

West Sussex County

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Comment text:

I am writing on behalf of Burgess Hill Branch Labour Party, regarding the Burgess Hill East, Burgess Hill Town and Hassocks/Victoria Divisions. We believe that the current arrangements for Burgess Hill East, Burgess Hill Town and Hassocks & Victoria Divisions do not meet the aims of divisions based on natural boundaries. In particular, Hassocks & Victoria has a very small common boundary in a rural area, with the wards that make up the division having little commonality. Proposals that have been made to move a part of Hassocks Ward into Hurstpierpoint & Bolney Division make this situation even worse. We believe that these three Divisions should be reorganised as follows: i) Hassocks and Burgess Hill Franklands; ii) Burgess Hill St Andrews, Burgess Hill Leylands and the KEE part of Burgess Hill Dunstall; and iii) Burgess Hill Meads, Burgess Hill Victoria and the KEF part of Burgess Hill Dunstall. This would give electorates of 10251, 9595 and 9699 respectively, a better distribution than the current 10447, 9699 and 9183 of the current wards, although we accept that there may need to be some tweaks around the edges of the divisions to produce electorates within the guidelines that apply. We believe that our proposed boundaries work better because: a) there is a strong common boundary between the northern edge of Hassocks Ward and the southern edge of Burgess Hill Franklands Ward, and they merge naturally along the length of Keymer Road in a much stronger way than any link between Hassocks and Burgess Hill Victoria; b) Burgess Hill St Andrews, Burgess Hill Leylands and the KEE part of Burgess Hill Dunstall are linked by the length of Leylands Road and are three wards with the common link of residential areas. This Division would naturally be called Burgess Hill North. c) The KEF part of Burgess Hill Dunstall has a common boundary on its east side with the west side of Burgess Hill Victoria, and Burgess Hill Victoria has a common boundary along London Road with Burgess Hill Meads, so these three wards would form a natural Division which could be called Burgess Hill South. d) The two parts of Burgess Hill Meads would be united, with the unnatural split of Meads being ended; at the present Meads South is linked with Burgess Hill St Andrews and Burgess Hill Franklands even though there is no natural boundary and Meads and Franklands are separated by the London-Brighton railway line which is on a high embankment. Burgess Hill Labour Party believes that our proposed distribution would create more natural boundaries and would produce more effective Divisions which would assist the accountability of West Sussex County Councillors and we commend our proposal to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded