

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: Reviews@
Sent: 14 January 2013 16:24
To: Reviews@
Subject: Custom Form Submission Received



Custom Form Submission Received

Review Editor,

A new custom form submission has been received. The details of the form submission are as follows:

Submission Information

Custom Form: Online submissions form (#183)
Form URL: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-consultations/online-submissions-form>
Submission ID: 1698
Time of Submission: Jan 14th 2013 at 4:23pm

[Redacted]

Form Answers

Name: Eric Bishop
[Redacted]

Area your submission refers to: Three Rivers

Organisation you belong to: parish/town council

Your feedback: Dear Sir,
I represent Carpenders Park residents as both District and Parish Councillor. I am writing as both a resident and representative to object at the Three Rivers District Council's proposal to split Carpenders Park. This was done without any consultation of the local residents, the Residents' Association or Councillors of this estate, other than the Liberal Democrat controlling Party ward member. I agree with the residents that this was an undemocratic process that was only brought to their attention when I let them know after receiving the paper work for an Extraordinary Full Council meeting called for the 8th January 2013 with the deadline for submissions to you a mere six days later.
Carpenders Park began in the 1930s and despite growing over the decades it still retains its unique 'village' like community. The last housing development here was in 1997 when the Ministry of Defence sold an eleven acres site on a corner of the estate that had 70 dwellings for the American military and a

developer built 122 homes on the land. Carpenders is surrounded on three sides by green belt and on the fourth by the main Euston railway line.

I have lived on the estate for nearly thirty five years and have family and friends who live here. Indeed I know generations of families that have lived here for over seventy years. Many people have contacted me expressing their disapproval of the proposal and the way it has been handled. Such is the local outrage that residents have put a Petition in the local shops that has over 250 signatures (copy attached). If they had been given more notice of the proposals we can safely assume that they would have visited all homes to get everyone's response, no doubt with the vast majority opposing a split of Carpenders Park.

In common with most people, the main reason I live on the estate is the community spirit. We have only one Primary School (no Secondary School), which the majority of past and present local children attend. This enables the parents and children to form friendships that last for years. The school's annual Summer Fair is not just a fund raising event; it is in the community's social calendar. We have a strong Residents' Association, one Community Hall, a small parade of shops, one Church, one Dentist, a Doctors Surgery and Neighbourhood Watch that services the whole estate.

I understand the Council's need to save money, but the best option would have been to move to an all-out election every four years. This would have had a number of benefits including:

• The Council would still achieve their savings by reducing the number of Councillors

• The Council would save the administration cost of running elections every year

• The Council would save the costs involved in carrying out the boundary changes

• The residents would not have the proposed boundary changes imposed on them

• The residents' community spirit would not be destroyed

• The residents would not be bombarded with election leaflets every year

Carpenders Park does not comfortably fit with any other community because of the natural boundaries and the uniqueness of the estate that residents want to retain. However, if any community has to be split South Oxhey, built in stages after the Second World War, is the largest and as such was built with each area having its own shops, Public House, school etc, there is no single Residents' Association for the whole estate. Whilst it would be a shame to split South Oxhey it is best able to cope. The area proposed in the Three Rivers Conservative Group's proposal covers an area of South Oxhey, adjacent to Carpenders Park that has recently had a new housing development. In addition Three Rivers District Council treat each area of South Oxhey as a different area. An example of this is the latest South Oxhey Regeneration project where they are focusing on the area in the centre of South Oxhey around the main shops and not consulting with any other area. If this was such a strong community with members who represent the whole estate this would not be allowed to happen.

The alternative would be to join the whole of Carpenders Park with Oxhey Hall but these two communities are as different in character as they are in distance in mileage by road. Therefore, to represent them properly you will probably end up with the three Councillors being split between the ward, some living in Oxhey Hall and the others living in Carpenders Park and so the ward will remain split even after the merger. As I have already stated the best solution for everybody is to move away from the three member ward.

I would ask you to think long and hard about how this will affect this small

unique community before you make your decision, especially as the Commission has said that ward boundaries should reflect the interests and identities of local communities. If you want to gauge the strength of feeling or listen to local views I would be happy to arrange a public meeting in our Community Hall in Carpenders Park for you to attend. Alternatively, you can attend the Carpenders Park Residents' Association AGM in the Community Hall on the 17th April 2013, when this subject will be a "red hot" topic.

Yours faithfully

Eric Bishop

File upload: Petition.PDF, PDF (application/pdf), 8.64MB

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