

Owen, David

From: Mayers, Mishka on behalf of reviews
Sent: 11 January 2016 09:33
To: Owen, David
Subject: FW: Review Officer David Owen/ Leicestershire

From: ARGAR, Edward [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2016 13:00
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: Review Officer David Owen/ Leicestershire

I am writing to you as the MP for Charnwood in respect of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) consultation on its proposals for the County Council Divisions in my constituency.

Overall I support and welcome the proposals for the divisions within my constituency which I believe are sensible, logical, and deliver electoral equality reflecting the changes in populations and new housing since the last review.

I would, however, highlight what I believe is an anomaly with the proposals in my constituency, and this relates to the proposed inclusion of a part of Syston in the Thurmaston Ridgemere Division, representing views I know a number of my constituents have also made representations to LGBCE about.

In the LGBCE proposal and consultation documents the notes alongside this proposal state: "This part of Syston is contiguous with, and of a similar character to, the part of Thurmaston Parish also served by Melton Road".

I would draw attention to the following considerations, which I feel contradict this reasoning:

- i) The part of Syston referred to is not in fact contiguous with Thurmaston - there is a wedge of green space between the two areas that has been preserved in order to maintain the separation of the two distinct places. This part of Syston is in fact contiguous with Syston, with development/properties linking it directly to Syston not Thurmaston.
- ii) Syston and Thurmaston both have very distinct and different identities and characters, and regard themselves as distinct and separate places, with the residents of this part of Syston identifying themselves very strongly with Syston.
- iii) While not something that the LGBCE can necessarily take fully in to consideration, but nonetheless of relevance, is that a new development of 3,500 houses, rising to 4,500, which will be contiguous with Thurmaston and located between Thurmaston and Barkby has received planning permission and will be built in the next few years, significantly adding to the electorate of the Thurmaston/ Barkby areas.

While, as I say, overall I am very supportive of the Commission's proposals, I would be grateful if these points could be taken in to consideration by the LGBCE in its final determination of boundaries, and that the final boundaries will reflect these well-founded concerns and representations in respect of this part of Syston and the preservation of the distinction between Syston and Thurmaston.

I have already sent these representations in hard-copy by post, but am also emailing them to ensure receipt prior to the deadline of 11th January. I would be grateful if you could confirm safe receipt.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Argar MP

Member of Parliament for Charnwood

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