

From: Burgess, Brenda [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 April 2018 11:56
To: reviews
Subject: Ward Boundary Review - Crawley West Sussex
Attachments: Brenda J Burgess boundary2 com objections 03.18.docx

Dear Mr Cooper.

Please find enclosed my submission, objecting to the proposed boundary change for the neighbourhood of Three Bridges for electoral purposes.

Thankyou

Kind regards

Brenda J Burgess Cllr Mrs.
Ward member for Three Bridges

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Brenda J Burgess



Dear Sir.

I wish to tender my objections to the proposal of putting the area of Three Bridges, known as Tinsley Lane, into the area of Langley Green for election purposes. I believe there are three areas for consideration when deciding on boundary decisions.

I believe that each of these have equal weight.

- 1. To deliver electoral equality where each borough councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the borough.**

It is not just about numbers. It involves engagement with the people and understanding the particular needs of the residents and their neighbourhood. Three Bridges has a particular identity totally different to Langley Green. It is hard to explain. You would need to live here and be part of the community to fully understand.

Three Bridges, including Tinsley Lane, is one of the oldest areas in the gown and is a mixture of original village, the first railway New Town and the post-war New Town. Montefiore Hall, once belonging to the Montefiore family, was left to the people of Three Bridges early in the twentieth Century. Every Christmas people from the original Three Bridges are invited to a party to celebrate and reminisce. Such an occasion includes residents from the Tinsley Lane area of Three Bridges.

- 2. That the pattern of wards should as far as possible reflect the interest and identities of local communities.**

Tinsley Lane does not reflect the interests of Langley Green and Langley Green does not reflect the interests of Tinsley Lane. Residents from Tinsley Lane have no reason to associate with Langley Green. There is no bus direct to the area and it is too far to access by walking. The same applies the other way round.

Tinsley Lane residents can and do shops locally. They often bump into neighbours at the local shops such as Tesco's, Iceland or Lidl's etc.

Residents send their children to the local schools and some worship at the local churches. All such venues are accessible by foot as is the local Main Line historic station of Three Bridges.

3. That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

I don't see how removing an area's identity can or will provide effective and convenient local government. How will putting an area like Tinsley Lane into a ward which is inaccessible, miles away from Langley Green, buffeted by an industrial area where few people reside, with nothing in common with Langley Green as a whole provide effective local government? If the Ward is miles away then so will be the local councillors. Residents could feel such councillors are too far away to bother or care. Will they be seen shopping in the area? Will they be perceived as approachable? Will they be seen at the local schools? I don't think so.

Further to these I would add the consideration for the Langley Green Councillors one of whom also happens to be the County Councillor for Langley Green and Ifield South. It is expected that Councillors attend community projects and Forum Meetings for the areas they represent. The Councillor for Langley Green would be expected to attend community events and forum meetings for Ifield, Langley Green, Tinsley lane and possibly Three Bridges as Tinsley Lane is a part of the Three Bridges forum; that means four AGM's to attend every year on top of community events and steering group meetings.

The Three Bridges Forum with Tinsley Lane is THE most active Forum in Crawley. Events are held, competitions are formulated and the local Councillors are expected to attend.

Tinsley Lane itself has an active Residents Group which was formed over thirty years ago in response to feeling that Tinsley Lane is somewhere that can be 'pushed around'. They have had to fight off planning applications, have had noise foisted upon them via an aggregates company built on their boundary and now appear to be losing their identity at the polling stations.

This important historic area of the neighbourhood of Three Bridges, needs to remain in the polling district of Three Bridges. I trust you will listen and take on the concerns of residents and their local Councillors of which I am one and also a resident of Three Bridges.

At the Full Council on Wednesday the 4th April, it was good to see a large contingent of residents from the area of Tinsley Lane attending the meeting in order to voice their objections to the proposals.

I support my residents in this and feel strongly that the neighbourhood principle should be adhered to by allowing the Tinsley Lane area of Three Bridges to remain part of the Three Bridges Ward.

An alternative proposal, which is supported by the West Sussex County Council, has been submitted. It keeps the Tinsley Lane area as part of the Three Bridges Ward thus retaining electoral equality, interests and identity of the local community with effective and convenient local government.

Thank you

Thank you for your time and patience in reading this letter. I await your response with keen anticipation.

Yours faithfully

Brenda J Burgess. Cllr. Mrs
Ward Member for Three Bridges