

Wyre Forest District

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

I am fully supportive of the proposed reduction in Councillors for Wyre Forest from 42 -33 and voted for all out elections at the same time but unfortunately the vote was not successful. I feel that the original submission for new ward boundaries for Wyre Forest submitted by the District Council was both well thought out and gave the required numbers for each ward without destroying communities. After reading the Summary Report I find it hard to understand how your proposals deliver the required elements you outline as necessary. A Good Pattern of Wards

- 1) This proposal does not reflect community interests and identities or include evidence of community links. Your proposal splits Hoo Road in half sending the one half into your new ward of Hoobrook and Foley Park and the other from Greenhill into Aggborough and Spennells, therefore splitting the community and taking the Aggborough out of Aggborough and Spennells but keeping the ward name.
- 2) The proposal to include an area of Greenhill the other side of the A448 which has no community relations with Aggborough and Spennells and to completely ignore the idea of using the road as a boundary between these 2 areas when there are no community links is contrary to your guide lines.
- 3) The A448 should be used as per your guidelines for a STRONG, EASILY IDENTIFIABLE BOUNDARY which you have used elsewhere in this boundary review. The use of the railway line is not easily understandable for local residents and we should be putting residents first where possible. Community Identity
- 1) There is no public transport in place that links across the whole of the proposed new Aggborough and Spennells Ward. Yet again the A448 provides an automatic boundary for bus services servicing the area. But there is a bus service which runs the whole length of Hoo Road and down into Wilden Lane which you have proposed will be separated into 2 wards.
- 2) Within Aggborough and Spennells there is the Aggborough and Spennells Community Action Group with membership from the existing ward, regular Police PACT Meetings which cover the existing police area and local housing association tenants consultative committees which discuss social housing relevant to the existing ward. All these community groups would also need to be refigured and if not possible or unwilling to do so would cause a negative impact on local residents and their community.
- 3) St Cecilians Church on Hoo Road also provides spiritual guidance and community liaison with local residents of the ward.
- 4) Aggborough has a small park (Ludlow Road) with play equipment available and Spennells has a playing field with play equipment and other facilities. It is very unlikely that residents from the Greenhill area are going to cross the A448 to access these facilities they are more likely to access St Georges Park which is their nearest facility. St Cecilians Church on Hoo Road provides community engagement events in Ludlow Road Park for the residents and the community group and council provide events on Spennells Playing Field for local residents.
- 5) There is a strong identifiable boundary recognised by all residents of Wyre Forest and that is the A448 Comberton Hill also known as Station Hill why try to change a boundary known by all and accepted. The District Council submission which outlined Aggborough and Spennells Ward to include the area to the right hand side of the A448 which meant taking back into Aggborough and Spennells areas that were taken out in the last Boundary Review provided both equality of numbers within the percentage difference and provided an area within the acknowledged boundary of the A448. I am at a loss to understand your proposal when it does not follow your advice and guidelines to anyone that wishes to contribute to this consultation. The commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Wyre Forest which delivers- Electoral Equality - the original submission from Wyre Forest District

Council Aggborough and Spennells was well worked out and provided equality of numbers within a small percentage differential Community Identity - Your proposal does NOT reflect the identity and interests of local communities Effective and convenient local government - your proposal does not help the council discharge its responsibilities effectively, it just make it more difficult to communicate with the local residents and at a time when we should be working to engage with residents this proposal will have the opposite result, I have already heard from residents that will no longer vote if this proposal goes ahead. Councillor Helen Dyke Aggborough and Spennells Ward Wyre Forest District Council

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded