

Hinds, Alex

From: Hinds, Alex
Sent: 26 April 2012 09:06
To: Morrison, William
Subject: FW: Bromsgrove District Council (Mr M.L.Guest 29, The Flats, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove, Worcs. B61 8LE)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red
Attachments: bromsgrove-launch-council-size-chief-exec-letter-2012-03-27.pdf

Will,

Please see email below regarding Bromsgrove District Council Submission.

Thanks

A

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From: M.L.Guest [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 April 2012 20:55
To: Reviews@
Subject: Bromsgrove District Council [REDACTED]

As someone who has watched Bromsgrove District Council over many years and been to many of their Council Meetings and have commented about it in my letters to the local press I feel changes to Bromsgrove's administration are vital and have included my last letter I have sent in to the local press below – the number of District Councillors required in Bromsgrove is dependent on how Bromsgrove's Councillors perform.

We have at present got a very large majority of Conservative Councillors who are dominated by a dictatorial Council Leader, who has a great deal of power – the other Councillors appear to do very little for all the very large allowances that they get paid.

The rest are Labour Councillors – apart from three Independent ratepayers – who are again dominated by a very politically oriented Leader who constantly harasses the Conservative leader.

This has now got to the stage where the Conservative Council leader has requested that there be only four instead of ten Full Council meetings per year to avoid the political confrontation.

There is precious little real democracy in Bromsgrove. An example being the demolition of our Market Hall despite petitions and a campaign to save it which were just rubbished by the Council Leader – he does what he wants in Bromsgrove while his other Councillors say next to nothing and just vote through what he wants.

Personally I feel more local democracy could possibly be achieved by having more local councils in Bromsgrove.

All we seem to have are a lot of District Councillors paying themselves a great deal of money for doing precious little and a Monitoring officer who thinks all is well within Bromsgrove. I wrote to her after the scrutiny meeting about dealing with the demolishing of the Market Hall which was curtailed early because some Councillors did not like the heckling by some people in the audience and she wrote to me claiming it was a good meeting – not the impression of those who watched the meeting.

It's a pity some of Bromsgrove District Council meetings were not videoed such as the police being called in because Councillors would not relinquish their chairs to other Councillors.

An arrogant dictatorial Council leader always getting his way whatever the numbers of Councillors is not democracy or good for the District or Town of Bromsgrove – hence for my wish that consideration be given for Bromsgrove to have a 'Town Council'.

LETTER

It's now our turn to tell the Boundary Commission how many District Councillors we think we need in Bromsgrove – the Conservative Councillors proposed 31, Labour 44 and Ratepayers 36.

Well as a guide, Worcestershire's 6 District Councils at present administer a population of about 557,400, with 227 District Councillors within 121 Council Wards – which suggests about 2,500 residents per Councillor.

The District of Bromsgrove, with its present 39 Councillors, serves a population of about 93,400, so this averages out at about 2,400 residents per Councillor - so 31 would increase this to about 3,000. However the Council Leader had initially wanted single Councillor Wards; which would mean 23 with the present number of Wards. Yet let's make some comparisons with the other five District Councils using their websites.

Well most of Worcestershire's District Councillors now seem to have a basic annual allowance of £4200 - with Worcester City Councillors on £3990 and Wyre Forest on £4,900 – so fewer Councillors can create large savings.

Also most Council Wards within the rest of Worcestershire have either two or three District Councillors – which can be beneficial if Councillors are prepared to work together or alternatively lets people choose which Councillor they prefer to work with - or even able to conveniently contact.

As for Local Councils, the largest District, Wychavon, has 3 Town and 70 Parish Councils, within a population of 117,000 and the smallest, Malvern Hills, has 54 Parish / Town Councils, within a population of 75,400; Bromsgrove however has only 20 Parish Councils and no Town Council – so why so few.

The newly named larger Wards the Boundary Commission will create could possibly be the basis for the formation of new Local Councils if enough interest is shown – Bromsgrove needs changes and the town especially a unique identity.

In fact before the creation of Bromsgrove District Council in 1974, Bromsgrove was split into an Urban Council – which could be considered a Town Council in its time – and a separate Rural Council; but bigger is not always better.

The large Council of Hereford and Worcester was also created in 1974 yet was eventually abolished

in 1998 after a determined campaign by the people of Herefordshire – a case of ‘people power’ achieving the change they wanted.

Anyway the people of Bromsgrove have until May 6th 2012 to send their views on Bromsgrove and its Council - the simplest way being by emailing to review@lgbce.org.uk – with full details available at www.lgbce.org.uk

M Guest