

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 February 2016 22:32
To: reviews
Subject: Review of West Sussex County Council Electoral Divisions - Submission by County Councillor Bob Lanzer

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Sir/Madam

I write as the West Sussex County Councillor for the Maidenbower Electoral Division to express my opposition to the draft recommendations produced by your review.

I note that the proposed Pound Hill Division will have an elector/member ratio that is 10% higher than the county average by 2021. This is situation that I cannot support given that the primary consideration in the review should be equality of representation. There is considerable growth to come in Pound Hill with the building of Forge Wood, Crawley's 14th neighbourhood, which will have at least 1,900 homes.

My Maidenbower county division already had an elector/member ratio 14% above the county average in 2015 and will still be well over 10% above the county average for the 2017 election, if your draft proposals are carried forward. Therefore my division and its northern neighbour would both be under-represented in the next election or that in 2021.

Your draft proposal also splits the historic area of Worth across the two electoral divisions, either side of the Worth Way and National Cycle Route 21. This area has a strong heritage and sense of identity reflected in Crawley Borough Council's electoral wards, which are based on the neighbourhood principle. We have a ward called Pound Hill South and Worth, such is the strength of feeling. This situation is unique with only this ward out of Crawley's 15 including a place name that is not the neighbourhood name.

Applying community of interest considerations, the LKA polling district does not look south to Maidenbower neighbourhood. Rather the logical association is between Maidenbower and Worth as these areas are more similar in their housing and layout. This is reflected in the amended WSCC (West Sussex County Council) proposal which has both areas together in one electoral division.

I ask that you support and adopt the revised WSCC scheme. As well as ensuring fairer electoral representation in Pound Hill and Maidenbower, its combined variance of 36.7% across the nine Crawley divisions is better than the 38.5% achieved under your draft proposals.

The revised WSCC solution also achieves greater co-terminosity with only three wards not achieving this (Ifield, Southgate, Pound Hill South and Worth) as compared to five (Ifield, West Green, Northgate, Three Bridges and Pound Hill South) in your draft proposals. Therefore the WSCC submission shows greater support for Crawley's long-established neighbourhood principle, which is well supported by residents, who typically identify with their neighbourhood and then their town in that order.

From my local perspective, the WSCC scheme achieves fairer outcomes for Pound Hill and Maidenbower. More strategically, it is a better fit with the well-embedded neighbourhood principle and achieves better elector/member ratios across the Borough. I urge you to support it.

Yours sincerely

Mr Bob Lanzer
County Councillor for Maidenbower Division