

Porter, Johanna

From: Stephen Lloyd <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 30 November 2015 16:55
To: reviews
Subject: FW: District Council Wards Boundary Review
Attachments: Stephen Lloyd Wealden Boundary Review Nov 2015.doc

Dear Sir

I wish to put in some comments on your proposed Boundary Review. Please find my letter attached.

For clarification: this is a formal response on behalf of the Willingdon Liberal Democrats and I am doing it in my capacity as the Former MP of the constituency.

With best wishes,

Stephen

Stephen Lloyd
Business Innovations Director

west end.



Stephen Lloyd



Review Officer (East Sussex)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QP

29th November 2015

Dear Sir

Electoral Review of East Sussex County and Districts

I am writing as the Member of Parliament for Eastbourne and Willingdon until May 2015 concerning the above review.

I am astonished that Wealden District Council has proposed to change the District Council boundary between Willingdon and Polegate to add to Polegate South District Ward, a projected 882 residents, of Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council's Watermill Ward.

Currently there is co-terminosity of boundaries between Polegate in the Lewes Parliamentary Constituency and Willingdon in the Eastbourne Parliamentary Constituency at Parish/Town, District and Parliamentary Constituency levels. There is a clear identifiable boundary.

These residents are an integral part of Willingdon. I agree with The Local Government Commission for England report in 2001 which considered that the Ward has a similar profile to those in the north of Willingdon and that the residents share a community of interest with the rest of Willingdon.

The District Council appears to have been very restrictive in its local consultation with private meetings of District Councillors and no consultation at all with Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council or local residents. Only very limited information was made publicly available before they completed their decision making process.

I understand that the County Council will be following the District Council Warding arrangements when forming their Divisions but even late on Friday afternoon their officers were unable to advise Parish Councillors what they would be proposing for Willingdon and Polegate.

Whilst accepting that electoral equality is an important criterion on which to form Wards and Divisions, it is also very important that they reflect the interests and identities of local communities and that electoral arrangements provide for effective and convenient local government.

I do not believe that this will be so if this change goes ahead as the District Council propose.

The manner in which Wealden District Council has divided the District has resulted in a variance of between +13% and -11% from the norm. If Watermill Ward remained with the Willingdon District seats I accept that the Polegate and Stone Cross seats may have to be recast. However, since the figures given appears that those Wards have been decided purely on numbers rather than the other criteria it seems to be relatively easy to recast the numbers and still come within the overall tolerance proposed elsewhere by the District Council

I hope that you will give full consideration to these views when putting together your draft proposals and that you will reject the proposals from the County and District Councils in so far as they relate to Willingdon and Polegate.

Yours faithfully



Stephen Lloyd

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