

Owen, David

From: Transition Larkhall
Sent: 19 February 2018 16:29
To: reviews
Subject: Comments for Consultation on Bath and NE Somerset Boundaries Review of

Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) proposals for Bath and NE Somerset
Submission from Transition Larkhall
< <http://transitionlarkhall.uk/> >

Introduction

I write as Treasurer/Secretary of *Transition Larkhall* about LGBC proposals for NE Bath, particularly those for the present Lambridge ward. Transition Larkhall (TL) is a local voluntary unincorporated association, which works for low-carbon futures and sustainable, community-centred life-styles.

T.L. has regular and long-standing relationships with BANES council and with our two local councillors. T.L. contributes to BANES initiatives such as the Clean Air Action Plan and relies on councillor assistance to progress its own projects, such as safe pedestrian routes and cycling infrastructure.

When first launched in 2008 the geographical remit was deliberately extended to cover adjacent council wards to Lambridge because we knew that many residents of these areas had strong links with Larkhall's central district and its numerous facilities and activities.

Having closely examined the LGBC proposals to replace Lambridge ward with a single-member 'Larkhall' ward, we wish to register our strongest objections to this proposal and to propose alternatives.

Objections

- Unlike wards to the north and east of Lambridge we do not have parish councillors. Thus all of the civic engagement is the responsibility of our two BaNES councillors.
- From our dealings with these members we know that their workloads are heavy.
- Because of the wide range of community activities* in Larkhall, including our own, we believe that the workload will not diminish significantly if the areas of Fairfield Park, Bailbrook and the vicinity of St Saviour church are transferred to other wards.
- The level of service to residents will thus be worsened and the LGBC's own criterion of 'providing for effective and convenient local government' will not be met.
- We also believe that another main criterion 'reflecting community interests and identities' will not be satisfied if the above areas are not included within the ward boundaries. We draw many members from these zones and it is important to us that there is one channel of representation covering their residential location and the activities of T.L.
- In support of this wider identification we would cite the campaign to keep a bus link between Fairfield Park and Larkhall centre in which T.L. and membership was an active participant.

*These include three schools, numerous shops and eateries, many activities in the New Oriel Hall, voluntary and community groups: sports clubs, scouts, and Larkhall Festival.

Proposals

At present our ward, Lambridge, stretches from the eastern end of Bailbrook Lane to Claremont Road and the western end of Fairfield Park Road.

- But it could be widened to include adjacent parts of Walcot where residents identify with Larkhall rather than an amorphous Walcot – which lacks such a centre.
- It seems particularly inconsistent that the 'Larkhall' ward will exclude its parish church and vicinity.
- Most of Bailbrook Lane is also closer socially and economically to Larkhall than to areas in Bathavon North ward.
- The interests of Bailbrook, St Saviours area and most of Fairfield Park, as well their identity, lies in Larkhall not Bathavon or Walcot.

- T.L. therefore proposes the present Lambridge ward is maintained and, if necessary for numerical balance, extended to include these areas from where many residents gravitate to Larkhall:
 - below Camden Road, from Claremont Road to Snow Hill
 - Ringswell Gardens
 - the Grosvenor stretch of the London Road.

Yours sincerely

Rosalind Hough

[Treasurer/Secretary] ***Transition Larkhall***