

Essex

Personal Details:

Name: Rose Brookes
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Dear All ,

I wish to make a representation to the Commission as the Interim Chair of the Loughton Broadway Town Centre Partnership . I have lived in Loughton for over thirty years and served on Loughton Town Council for fifteen years and Epping Forest District Council for eleven years . During my time on the Councils I have represented one of the wealthiest wards in the town (Loughton Forest) and one of the most deprived (Loughton Alderton) . I make this submission on behalf of the Partnership .

When the last review into the County Council divisions was carried out the parish of Loughton was divided into three separate divisions - Loughton Central , Broadway and Chigwell and Buckhurst Hill and Loughton South .

In Commission 's literature it states parish boundaries and communities of interests are recognised .

As a representative of the Loughton Broadway Partnership I should like to suggest that the Commission in this review respects communities of interest and does not put the Loughton Broadway ward with Chigwell . The two places may be only three miles apart but they have very little in common . With the exception of the Limes Farm estate (currently falls within the District ward of Grange Hill) which is a pocket of deprivation , Chigwell is one of the wealthiest areas in Epping Forest . By comparison Loughton Broadway has a high proportion of social housing and tremendous social need . It is very difficult for one Councillor to represent such divergent interests and communities which have very little in common .When the Boundary Commission does their visit to Essex please visit the Broadway shopping parade and then contrast it with Brook Parade in Chigwell .

The Debden estate was built between 1947 and 1952 by the London County Council . This Council estate was carefully planned to include green spaces for the health and well being of their residents . Sadly ,many of these fields have been built on but the area still has has a very particular identity . The children in the Broadway ward are educated at Thomas Willingale nursery and primary school or Hereward Primary School .

Thomas Willingale has 38 per cent of pupils receiving Pupil Premium .The national average is 20.8 per cent .By contrast, Chigwell Academy Primary School has only 7 per cent . Later , they go on to Debden Park Secondary School on Willingale Road . The children of Chigwell are educated Chigwell Academy , Chigwell Row Primary School and Limes Farm Infant and Junior Schools. A far higher proportion of children than the national average in Chigwell village are educated privately ,including many to Chigwell School itself . For Secondary school most pupils would go on to West Hatch Secondary School or schools in the neighbouring Redbridge borough.

Since the Loughton Town Council was formed in 1996 the sense of community identity and cohesion have increased in the town . The Town Council produces a magazine three times a year which is delivered to all homes . The Council currently has twenty two Councillors from seven wards . Events are organised in different areas of the town - Jessel Green Fun Day , an annual Horticultural Show and in September,2023 the first Loughton Day . Looking at a map the Commission might just think Loughton is just an extension of suburban sprawl but the largest town in the Epping Forest constituency (population -33,338 in 2021 census) does have a particular identity .

The members of the Broadway Partnership , many of whom run shops on the Broadway , were very disappointed by the new wards in the Epping Forest and Loughton Town Council boundary review . They were especially concerned that the Broadway parade was cut in half and will now be represented by six Councillors . The Broadway parade has always been one ward . They are proud of the strong sense of community that it has always had ,stemming from many of the original residents coming from the East End of London after the end of the Second World War . They would ask the Commission to make the Broadway part of a Loughton division again and feel they have little in common with Chigwell .

The M.11. motorway provides a clear dividing line and it would be much better to reduce Loughton to two divisions ; then put Buckhurst Hill in with Chigwell . They have much more in common in socio economic terms . The extensive building of flats on Borders Lane , Loughton are due to provide over four hundred homes which will boost the Loughton electorate numbers very shortly .

Currently , there are approximately just under 25,000 on the Loughton electoral roll . This will increase by nearly a thousand in the near future . May I suggest that this time the Boundary Commission respects the parish of Loughton's boundaries and makes two divisions from the town . Chigwell and Buckhurst Hill parishes are made one division .I know the numbers will not be exactly the same but it would help community cohesion in the town to have two divisions .

Thank you for considering this submission.

Kind Regards .

Councillor Rose Brookes

Interim Chair of the Loughton Broadway Town Centre Partnership

Attached Documents:

None attached