

From: Chris Yeo [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 October 2016 14:30
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: teignbridge boundary review submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a submission regarding the review of Teignbridge District Council ward boundaries.

I have just got off the phone with someone at the LGBCE who suggested emailing it across as the website is playing up.

Please confirm you have received this.

Thank you.

Chris Yeo
Central Devon Conservative Association
[REDACTED]

Submission to The Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
Re. Review of Teignbridge District Council Boundary Changes

From the Central Devon Conservative Association
2a Manaton Court, Exeter, EX2 8PF

Contact: Deputy Chairman, Cllr. Rev. Mike Davies

Having thoroughly reviewed the initial draft on the proposed boundary changes for Teignbridge our submission focuses on two key issues we have identified in the consultation draft and our proposed solutions to these problems. Although we considered making other comments, we have deliberately chosen to focus on the two issues we feel need to be most urgently addressed – hopefully highlighting to you their importance.

We note the multiple recommendations that the Commission has adopted based on the submission by Central Devon Liberal Democrats and trust the Commission, as a matter of fairness, will give serious consideration just two recommendations from us.

(1) Kenn Valley

We strongly object to the breakup of the current 'Kenn Valley' ward, which encompasses Exminster, Kenn, Shillingford St George, Dunchideock, Ide and Powderham. This splits parishes which firmly identify themselves as being part of the geographical area known as Kenn Valley, and have long standing ties and natural connections. Through dozens of conversations with local residents and members of these parish councils we know the strength of feeling that exists locally in these communities in opposing their break up. Our proposed solution is a three-member ward that incorporates the parishes of Whitestone and Holcombe Burnell into the existing Kenn Valley ward. Three-member wards work well in other areas of Teignbridge such as Bovey Tracey, Ashburton and Dawlish and we believe one would work well in this case too. This would:

- Prevent the breakup of the Kenn Valley.
- Result in ward boundaries that would match the Devon County Council division boundary changes coming into effect in May 2017 with Whitestone and Holcombe Burnell becoming part of Exminster & Kenton Division.
- Leave the ward 5% under the target electorate, allowing a much wider margin to cater for the substantial new development planned within the Exminster parish. At present, only the population increase expected by 2022 is considered, but as laid out in Teignbridge's Local Plan, much more development is planned by 2030. Having a greater margin would allow the Kenn Valley ward to absorb many more voters before going over the +10% variation limit in the future. As there may not be another boundary review for some time, it would seem sensible to plan ahead so the ward is kept within the 10% variation limit for as long as possible.

(2) Ashburton & Buckfastleigh

We strongly recommend that Bickington and Woodland parishes move from Haytor and Ambrook wards respectively into Ashburton and Buckfastleigh. These parishes are more suited being part of Ashburton and Buckfastleigh ward, the changes would better align with Devon County Council boundary changes coming into effect next May and the changes leave all three wards within the 10% variation limit, improving electoral equality in two of the three wards, including the one most at risk of going over the limit – Ambrook – which is currently more than 9% over target.

Bickington

Boundary changes at Devon County Council will result in the splitting up of the Teignbridge ward of Haytor next May, with parish of Ilsington moving into Bovey Tracey Rural and the parish of Bickington staying with Ashburton and Buckfastleigh. Moving Bickington would be consistent with these changes, as the parish would then be part of the 'Ashburton & Buckfastleigh' Devon County Council Division and the 'Ashburton & Buckfastleigh' ward at Teignbridge – a logical outcome. As Bickington has close ties to Ashburton this would also be a natural fit. Electoral inequality in Haytor would be fractionally improved – 5% under instead of 6% over.

Woodland

As a parish, Woodland has much stronger ties to Ashburton than it does the rest of Ambrook ward, for example the public house in Woodland (The Rising Sun), lists its addresses as "Woodland, Nr Ashburton, TQ13..." and many properties within the parish at Forder Green give their addresses as "X House, Forder Green, Ashburton, TQ13...". Residents from these two parishes are heavily involved with clubs and organisations in Ashburton and many pupils attend schools in Ashburton.

This move would also fractionally help with electoral inequality in Ambrook which is currently more than 9% over target and is most at risk of exceeding the 10% variation with minimal development.

Due to Devon County Council boundary changes Woodland will be also part of Ashburton & Buckfastleigh County Division from May 2017 so again, Woodland would then be both part of the 'Ashburton & Buckfastleigh' Devon County Council Division and the 'Ashburton & Buckfastleigh' ward at Teignbridge – a logical outcome.