

Bradford

Personal Details:

Name: Martin Love
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Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Hello,

I am making this submission in my capacity as a ward councillor for Shipley Ward in Bradford Metropolitan District Council.

I was originally elected as a councillor for the old Shipley West ward prior to the last boundary review, which came into effect in 2004, and have represented the current Shipley ward since then. The 2004 changes improved the representative situation for Shipley by a huge amount and was universally welcomed as it did away with the previous Shipley East/Shipley West split which severed the Town Centre in two and meant that many residential streets were divided down the middle between different wards.

The current ward size is within the target band at 11,605 (2023 figures) and as such, in my opinion, does not need to be altered. A large development is planned in Shipley on the site of the former HMRC offices, which in its current form will provide over 350 new homes, which should equate to approximately 700 new residents. There are also a number of smaller residential developments in the pipeline, which will further push the numbers closer to the average for Bradford District wards.

Shipley is a distinct town, with a combination of residential, industrial and commercial property. The residential make up of the town and the ward is varied, including affluent leafy suburb, town centre flats, former Local Authority housing estates, edge-of-centre terraced homes, and a World Heritage Site. It is the perfect mix and the current ward boundaries serve the town well.

People living here identify with the both town and the ward.

Looking at adjacent polling districts I cannot see any that could be moved into Shipley where this would be the case, so without splitting existing polling districts my view is that the current ward boundaries are perfectly fine as they are.

I understand that Baildon Town Council have suggested that 22A, currently in Shipley ward, should be moved into Baildon ward. I would argue against this. 22A is linked well into Shipley both as a town centre, with a regular bus service, and to its ward representatives. Its population are happy as they are. The housing in 22A was mainly built in the 1950s to house people being moved out of sub-standard housing in Shipley Town Centre prior to its redevelopment, so many of the older residents still have that link in their pasts. Also, if it was moved, this would split the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Saltaire across 2 different wards as part of the WHS is in 22A, the rest being in 22B.

I trust that my views will be taken into account when the commission makes its final decision.

Attached Documents:

None attached