

Review Officer  
Derbyshire Review  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
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London EC1M 5LG  
reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Dear Sir

I am writing as a member of Ironville Parish Council in response to the draft recommendation produced by the Local Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) outlining its proposed boundaries for Derbyshire County Council.

Local Parish councillors are extremely concerned about our parish forming part of a dual Division – one of only two proposed for the whole county. Parish Councilors value a direct relationship with our County Councilor and believe being part of a dual Division would weaken and confuse this relationship. Having two County Councilors would blur the lines of accountability and given the workload of a County Councilor, we believe we would receive a lesser service as we run the risk of our new County Councilors focussing on different priorities. If the Boundary Commission believes that Derbyshire should have a councillor to electorate ratio of 1:9,414 it seems odd that our parish will see this ratio almost double.

If the LGBCE assumes that, in proposing dual divisions, councillors will share responsibilities, it has to be said that this has not been not the experience in multi member wards at Borough level. Councilors are politicians and quite rightly naturally seek the votes of all their electorate and therefore it would be odd for councillors in dual member wards to share responsibilities. It is consequently more likely for such councillors to stretch themselves over their whole electoral area and undertake more work in their Divisions than their counterparts in single member Divisions.

In light of this we believe that a better configuration would be to place the Ironville and Riddings ward with the Swanwick ward. Ironville and Swanwick are both parishes and at times share similar types of issues and problems and continuing to have a single County Councilor would be very beneficial. It would also avoid confusion with the electorate who are accustomed at Borough and County elections to electing only one councillor.

I hope that the LGBCE will take these points on board and I look forward to receiving your revised recommendations.

Jack Brown, MBE  
Ironville Parish Councilor