

Dudley

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Comment text:

Related subject: Halesowen

Halesowen & Rowley Regis Conservative Association welcomes the draft proposals for the five wards that make up the Halesowen area, Belle Vale, Cradley & Wollescote, Halesowen North, Halesowen South and Hayley Green & Cradley South.

The Halesowen North ward is currently a well-defined group of communities that reflect local ties well. The Shell Corner and Coombswood areas that border Blackheath are best linked with the housing areas with which it shares a border, namely Hurst Green and the communities off Long Lane in the south of the ward, rather than any others that were proposed in the responses to the initial consultation (Response 87188). The boundary between this ward and Halesowen South also should remain as it is the main arterial route between Halesowen and Birmingham thus making a convenient and easy to understand boundary.

We welcome the proposals to maintain the boundary in Halesowen South and ensure that the majority of the town centre remains within a single ward. Much like Halesowen North, the boundaries between this ward and both Hayley Green & Cradley South and Belle Vale are on main roads that help to make for easy-to-understand boundaries. The grouping of communities in this ward, including Lapal and those that sit to the south of the town centre, are well matched to share representation. It is welcome that the Halesowen South boundary remains unchanged.

The proposed changes on the borders of Belle Vale, Cradley & Wollescote, and Hayley Green & Cradley South are an acceptable way of eliminating some boundaries that are currently confusing for local residents, including some situations where direct neighbours in the same road find themselves in different wards such as on the Belle Vale/Cradley & Wollescote boundary.

We would highlight a small cul-de-sac currently in Hayley Green & Cradley South which can only be accessed from the Belle Vale ward. Tenlands Road has a cul-de-sac of newly developed bungalows that used to be council garages. The garages at the time the boundary was originally drawn fell into Hayley Green & Cradley South, but now they are dwellings, it has resulted in the peculiar situation where residences 1b, 1c and 1d Tenlands Road can only be accessed from the main part of Tenlands Road, between 1a and 3a, which is in Belle Vale. It would be sensible to unite neighbours under one ward, which would most sensibly be the Belle Vale ward.

In summary, we believe that the draft proposals should be adopted as the final proposals and implemented. They reflect local ties well whilst also meeting the requirement to ensure that the number of electors fall within the range required.

Cllr Ian Bevan
Chair of Halesowen & Rowley Regis Conservative Association

Attached Documents:

None attached