20 years, because of County Council Division boundaries.

I realise this review has started, wrongly in my view, with district boundaries first and voting by thirds for Epping Forest District Council (EFDC). For the electoral register to be workable and to avoid confusing electors, district wards should be sub-divisions of electoral County Council Divisions. This review should aim to improve the problems defined above for Loughton and the area.

My 'Electoral Review EFDC Consultation Response 121222', submitted earlier, shows evidence that Loughton and it's voters deserve more consideration within the district review of electoral wards to improve local democracy, voter engagement, fairness and electoral representation. The four tables read together are clear evidence of residents in Loughton fully engaged with not only their town but the Epping Forest District as a whole. One third of district local plan respondents were from residents living in Loughton.

A logical solution the problems above is to move the district electoral grid slightly so that Loughton can be properly represented in proportion to its district contribution and its electoral significance. Two future county divisions of Loughton North and Loughton South would achieve this with relevant non-controversial names. Loughton North would comprise of what is currently Loughton Broadway, Loughton St Johns and Loughton Fairmead. Loughton South would comprise of what is currently Loughton Alderton, Loughton Forest, Loughton Roding and Loughton St Marys. There could be minor balancing number adjustments but this is the main principal to ensure that future elections are more representative and democratic. Both divisions would be a good social mix of voters and areas.

I'm part of Independent Loughton Residents Association (LRA), [REDACTED], since 2002 and election agent for candidates since 2004. LRA is a £5 a year residents association of over 1000 household members. It's been run by volunteers for 40 years. It's non-national political party approach is established and successful - it holds 21 of 22 town council seats, 13 seats on district council and has 1 county councillor.

lgbce.org.uk E-mailed 121222 to reviews@lgbce.org.uk

is a school in Loughton and not a place or area. This draft
 is the two very different town community identities of Loughton
 town area has been served for 26 years by Loughton Town
 Council. The two towns are separated by a distinctive 100
 yard area next the Central Line and runs east for half a
 mile it's even more apparent at ground level.

with Loughton South or Loughton South & Buckhurst East but
ts of two different towns.

from Loughton Tube Station would not identify with an

LN - 1705 voters

IG9 6AD - 1766 voters Total 3471 in IG9

, Green & Road 122 + Leycroft Close 18 + Stonnards Hill 70
525 properties

, Green & Road 167 + Leycroft Close 33 + Stonnards Hill 147
= 887 electors

New Whitebridge voters in 2023 = 2679

= **6150** MB calculation and 5925 LGBCE

could be contacted by 6150 electors. Split Buckhurst Hill

and Buckhurst Hill postcode IG9. This data was submitted to the scrutiny of a Government Inspector in 2019. Although omission, this evidence shows context of these two towns residents - **31106** in Loughton IG10 compared to **11380** in

When considering electoral advantages and drawbacks of electoral equality. I submit the tables below show a Loughton pragmatic system we have for local government. To attach part of necessary electoral resentment between the two very different Buckhurst Hill postcode IG9. This would be bad for both

- Response Numbers				
73	Residents	Area square miles	People in 1 square mile	Wikipedia or Census
00	31106	5.91	5263	2011
67	11461	2.98	3846	2011
32	48786	60.08*	*	*
99	4062	3.30	1231	2011
62	12987	6.05	2147	2011
40	4267	*	*	*
31	11380	1.40	8129	2011
88	6251	3.48	1796	*
64	6039	8.80	686	2001
23	21149	16.37	1292	2011
04	*	11.79	7294	*
00	130300	130.88	996	2016

Table 2	Actual checked data In order of Settlement - Residents Numbers						
Settlement	Row numbers	Responses	% of 3273	Residents	Area square miles	People in 1 square mile	Wikipedia or Census
Remainder	N/A	436	13.32	48786	60.08*	*	*
Loughton	1352 - 2429	1077	32.90	31106	5.91	5263	2011
Waltham Abbey	3149 - 3222	73	2.23	21149	16.37	1292	2011
Chigwell	264 - 448	184	5.62	12987	6.05	2147	2011
Epping	482 - 1224	742	22.67	11461	2.98	3846	2011
Buckhurst Hill	90 - 231	141	4.31	11380	1.40	8129	2011
Ongar	2714 - 2841	127	3.88	6251	3.48	1796	*
North Weald Bas't	2591 - 2710	119	3.64	6039	8.80	686	2001
Nazeing	2444 - 2588	144	4.40	4267	*	*	*
Theydon Bois	2929 - 3125	196	5.99	4062	3.30	1231	2011
Harlow	1235 - 1269	34	1.04	*	11.79	7294	*
Total District	N/A	3273	100.00	130300	130.88	996	2016
Conclusion	Loughton has a significantly higher number of Council Tax payers within the district.						

Table 3	Actual checked data In order of Settlement - Area square miles						
Settlement	Row numbers	Responses	% of 3273	Residents	Area squ. miles	People in 1 square mile	Wikipedia or Census
Remainder	N/A	436	13.32	48786	60.08*	*	*
Waltham Abbey	3149 - 3222	73	2.23	21149	16.37	1292	2011
Harlow	1235 - 1269	34	1.04	*	11.79	7294	*
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Buckhurst Hill	90 - 231	141	4.31	11380	1.40	8129	2011
Nazeing	2444 - 2588	144	4.40	4267	*	*	*
Total District	N/A	3273	100.00	130300	130.88	996	2016
Conclusion	Loughton has a very high number of residents living within a fairly small area of the district.						

Table 4	Actual checked data In order of Settlement - People living in 1 square mile						
Settlement	Row numbers	Responses	% of 3273	Residents	Area square miles	People in 1 square mile	Wikipedia or Census
Buckhurst Hill	90 - 231	141	4.31	11380	1.40	8129	2011
Harlow	1235 - 1269	34	1.04	*	11.79	7294	*
Loughton	1352 - 2429	1077	32.90	31106	5.91	5263	2011
Epping	482 - 1224	742	22.67	11461	2.98	3846	2011
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North Weald Bas't	2591 - 2710	119	3.64	6039	8.80	686	2001
Nazeing	2444 - 2588	144	4.40	4267	*	*	*
Remainder	N/A	436	13.32	48786	60.08*	*	*
Total District	N/A	3273	100.00	130300	130.88	996	2016
Conclusion	Loughton has a large population living in a fairly small area and is already densely populated.						

* Reliable data not readily available.

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