

Leicestershire County

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Comment text:

Re: Boundary Review - Consultation response Kate Knaggs County Councillor – Thurmaston January 2016 Proposed Boundary Review - Thurmaston Ridgemere Division In response to the Boundary Commission Boundary Review the Charnwood Borough proposals and County Council contributions to the Proposed Boundary Review the villages of Barkby, Beeby and South Croxton are suggested as proposed extension to the Thurmaston seat to increase electoral numbers. In the Boundary Commission proposals a chunk of Syston is also being considered in the equation. '... a part of Syston that is contiguous with and of similar character to the part of Thurmaston parish also served by Melton Road...' It is not 'contiguous' as a large retail park and huge traffic island cuts through the two areas we are considering. The Thurmaston SUE has been approved by the Borough Council. So the imminent build of thousands (4500) new houses is on the horizon. This development will grow and a possible 8000 to 9000 new electorate, that presumably becomes a part of the Thurmaston division/seat. I am concerned or rather astonished that this has not been considered as a part of the calculations for the 2021 electoral forecast. Therefore, not a consideration in the Boundary Review. I am of the view that the proposed SUE will impact massively on the existing community. The identity of the village of Thurmaston and surrounding villages needs to be preserved. We are already thinking about our schools and doctors surgeries being over-subscribed and our community facilities being stretched. With this in mind the electoral division extension and electoral variant will almost immediately change and eventually the numbers in the division would be enough to satisfy the electoral numbers required. As a local Councillor and elected representative of the people of Thurmaston, I do feel there are several things that need to be considered in the proposed changes, the impact on community cohesion and the effect it could have on services and facilities within the division. For example local community groups and societies, football teams and community projects and the overall identity of the village would be compromised. Demographic changes will impact on the local community and changes to Polling Divisions and Stations will confuse the general public. Thurmaston is a village with a great history, Syston is a Town with a history too. Adding part of Sileby to Syston will lose Syston's identity as will adding part of Syston to Thurmaston, just so the numbers add up. How would the Parish Councils & Town Councils be structured? How would precepts and funding be allocated and calculated? We have elected Parish and Town Councillors that would straddle divisions. What happens in this instance? Representation and support for residents will be dismantled and fragmented in this proposed change. Space between existing wards will eventually be filled with 4500 houses (amongst other smaller developments) a potential of up to 10,000 voters...This surely needs to be considered in the long term projections for our Parish and Division.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded