

Rob Leitch
Chairman
Old Bexley and Sidcup Conservative Association



Mr David Owen
Review Officer (Bexley)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower
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SW1P 4QP

reviews@lgbce.org.uk

4th April 2016

Dear Mr Owen,

Re: Response to the Draft Recommendations for the London Borough of Bexley

Following the Local Government Boundary Commission's publication of draft boundaries for local elections in the London Borough of Bexley, I am writing in broad support of the recommendations that have been put forward.

In general, the proposed boundaries improve the electoral equality of our local wards and respect the important community links that exist across so much of the Borough at present.

However, I would like to draw attention to two concerns that I have which both fall within the geographical area of Old Bexley and Sidcup Conservative Association. These are:

1. That the Local Government Boundary Commission should ensure that all shops and flats on Blackfen Road and Westwood Lane are moved into Blackfen & Lamorbey Ward from the currently proposed Blendon & Penhill Ward.

Explanation: Ensuring that the whole shopping area was united within one ward was put forward by the council in its submission, and the Labour Group of councillors' proposal also proposed that the whole of the Blackfen shopping area would fall within the same ward.

Changing the proposals to ensure that the shopping area becomes united would affect only a very small number of electors (approximately 50), but corrects an anomaly of the present boundaries that has caused confusion amongst a number of residents over the past few years. A particular example being Blackfen Library, which is in Blackfen Parade, so presently is in Blendon & Penhill Ward and would under the Commission's proposals stay there, but

this suggestion if implemented would place it in Blackfen & Lamorbey Ward. I would urge the Commission to see the sense in rectifying this anomaly for the sake of local residents, community groups and local traders in the area.

2. That the Local Government Boundary Commission should transfer part of South Gypsy Road from Brampton Ward into Falconwood & Welling Ward

Explanation: The boundary between the proposed wards of Brampton and Falconwood & Welling cuts across South Gypsy Road approximately 50 yards down from a barrier that runs across that road at its junction with Westbrooke Road and Palmeira Road. This barrier stops traffic travelling the whole length of South Gypsy Road; diverting traffic coming from the south into Westbrooke Road and diverting traffic coming from the north into Palmeira Road.

As such it would be more appropriate if the boundary was moved up to this junction, which would transfer about 40 residents on the west side of the lower part of South Gypsy Road into the latter ward (along with Westbrooke School on the eastern side) and would have a minimal effect on electoral variances in both of these wards.

I strongly believe that these suggested amendments would only further strengthen the proposed boundaries that have been put forward. I also believe that the community aspect of the Local Government Boundary Commission's criteria would be strengthened by making the slight adjustments set out above.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Leitch
Chairman
Old Bexley and Sidcup Conservative Association