

Kingsley, Paul

From: Fuller, Heather
Sent: 13 August 2015 11:44
To: Kingsley, Paul
Subject: FW: Electoral Review of West Sussex - response from Arun District Council
Attachments: ERSC Minutes 100815 Final.pdf

From: Liz Fitcher [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 August 2015 10:54
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Electoral Review of West Sussex - response from Arun District Council

Dear Review Officer

I refer to Jolyon Jackson's letter of 23 June 2015 seeking views on future electoral division boundaries for West Sussex County Council [WSCC].

Arun's Electoral Review Sub-Committee considered the two initial proposals that had been put forward by West Sussex County Council for boundary changes within the Arun District at its meeting on 10 August 2015. This related to the proposals:

- (1) to move a group of electors from the Bersted division to the Bognor Regis West and Aldwick division as the current Bersted division was too large. The Head of Democratic Services outlined that this could be achieved by moving the northern section of the District Marine Ward (BMARN) from Bersted to Bognor Regis West and Aldwick. As well as transferring nearly 600 electors and improving the equality of the electorate, this would also make the county division boundary co-terminus with the District boundary; and
- (2) to move the polling division of BCORN from Arundel and Wick division to Littlehampton Town division as this would better balance the electoral numbers in both divisions.

The Sub-Committee resolved that these two proposals for the Arun District area should be supported. They also agreed to support the principle of Littlehampton Town Council's wish to seek co-terminosity in its warding pattern in the outcomes of the Boundary Commission's review. We have confirmed these views already to West Sussex County Council so they can be presented to their Governance Committee at its meeting on 24 August. The Sub-Committee also asked that these views be fed back to the Boundary Commission in response to their consultation letter as this Council's view.

I have attached the minutes from the meeting of the Sub-Committee so you can see the detail of what was discussed.

If you require any further information from us, please let me know.

Best wishes
Liz

Location:

Visit Arun's web site at www.arun.gov.uk



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Subject to approval at the next meeting

ELECTORAL REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

10 August 2015 at 6.00 pm

Present:- Councillors Gammon (Chairman), Bower, Mrs Brown, Chapman, Dendle and Oppler.

[Note:- Councillor Oppler was absent from the meeting during consideration of the matters referred to in Minute 1 to 4 (part)].

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Charles and Brooks.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gammon declared a Personal Interest in relation to Agenda item 5 (Boundary Review of West Sussex County Council) in his capacity as a Member of Littlehampton Town Council.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2014 were approved by the Sub-Committee as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. START TIMES

The Chairman advised Members that the Sub-Committee needed to agree its start times for meetings for the remainder of the Municipal Year as this item had been omitted from the agenda.

The Sub-Committee

RESOLVED

That its start times for meetings during 2015/2016 be 6.00 pm.

5. WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Sub-Committee received a report from the Head of Democratic Services which informed Members that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England was undertaking an electoral review of West Sussex County Council.

Subject to approval at the next meeting

The aim of this review was to recommend electoral division boundaries that meant each County Councillor represented approximately the same number of voters. Another aim was to ensure that the pattern of divisions in the West Sussex area reflected the interests and identities of local communities as well as promoting effective local government. In order to achieve these aims, the Local Government Boundary Commission had identified a need to re-draw division boundaries across the County.

The Sub-Committee was being invited to represent the views of the Arun District by submitting written comments to both West Sussex County Council (WSSC) and the Local Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) as part of their consultations. It was pointed out to Members that a response needed to be sent to WSSC by 12 August and to the LGBCE by its deadline of 31 August 2015.

For the District of Arun, the Boundary Review was asking the Sub-Committee to consider two proposals which were:

- (1) To move a group of electors from the Bersted division to the Bognor Regis West and Aldwick division as the current Bersted division was too large. The Head of Democratic Services outlined that this could be achieved by moving the northern section of the District Marine Ward (BMARN) from Bersted to Bognor Regis West and Aldwick. As well as transferring nearly 600 electors and improving the equality of the electorate, this would also make the county division boundary co-terminus with the District boundary; and
- (2) To move the polling division of BCORN from Arundel and Wick division to Littlehampton Town division as this would better balance the electoral numbers in both divisions.

The Sub-Committee was also being asked, by Littlehampton Town Council, to consider supporting them to resolve some of the anomalies that had been created in the Littlehampton Town Council wards as a result of the last District Review. The detail of their proposal had been circulated to Members separately to the agenda.

Before discussing the proposals, the Chairman fed back to the meeting the issues that had been raised from his attendance at a meeting of the County's Electoral Review Panel.

The Sub-Committee firstly discussed the proposals put forward by WSSC and it agreed that the detail of the County's Electoral Review Panel's proposals were supportable and should be accepted especially as they posed little impact for the District.

Subject to approval at the next meeting

Councillor Bower outlined the need for the Council to ensure as far as possible that a simplified approach be adopted which would have as little impact as possible for the parishes. In relation to this, he referred to a small part of south Angmering which he felt should be moved from the Angmering and Findon division to the East Preston and Ferring division which he added would make this division co-terminus. Councillor Bower proposed this change but no seconder was forthcoming.

The Sub-Committee then turned its attention to Littlehampton Town Council's expressed views. Following some discussion, the Sub-Committee confirmed that it could support the principle of the Town Council's wish to see a co-terminus warding pattern as part of the outcomes of this review and that this view should be fed back to WSCC.

The Sub-Committee then

RESOLVED – That

- (1) the two proposals for the Arun District area put forward by the West Sussex County Council's Electoral Review Panel from its initial work undertaken to date be supported;
- (2) this view be confirmed by sending the Minutes from this meeting to West Sussex County Council by its deadline of 12 August 2015;
- (3) a written response confirming this view be sent to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England by its deadline date of 31 August 2015; and
- (4) the principle of Littlehampton Town Council's wish to seek co-terminosity in its warding pattern in the outcomes of the LGBCE's review be supported and this support be fed back to WSCC.

6. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Sub-Committee

RESOLVED

That its future meetings dates be as follows:

17 December 2015
11 February 2016
13 April 2016

All of the meetings would commence at 6.00 pm.

(The meeting concluded at 6.32 pm)