

From: Mecrow, Beryl [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 February 2016 17:28
To: reviews
Cc: Lanzer, Robert; Bloom, Howard
Subject: West Sussex County Council Boundary Review

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Dear Sir,

We as the three Crawley Borough Councillors for Pound Hill South wish to voice our profound and strongly-held objection to your draft recommendations for Pound Hill South and Worth in the review of electoral arrangements for West Sussex County Council.

Firstly, our constituents in the northern two-thirds of the LKB polling district will be a county division (Pound Hill) that will be at +10% above the county average by 2021 with much growth still to come in the following years due to the new Forge Wood neighbourhood. This is electoral unfairness and going forward will lead to a major electoral inequality in Crawley that is completely avoidable.

Secondly, the remainder of our constituents will be in a county division (Maidenbower) that is +14% over the county average electorate in 2015 and who will be voting in the 2017 election at well over +10% from the average. Put simply, all of our constituents in Pound Hill South and Worth will be unfairly disadvantaged and under-represented at either the 2017 or 2021 election. We view this as unacceptable, especially when a perfectly viable alternate exists.

Thirdly, we object to the splitting of the historic neighbourhood of Worth either side of the Worth Way into two separate electoral divisions. While Pound Hill is one very large neighbourhood split into two large Borough wards and it is less important where a ward or division split is, Worth is a small and much older neighbourhood that has its own historic sense of identity. If Worth is split in two, we anticipate unhappiness in the community when this becomes known.

Fourthly, despite it currently being a part of the same electoral division, the LKA Pound Hill South polling district does not look south to Maidenbower which is a

'cul-de-sac' neighbourhood. Maidenbower and Worth very much look to each other are much better matched as two entire neighbourhoods placed together as per the revised WSCC proposal.

We strongly support and urge the LGBCE to adopt the revised proposal being put forward by West Sussex County Council. The LKA polling district of Pound Hill South very much looks to Three Bridges and Three Bridges Station with many commuters living there. Your draft recommendation says that crossing points at the railway line are limited but this fails to take into account the large number of residents who use these crossing points at Haslett Avenue/Worth Park Avenue as well as at Bycroft Way/St Marys Drive.

Pedestrian and cyclist access between Three Bridges and Pound Hill South are going to be improved at Worth Park Avenue and at Station Hill. This is arguably the best place in Crawley to have an electoral division that crosses a railway line. The crossing arrangements between both neighbourhoods are much better than between Bewbush and Ifield West, Gossops Green and Ifield East, and between Langley Green and West Green, all of which are being proposed as divisions by the LGBCE.

Many of the issues that affect our constituents in the LKA polling district in Pound Hill South are related to Three Bridges Station and it is logical to a county division encompassing this area and Three Bridges. The community of interest is strong between both areas.

Please treat the residents of Pound Hill and Worth with fairness and adopt the revised Crawley proposal from West Sussex County Council.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Beryl McCrow
Cllr Dr Howard Bloom
Cllr Bob Lanzer

Crawley Borough Councillors for Pound Hill South and Worth.

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