

Mr Kevin Dicks
Chief Executive
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove, B60 1AA

26 February 2013

Dear Mr Dicks,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF BROMSGROVE: FURTHER LIMITED CONSULTATION

Following consultation on draft recommendations for Bromsgrove, I am writing to inform you of the Commission's decision to undertake a further period of limited consultation prior to publication of its final recommendations.

The Commission is proposing to make substantial alterations to its draft recommendations in three areas of the district. It is therefore inviting further comment on the proposals in each of these areas.

This period of further limited consultation commences today, **26 February 2013**, and closes on **8 April 2013**. During this period the Commission welcomes comments on its proposed final recommendations for the following wards:

- Catshill North and Catshill South (central Bromsgrove)
- Hill Top, Perryfields, Sanders Park, and Sidemoor (Bromsgrove town)
- Belbroughton & Clent, Hagley East, Hagley West, and Romsley (west Bromsgrove)

The Commission has taken decisions on its final recommendations for all other parts of the borough and so is only inviting comments on these three areas. Electorate information for the areas subject to further consultation can be found at the end of this letter. The Commission's final recommendations for the whole District, including those areas subject to further limited consultation, will now be published in the summer.

Catshill North and Catshill South

During consultation, we learnt that an error had been made in the electorate forecasts submitted to us. The corrected figures led to electoral variances in some wards which were higher than the Commission would normally be minded to recommend. This has led to the Commission proposing amendments to a number of the wards it proposed in its draft recommendations.

In order to meet the request to provide a pattern of single-member wards, the Commission is proposing to divide the parish of Bournheath between the Catshill North and Catshill South wards. This proposal is illustrated in the attached Map B. The Commission also considered the possibility of a two-member ward, containing both Catshill North and Catshill South wards, and the whole of Bournheath parish. However, the Commission did not feel it had sufficient evidence to depart from the uniform pattern of single-member wards in this area.

The Commission would also like to receive views on the proposed ward names, Catshill North and Catshill South. Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council proposed Woodrow (rather than Catshill North) and Barley Meadow (rather than Catshill South). The Commission would also like to receive views on its proposed parish wards in this area.

Recommendations for Catshill North and Catshill South wards are illustrated in the attached Map A.

Hill Top, Perryfields, Sanders Park, and Sidemoor

As mentioned above, the error in the electorate forecasts has led to the Commission making significant amendments to its draft recommendations in some areas. In amending its draft recommendations to take account of the revised figures, the Commission is proposing to amend a number of wards in Bromsgrove town.

Some submissions were received in relation to the Sanders Park area, and the Commission has proposed an amended boundary between Sanders Park and Perryfields wards to reflect these submissions.

The other proposed amendments to Hill Top and Sidemoor wards are to ensure good electoral equality in the wards in the town.

The recommendations for this area are shown on Map A and in detail on Map B.

Belbroughton & Clent, Hagley East, Hagley West, and Romsley

During consultation on our draft recommendations, 123 submissions were received opposing the Commission's proposals in this area – specifically on the inclusion of Bell Heath in Romsley ward and on the inclusion of part of Hagley village in Belbroughton & Clent ward. Following consideration of the evidence received, the Commission was persuaded to adopt a new pattern of wards in this area, as illustrated in the attached Map A.

The new proposals are, like the draft recommendations, for single-member wards named Belbroughton & Clent, Hagley East, Hagley West, and Romsley. Bell Heath parish ward is proposed to be included in Belbroughton & Clent ward, and all of Hagley village will be included in Hagley East and Hagley West wards. Fairfield parish ward, in Belbroughton parish, will be included in Romsley ward. The Commission considers that these wards have stronger boundaries and provide for a better reflection of communities than the draft recommendations in this area.

The Commission would also like to receive views on its proposed parish wards in this area.

Further Consultation

The Commission is now undertaking a further period of limited consultation on its proposals in the three above areas. The Commission would like to hear whether you support its proposed changes and the reasons for your views.

Representations must be submitted to the Commission by **8 April 2013**. The Commission has not finalised its recommendations and, in light of further evidence, may make further revisions to its proposals in these three areas. We therefore encourage those who have a view on the proposals to write to us, whether they agree with them or not. All representations received during the consultation period will be taken into account and the Commission will then consider whether or not to further amend its proposals prior to the publication of its final recommendations.

Representations should be made in writing to reviews@lgbce.org.uk or:

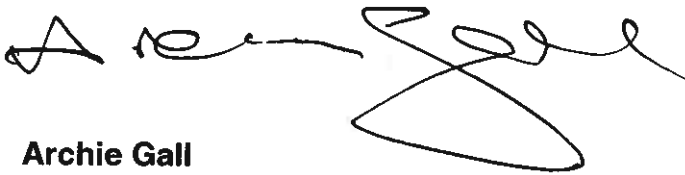
Review Officer (Bromsgrove)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG

Any respondents who submit comments during this period of the review, and do not want all or any part of the response or name made public, must state this clearly in the response. Any such request should explain why confidentiality is necessary, but all information in responses may be subject to publication or disclosure as required by law (in particular under the Freedom of Information Act 2000).

Following the conclusion of this further consultation, the Commission will consider any further evidence received and prepare its final recommendations forwarding arrangements in Bromsgrove.

If you have any queries, please contact William Morrison on 020 7664 8516, or william.morrison@lgbce.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Archie Gall'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Archie Gall
Director of Reviews
archie.gall@lgbce.org.uk
020 7664 8509

ELECTORATE INFORMATION – wards subject to further consultation

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2011)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Belbroughton & Clent	1	2,270	2,270	-4	2,270	2,270	-10
Catshill North	1	2,365	2,365	0	2,365	2,365	-6
Catshill South	1	2,543	2,543	8	2,693	2,693	7
Hagley East	1	2,072	2,072	-12	2,442	2,442	-3
Hagley West	1	2,714	2,714	15	2,717	2,717	8
Hill Top	1	1,805	1,805	-23	2,731	2,731	8
Perryfields	1	1,228	1,228	-48	2,544	2,544	1
Romsley	1	2,686	2,686	14	2,686	2,686	7
Sanders Park	1	2,774	2,774	18	2,774	2,774	10
Sidemoor	1	2,598	2,598	10	2,599	2,599	3

PARISH WARD INFORMATION

Parish name	Parish ward name	Number of parish councillors
Belbroughton	Belbroughton	8
	Fairfield	6
Bournheath	Bournheath North	1
	Bournheath South	6
Catshill & North Marlbrook	Barley Meadow	8
	Lower Marlbrook	2
	Upper Catshill	3
Clent	Clent East	4
	Clent West	5
Hagley	Hagley East	6
	Hagley South	1
	Hagley West	6