

Fuller, Heather

From: Fuller, Heather
Sent: 16 June 2014 09:16
To: Owen, David
Subject: FW: Electoral arrangements for Wyre Forest District Council

From: Christopher Nicholls [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 June 2014 18:34
To: Reviews@ [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Electoral arrangements for Wyre Forest District Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

As ward councillor for Cookley I wish to make the following comments in relation to Wyre Forest Rural Ward. In your draft recommendations you state that “We also aim to ensure that the councils wards, reflect as far as possible, the interests and identities of local communities across the District.” Cookley and Wolverley coexist as one Parish Council and do share strong community links as a consequence of their close proximity. They have absolutely nothing in common with Chaddesley Corbett, Broome, Rushock and Blakedown. In fact there is a considerable geographical distance which does mean that these areas are not ‘neighbours’ and community ties do not exist. For instance within education, students attending Cookley Primary School go onto secondary education at Wolverley High School. Local communities from Chaddesley Corbett, Broome, Rushock and Blakedown have separate educational catchment areas, which further highlights the fact that they have separate identities. It is both my opinion and the view of many of my constituents that this huge rural ward does not satisfy your criteria. Furthermore because of the vastness of the ward it does not “help the council to deliver effective and convenient local government.” This set of proposals does nothing at all to promote local democracy- in fact quite the opposite. Under your questions for effective local government is the point “Are any of the proposed wards too large or too small to be represented effectively?” This ward is too large and will be very difficult to be represented effectively. Transport links? –public transport is poor. Facilities and interests do not reflect shared interests- these are very different communities and this has not been reflected in the recommendations of the Boundary Commission. These recommendations will destroy local democracy-all the Commission seems interested in is numbers for each ward councillor. This does not take into account the sheer vastness of the area. Cookley and Wolverley should retain its identities and close links and have 2 ward councillors. There is no cohesiveness in these proposals and they do not in anyway “ ensure that the Council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively.” This is indeed a sad day for local democracy if these proposals are accepted. The result of these proposals is that the electorate are further distanced away from those who are elected to serve them.

Your faithfully

Councillor Chris Nicholls

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