

Hinds, Alex

From: cooper alan [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 May 2012 16:35
To: Reviews@
Subject: Bromsgrove District Council Boundaries

The Review Officer

I am writing to state my opposition to the proposed Bromsgrove Council ward changes, so as to reduce the number of councillors from 39 to 31. I am responding to an article in the Bromsgrove Standard newspaper.

A proposed change to enlarge the wards will only lead to councillors having increased work loads. This may be alright for some councillors who have largely rural areas or a more affluent population where problems can be less and not so demanding but for some councillors in urban areas with mixed housing and particularly lower cost housing where problems are so often more demanding of the councillors time and support it will could lead to being over loaded with problems. I was brought up in an area with a high proportion of residents in low rent accommodation, having a high proportion of people on below average incomes. My councillors never had a "let up" in work load.

Another great concern is how would the boundaries change? I say this again from drawing on previous experience; experience of Worcestershire County Council boundary changes. I live in Rubery and when our CC ward changed we were brought together with Barnt Green. An area of Worcestershire with probably one of the highest proportions of millionaires. We were amazed in Rubery, we are an area which can be typically described as suburban semi-detached. An area which has developed over the decades on workers moving here to work at the old Rover car factory. Our concerns are nothing like those of Barnt Green, how can they! We also have an urban park (the Lickey Hills) splitting the two wards! How can you make a decision to increase the councillors wards in this way. It does make residents wonder how this can happen.

It seems that the main purpose is to save the ratepayer money. I'm sure that making changes to the boundaries for the main purpose of saving the ratepayer money is not rational. We have a system of representation in Bromsgrove that works. It should not be tampered with for short term cost saving. This approach never works.

Also; how can you ensure that any change in boundaries will be equitable for all political parties. I think not, someone will suffer. This can not be fair or democratic.

I welcome the opportunity to voice my opinion on this matter, to give a local view and an interpretation to what an ordinance survey map will not tell you! I hope that it will be taken into consideration when making your decision.

Yours

Alan Cooper

10/05/2012