

From: Amardeep Rai [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 April 2016 22:29
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: Ward Submissions

To the commissioner,

To the boundary commission, please find below my ideas and submission on the Redbridge council boundary review. I understand the deadline has been extended until today and I would like you to consider my thoughts.

I have read through the commissions remit and its aims, and have considered the following points for the wider Borough and attach a more specific response on the notion of a Town a Centre ward.

Initial thoughts are to make only the changes that are necessary, as a resident of over 25 years I recognise building communities is difficult and therefore where they have been nurtured over years we should aim to keep them intact.

The number of Councillors per ward should aim to be three, as this means there is greater likelihood of diverse representation. With the differing communities in the borough, some people are for example more comfortable talking to a woman, or may have a language barrier, and generally where you have three councillors in the borough they also seem to represent diversity.

I have analysed the Councils submission, and am largely in support of it, as it seems to provide electoral equality with some sensible changes where required. I would however have considered reducing the West of the Borough further, with Snaresbrook and church end becoming one ward, with the north of Church End joining Monkams, and the South of Snaresbrook joining Wanstead and Roding. This would mean a reduction of one ward and all the wards here would be three member.

I was specifically interested In the Town Centre ward which seems to be logically thought through and I attach my thoughts. Please consider this email and the attachment as my submission.

Please can you confirm receipt of my email.

Kind regards,

Mr Amardeep Singh



1. I believe that creating a ward that specifically encompasses the Ilford town centre, including the 'Central Business' area of the town and those areas immediately surrounding the Ilford Station, railway lines, and major business areas such as the Bombardier buildings between the High Road and Vicarage Lane would facilitate for better representation of the Ilford town area as a whole in Council.

This new ward; and its councillors could have a specific focus on the regeneration of the Ilford town centre, including the rail facilities. They would have a greater interest in ensuring the earmarked regeneration funds for projects in the centre and would have the interests of local residents and the wider population at the forefront of their minds. This will be vital with the Crossrail project likely bringing a greater number of people living, working and visiting the Ilford Centre; to enjoying some of the great shopping, cultural and historical facilities and centres in the Town.

2. Specific representation within the Ilford Town Centre needs to be considered. The Centre for Cities has stated that "the role of city centres in UK economies is generally badly understood" and that their role goes beyond the roles as being retail centres and city centres. They should "play a much more fundamental role in bringing people together to exchange ideas and information, as well as goods and services".

With this in mind, the opportunities that Ilford town centre has the to provide the public the benefit of becoming a 'Hub' not only for local residents but those further afield needs to be recognised.

A new ward boundary that might follow Winston Way and Ilford Hill potentially towards the North Circular would be an ideal area encompassing the major shopping areas, transport hubs and business areas would provide an ideal 'city' location.

Representation in this area will be necessary in future with growth likely to increase over the coming years as inner London housing prices rise and people look further afield to places like Ilford and other East London towns with exceptional transport connections to inner city London.

3. Local ward boundaries should represent those who live within those particular areas; this means that those who live in town centres can think of themselves as different from those in more sub-urban areas. It is because of this, that a dedicated ward area representing the interests of these people should be considered for the Ilford Town Centre. Councillors representing this area would also have the interests of local business and industry in the area at the forefront of their minds – potentially allowing for a more collaborative and creative approach to regeneration of the area with Council, residents and major business owners.

4. Diversity of the Borough is vast; the Town Centre should be a focal hub of this diversity. The creation of a specific ward that will celebrate this diversity and become a focal point for the rest of the Borough.

Crossrail projections have indicated that Ilford city centre to Heathrow Airport travel times will be cut to around 52 mins, meaning there is potential for a significant increase in the amount of pedestrian traffic in the area, and could also lead to an increased demand for housing within the Town Centre itself, where people can be in close proximity to the rail services. Indeed, pedestrian traffic from surrounding residential areas between the Winston Way and Wellesley Road into the Ilford Town centre where these residents choose to do their weekly shop due to ease of access is already at high levels. It would make sense that the Council it's prepared and looks forward by creating an a ward boundary that represents this future growth and the potential impact on the number of residents in the area so they can be adequately represented.

5. I believe that a greater focus on cutting crime and anti-social behaviour within the Ilford Town Centre is vital with the future increase of people to the area, it will be important that they feel safe and comfortable on our streets. It is also important that residents already residing within the town centre also feel safe on our streets and within their homes.

Creating a designated Ilford Town ward with councillors that can put their attention to the town centre fully without the need to worry about other areas would help facilitate this.

The current ward of Valentines, where much of the Ilford Town Centre and the Railway station is currently located means that the entire Valentines ward is covered by a 'Designated Public Place Order (DPPO)' or a drinking control zone.

I am led to believe that although anti-social behaviour related to alcohol consumption is not a major issue in the Valentines area as a whole, there have been problems within the Town Centre by people whom are not necessarily resident in the area. This DPPO gives police powers to target those causing anti-social behaviour.

Removing the town area from the Valentines ward and creating it as a stand-alone ward would allow for the town centre to have its own DPPO, allowing police to concentrate their efforts in this area and meaning that residents in greater in Valentines ward do not feel they are being unnecessarily targeted by these orders.

It would be important that the boundaries of this ward follow roads such as Winston Way and Ilford Hill towards the North Circular to ensure that as much of the town centre could be covered and located within this zone.