

From: STREETING, Wes
Sent: 12 April 2016 09:32
To: reviews
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: London Borough of Redbridge - deadline extension 12/04

Please find below my submission for the London Borough of Redbridge Local Government Boundary Review. I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt.

I am writing to offer my support for the submission made by the London Borough of Redbridge. I have viewed the map of new ward boundaries they have provided as part of their submission and have the following comments.

I am supporting their submission because it ensures that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters and does this in a way which minimises the changes to the existing ward boundaries in Ilford North. The submission importantly largely keeps intact communities that have been built up over many years.

As the current boundaries have been in place for some time and there is an upcoming Parliamentary Boundary Review I believe it is better to minimise disruption. Where possible we should keep established ward communities intact as they take many years to foster. In addition when money and other resources are tight there does not appear to be a sound argument for increasing the number of wards unnecessarily. This would also increase bureaucracy and make things such as CIL funding, Council funds and parks more difficult to administer.

As both the local MP, current councillor and former deputy Leader of the Council I am strongly in favour of retaining as many 3 member wards as possible. This will help ensure that there is a diversity in councillors and therefore better representation of the people we serve. There can also be better governance in the Ward through majority decision making. In addition I believe one member wards are very undesirable because of the need for councillors to have holiday and potential sick leave and other absence. There may also be problems if a councillor in a one member ward was made mayor.

Specifically I support the following changes,

Moving the Repton Park Estate in to Bridge Ward as the main access to the estate is already in this ward. In addition the closest shops and other amenities are already in Bridge Ward. This makes Bridge part of the natural community for this estate. I have found residents tend to identify as being in Woodford Bridge and as the estate was built since the last review and was only placed into Fairlop by default.

The small changes to the Western edge of Aldborough ward are also in keeping with the local community identity. As a local ward councillor placing all of Ashurst Drive into Aldborough is clearly desirable in terms of local representation, and provides a natural boundary. The roads which have been moved into Barkingside are more logically part of that ward as they intersect with Cranbrook Road in the same way as the other roads off the west of Ashurst drive, and it make sense they follow the pattern of the rest of the roads. Also the closest secondary shopping parades for these roads is Cranbrook road. It will also help rebalance the ward and maintain the connection with the eastern side of Aldborough.

Aldborough although large is mostly made up of green belt and it should remain as one ward. Many activities such as a flower festival, nativity and community group meetings take place in St. Peter's church which is one of the focal points of ward. Also we have had Oaks Park school built in 2001 and it is now the school for the majority of children of secondary age in the ward. The East of ward is well connected with the West of the Ward and has more in common than it does with Barkingside or Newbury. There are shared facilities such as the large Sainsbury's by Newbury Park Station and the Underground Station itself. The A12 forms a clear a natural boundary for the community to the South and there are various bridleways and footpaths which connect the East and West of the ward.

The changes in Roding make good sense because by extending it further South it will become a more evenly balanced ward. It also ensures that both Roding and Wanstead wards remain as three member which is my overall preference and allows for diversity of representation. It is logical to take the boundary with Wanstead Ward up to the start of the conservation area as this is a distinct and separate area with it's own community identity. Also these changes will mean that housing stock of a particular style are retained entirely within Roding and Wanstead.

I understand the need to make the changes suggested in Fullwell Ward as this will better balance the Fullwell and Fairlop Wards. Moving the Timberdene estate into Fairlop is logical because the main entrance to this estate is closer to Fairlop Ward.

Overall I wish to reiterate my support for the London Borough of Redbridge submission as this minimises the changes, maintains established communities, rebalances representation and maintains multi-member wards.

Best wishes

Wes Streeting



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