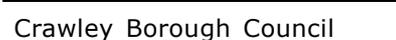


Crawley District

Personal Details:

Name: Robert Lanzer
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Organisation Name: Crawley Borough Council

Comment text:

I write to give my strong support to Crawley's neighbourhood principle and urge the LGBCE to publish a draft warding pattern for Crawley of 10 three-member and three two-member wards, and that those three two-member wards be Furnace Green, Gossops Green and Tilgate. This is consistent with the position taken by both Crawley Borough Council (CBC) and West Sussex County Council (WSCC). I recognise that it is not possible to fully reflect neighbourhood boundaries whilst maintaining sufficient equality of representation but this solution takes us as close to that goal as we can reasonably get. I have concerns about the submission from Crawley Borough Council, which I note has major opposition from almost half of Crawley Borough Council members as well as from many Three Bridges residents. This proposal creates unnecessary divisions in the neighbourhoods of Three Bridges, Broadfield and Northgate. I am particularly opposed to the CBC suggestion for Three Bridges which removes the northern part of the neighbourhood around Tinsley Lane and replaces it with the whole of the town centre part of Northgate. There is no need for such a change to take place and the proposed scheme from West Sussex County Council demonstrates that all of Three Bridges neighbourhood can be kept within the Three Bridges ward without compromising the 10% variance threshold for electoral equality. Instead the CBC proposal places the Tinsley Green part of Three Bridges in with Langley Green and Manor Royal. There is no residential community of interest with Manor Royal as this is principally a business district, one of the largest in the reason. While it can be argued that there is an employment community of interest, this is also the case for all of Crawley's neighbourhoods. Basic geographical considerations rule out any residential community of interest with Langley Green. The proposed scheme from West Sussex County Council also enables most of the town centre part of Northgate to remain within the new Northgate and West Green ward as well as keeping the Manor Royal business district within Northgate and West Green, with only the actual residential area around the major Tushmore Roundabout that is adjacent to Langley Green, moving into a new Langley Green and Tushmore ward. The CBC proposal for Broadfield would inevitably create lasting confusion for Broadfield residents by virtue of its three-way split and the fact that one major area of housing immediately to the south of Bewbush is moved to the Bewbush ward while a neighbouring area of housing in Broadfield, also immediately to the south of Bewbush, remains within Broadfield. This confusion is further compounded by a significant area of housing in the north-east of Broadfield being moved into Gossops Green ward. None of the many residents moved out of the Broadfield neighbourhood will be in a ward whose name reflects their area. They will obviously think of both wards with the names of Bewbush and Gossops Green as being other wards and not their own. There is also no obvious shared community interest between Gossops Green and this part of Broadfield, which is very much an established part of the Broadfield neighbourhood, with much of its housing not being immediately adjacent to Gossops Green or indeed any other neighbourhood. Applying the criterion of efficient and effective local government, this is surely assisted by higher participation in the electoral process but we know that confusion reduces turnout. This cannot be a desirable outcome and is a powerful argument against the CBC scheme. The WSCC proposal for Broadfield is a much better solution for the neighbourhood. It has only a two-way split as opposed to a three-way split and maximises the number of Broadfield residents within the main Broadfield ward. All of the area of housing adjacent to Bewbush is moved into the new Bewbush and North Broadfield ward. These arrangements will be the most straightforward and easiest for Broadfield residents to understand, especially with the proposed ward name of Bewbush and North Broadfield. Having examined the proposals submitted by CBC and WSCC, I believe that the WSCC proposed warding pattern would provide a much better scheme for Crawley that would better serve Crawley's neighbourhoods and residents.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded