

Derbyshire

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Dear Paul Kingsley

Thank you for your email of 14th July with the copy of the revised spreadsheet and invitation for me to comment on this stage of the review.

Derbyshire Dales is the largest district by area in Derbyshire and that increases the burden on elected members (compared with their urban counterparts), particularly when the large number of parish councils, who legitimately wish to make representations to their County Councillor, is taken into account. It should be noted that in-person attendance, with associated travel and time consequences, is expected again at council meetings after the convenience of Zoom meetings during and immediately after lockdown.

In principle, therefore, I think divisions should be as compact as possible, and long, thin divisions (such as Dovedale) should be avoided.

In contrast however, most of the large towns in Derbyshire Dales have one County Councillor to represent them. The exception is Ashbourne, and I think, from a community point of view, that is not ideal. There is a trend in modern governance to introduce single-person accountability for a recognisable area (e.g. Mayors for large conurbations).

Achieving that for Ashbourne may not be possible to do in this review, if the impact on other communities and the arrangements for District Wards (which I think is relevant) is counterproductive. I have not had time, given the errors in the spreadsheet, to identify suitable new boundaries which would satisfy the constraints I have mentioned above, but I will attempt to offer an appropriate model in time for the next consultation.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Ashbourne resident

Attached Documents:

None attached