

Councillor submissions to the Hertfordshire County Council electoral review

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Councillor King -
South Oxhey



Cllr Giles-Medhurst-
Hertfordshire-
2014-06-23



Cllr ZudowskyjP-
Hertfordshire-201
4-06-23

Hertfordshire County

Personal Details:

Name: Stephen Giles-Medhurst

E-mail: 

Postcode: 

Organisation Name: Liberal Democrats

Comment text:

As the Liberal Democrat Group Leader on Hertfordshire County Council I would like to make it clear that the submission by Matthew Bedford on behalf of the Council Group and the Hertfordshire Liberal Democrats Co-ordinating Committee has my full support. As a County Councillor in the Watford area I urge the Commission to take on board that there is no need based on the projected figures to make any changes to the current divisions which are co-terminal to the current Borough wards. IE: Watford 6 Divisions All existing divisions within +/- 10% of country average electorate. Proposal is for no change for all divisions. Stanborough-Woodside 11105 -6% Callowland-Leggatts 11563 -2% Meriden-Tudor 10924 -7% Nascot-Park 12435 6% Holywell-Vicarage 12770 8% Central-Oxhey 12274 4% However I would like to strongly urge that the Commission rename my own existing division to avoid what is ongoing residents, pressure groups and indeed media confusion. Although my Division of Central / Oxhey is named after the two borough wards which combined to gather to give a division name it implies it is Central Oxhey. In fact represent Oxhey ward which is separate community from Central (Watford) There is in fact no such place as Central Oxhey . There are two other divisions with current names Oxhey in their title. South Oxhey (the South Oxhey estate area) and Oxhey Park (covering Oxhey Hall, Carpenters Park and Moor Park areas. This name of Central Oxhey implies I might represent the Central part of South Oxhey , indeed residents from there have contacted me to that effect over the years. To avoid confusion I formally ask that the division is renamed Central Watford and Oxhey. The Central Ward is indeed the centre of Watford and this would be its current title. I have persuaded county council officers to refer to me in press statements and on the web sites as the member for Central Watford and Oxhey to avoid this sort of confusion and I thus formally request that as it's official title to avoid any possible confusion in the future is Central Watford and Oxhey and this that will appear on ballot papers. I also believe that a case can be made to rename two other divisions to more adequately reflect the place and areas that they cover other than just the two ward names. These being Holywell / Vicarage , which covers West Watford and should be called that. And Callowland / Leggatts , to be renamed North Watford. GIs would ensure a greater sense of community ownership of both areas by using the names that residents themselves use if they live in those areas. Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

Hertfordshire County

Personal Details:

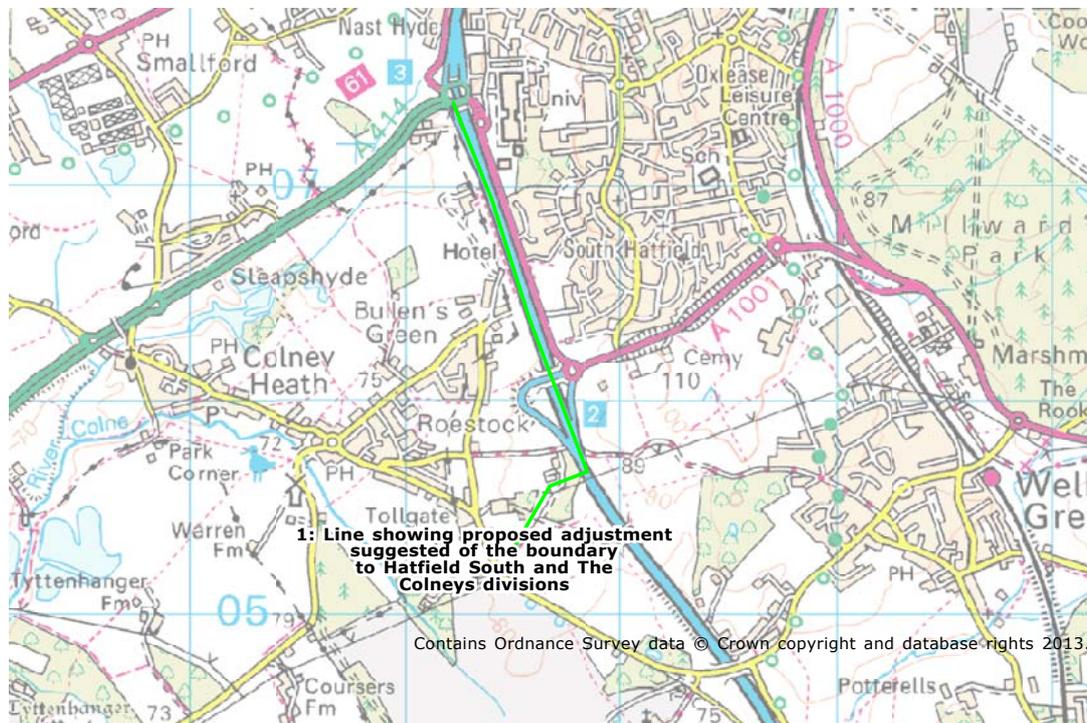
Name: Paul Zukowskyj

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Hertfordshire County Council

Feature Annotations



Map Features:

Annotation 1: Line showing proposed adjustment suggested of the

Comment text:

I would like to suggest the boundary between The Colneys and Hatfield South is adjusted to the line indicated on the map. The adjustment would make much more sense in community terms, as the current boundary makes no sense whatsoever. The boundary splits the small village of Colney Heath into a significant community in St Albans and a sliver of around 50 houses in Welwyn Hatfield. The residents in these houses feel no community ties whatsoever with Welwyn Hatfield. The houses are approximately two kilometers by road from any other significant housing in the division, yet are serviced by Welwyn Hatfield in terms of waste services, whilst the remainder of the houses on Bullens Green Lane are serviced by St Albans council. This boundary splits a pair of semi-detached houses in two, cuts across the road and between two pairs of semi-detached properties. The houses on Franklin Close that were in Welwyn Hatfield have been 'fudged' for a number of years. The location of this boundary causes residents with children a significant problem, since the administrative boundary is used as a school place planning boundary. This means children going to the local primary school are struggling to progress to the same secondary with their peers. In the last few years, a number of their parents have had to lodge appeals over school allocation, most of which have been upheld, to get their children into the most local secondary school that their peers from further down the lane get into without the hassle and worry of using the expensive appeals process. Modification of this boundary in the way suggested would reduce council costs for both local authorities (more efficient service delivery) and for Herts County Council (officer time and legal costs for supporting the school place appeals process), would make much more sense in community terms and would mean a source of significant concern and worry for residents was removed. I understand there may be a legal limitation on this boundary being redrawn in this way in this particular review, as the division boundary would no longer be coterminous with the LA boundaries. If this is the case, I would ask that the Commission note the issue and consider looking again at the boundary in a forum with authority to modify it as soon as possible.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

From: County Councillor Joan King, South Oxhey Division 

Subject: Divisional Boundary Review in Hertfordshire

"South Oxhey is a large, homogenous former London County Council estate built after the Second World War to re-house people who had lost their homes during the Blitz. It has always been seen as being apart from the surrounding districts and that feeling is as strong today as when it was built in the late 1940s. Many of the original residents still live on the estate as do their children and grandchildren. It is a unique area in Three Rivers District. It has the highest single concentration of social housing by far in the area.

South Oxhey has a main shopping centre with

- two small supermarkets
- undertakers
- greengrocer
- two bakers
- two bookmakers
- chemist
- launderette
- butcher
- weekly market
- several cafes and take-aways
- Indian restaurant
- a pub
- a post office
- Labour Club

It has the one petrol station and bank in the area. There is also a library, health centre, police station, Thrive Homes offices, Parish Council offices and hall, the Clitheroe Club, Step Up, the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ascend (a local charity), the Scouts, The Centre, and Youth Club - **thus making it the hub and focus of the whole estate.**

We are fortunate that in South Oxhey many religious faiths are catered for (Roman Catholic, Church of England, Baptist, Methodist and Jehovah Witnesses) so people on the estate visit whichever is their particular place of worship.

Perhaps South Oxhey's most recent notable claim to fame was being featured in the BBC TV programme '*The Choir*', which clearly demonstrated the strong community identity and pride that exists across the entire South Oxhey estate. As councillors we were delighted for the area, already well known locally, to receive national recognition. Now everyone knows where South Oxhey is!

Representing South Oxhey, we are only too well aware from the heavy caseload of the multiplicity of issues affecting our constituents. It is true to say that in our experience other Council colleagues within the Three Rivers District wards do not face the particular challenges presented to us. In August 2011 South Oxhey had 32% of the District's total number of people on long-term incapacity benefits. Figures from June 2012 show that 41% of young people in South Oxhey are not in education, employment or training. South Oxhey remains an area with higher unemployment claimants than the county average. South Oxhey has the lowest number of car owners in the whole of Hertfordshire and is geographically isolated from surrounding areas.

All the above reasons incontrovertibly demonstrate the unique nature, character and community spirit that makes South Oxhey so distinctive from its neighbours.

Further evidence of its individuality which sets it apart from the remainder of Watford Rural is that, in addition to being constrained by the West Coast Mainline Railway line separating it from Carpenders Park, to the north it is separated from Oxhey Hall by the South Oxhey Playing Fields and the golf course".

For all of the reasons above, there is no interest or appetite to either merge or split up South Oxhey and thereby lose its identity.

Joan King

June 2014