
From: Joseph Sherry
Sent: 18 February 2015 11:50
To: Reviews@
Subject: Hertfordshire County Council boundary review

Dear sir or madam,

I write in support of the Commission's revised proposals for Hertfordshire, specifically affecting Stevenage. They are a considerable improvement on the original proposals put forward by the Commission, in that they no longer break communities in half and represent minimal necessary change to current boundaries. Further, I support Cllr Andy McGuinness' comment in response to your initial proposals that a two-tier system of local government is not a well understood idea and minimising confusion by adopting boundaries that are, in so far as is possible, coterminous with district boundaries, is an ideal scenario. These proposals do exactly that. The Commission's revised proposals show a significant understanding and recognition of the concerns raised by a number of Stevenage representatives.

I write to ask that the Commission reviews the names of some of its proposed divisions, so that they more accurately describe the communities represented or do not discriminate against substantial, established communities contained within divisions. Any suggestions of names follow the pattern of other divisions within Hertfordshire.

- 1) The proposed St Nicholas division incorporates several neighbourhoods: St Nicholas, Martins Wood, Great Ashby, Chancellors Park and Corey's Mill. Consequently, a non-neighbourhood specific name would be more appropriate here and I would suggest 'Stevenage North'.
- 2) As explained in submissions to the initial consultation, Stevenage was originally planned based on six distinct communities. The Commission's proposed Bedwell division incorporates two of these communities, Bedwell and Pin Green. So as not to ignore that Pin Green represents a significant proportion of the division, I suggest that this is renamed Bedwell & Pin Green.
- 3) Chells division is primarily composed of two distinct communities, the original Stevenage neighbourhood of Chells and the 1980s/1990s development Chells Manor. While these two communities have similar names, they are distinct communities. Chells is accessed exclusively via Chells Way and Mobbsbury Way, Chells Manor by either The White Way, Valerian Way or Pacatian Way. Both Chells and Chells Manor have their own centres, The Glebe, serving Chells, and the Emperor's Head, serving Chells

Manor. There are, without a doubt, links across these two communities, many children from Chells Manor attend Nobel and Lodge Farm Schools and Manor ward on Stevenage Borough Council incorporates the bulk of the Chells Manor area, but also a significant chunk of Chells i.e. the north of the community accessed via Mobbsbury Way. However, I would refute Cllr Parker's suggestion in his letter in response to your original consultation that anyone in Chells Manor would consider themselves to be a Chells resident, having been a resident of Chells Manor for over twenty years. As the proposed division has expanded to include all of Chells Manor and recognising that the division covers two separate communities, I suggest that it is renamed Chells & Chells Manor.

4) Shephall division is similar to Chells in that it covers the entirety of one of Stevenage's original six neighbourhoods, Shephall, but also incorporates a new, smaller, distinct community built during the 70s, 80s and 90s - Poplars. Again, it is not possible to access Poplars via any road in Shephall and the two communities have distinct centres, The Hyde in Shephall and the Sainsbury's centre in Poplars, which alongside a supermarket includes a community centre, a GP's practice and a pub. Again, there are links between these two communities, but a visit to the area would demonstrate the distinctly different nature of the two areas, as it would with Chells and Chells Manor. I would, therefore, suggest that the Shephall division be renamed Shephall & Poplars.

While the Broadwater division has changed to include the town centre, Gunnells Wood industrial area, Norton Green and a small part of the Old Town, Broadwater accurately describes the location of the vast majority of residences in the division. Old Stevenage similarly is sensible name for the division including the Old Town, Symonds Green and Fishers Green, as these areas have been developed around pre-1946 Stevenage.

Thank you for your consideration of my proposals.

Regards,

Joseph Sherry