

Fuller, Heather

From: Egan, Helen
Sent: 26 September 2014 14:58
To: Pascoe, Mark
Subject: FW: Boundary Changes - Bristol North West
Attachments: Boundary Submission - BNW.docx

Hi Mark,

Please see sub below for Bristol.

Regards,
Helen

From: LESLIE, Charlotte [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 September 2014 13:22
To: Reviews@
Subject: Boundary Changes - Bristol North West

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached my submission on the warding arrangements within my constituency of Bristol North West.
Thank you for your attention.

Best wishes,
Charlotte

UK Parliament Disclaimer: This e-mail is confidential to the intended recipient. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender and delete it from your system. Any unauthorised use, disclosure, or copying is not permitted. This e-mail has been checked for viruses, but no liability is accepted for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this e-mail.

Max Caller CBE
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

26th September 2014
Our Ref: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Caller,

In light of the boundary review currently being undertaken within Bristol City Council, I thought it best to write to you directly to express my thoughts regards to potential changes within my constituency of Bristol North West.

I agree that the current ward boundaries do not reflect accurately enough the number of voters in each ward or indeed the identities of many of the local communities in Bristol North West. In order to redress these flaws, I respectfully request that the following comments be noted and considered during the review process.

Lawrence Weston

Within one area of my constituency, Lawrence Weston, I consider the need for re-evaluation to be particularly salient. The area is currently divided between the Kingsweston and Avonmouth wards, yet it has a distinct community identify, social-economic demographic and organisations like Ambition Lawrence Weston and the Lawrence Weston Planning Group which champion the area and lobby for Council and Government funding. It is one of the more deprived communities within Bristol North West and having an individual representation within the Council would further the areas chances of development and enhance community cohesion by improving the political representation for residents who do not readily identify with either of the current wards.

Moreover, due to the geographic nature of Lawrence Weston and the currently poor transport links, local people tend to primarily use facilities provided within the locality. These include the shops at Ringleaze, the dental practice at Crokeswood Walk as well as the two GP surgeries. People also make use of the various community facilities such as Lawrence Weston Youth centre, the Community Farm and the Rock Community Centre.

Owing to these factors, the Lawrence Weston ward could have strong boundaries stretching from Moorgrove Wood, the Motorway and the Blaise Castle Estate. This area would meet the Boundary Commission guidance in terms of equal size of electorate in 2014 and could be served by one Councillor.

Avonmouth

Due to the Lawrence Weston part of the Avonmouth/Shirehampton ward moving into its own ward, the Avonmouth ward would need to be expanded into other areas in order to meet electoral commission guidelines. The incorporation of parts of Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle into the ward seems logical as these areas contain clearly identifiable shared features, such as Shirehampton Golf Course and Shirehampton Road. The community in these areas also use the same facilities located within Shirehampton, such as the High Street shops, pubs, GP surgery and health centre. Children in these areas also attend the same Oasis Academy Brightstowe school. The Avonmouth ward could then retain its two councillor representation

Stoke Bishop

There seems little incentive to alter the existing Stoke Bishop ward other than to extend it slightly to include the Community of Sea Mills which would be lost from the present Kingsweston ward. Sea Mills and Stoke Bishop residents share local facilities including the Sea Mills railway station (located in Stoke Bishop), and Stoke Bishop Post Office in Sea Mills. Both Sea Mills and Stoke Bishop residents use the shops and public amenities in the historic Stoke Bishop village.

Furthermore, both communities share the leisure/learning and play facilities at Stoke Lodge (which lies in Stoke Bishop), and the Mill House pub which straddles the border. Indeed, prior to the 1990 boundary changes, the two communities were incorporated within the same ward. Restoring these boundaries would be to the benefit of local residents whom would again continue to be served by two Councillors.

Westbury-on-Trym

The integrity of the historic Westbury-on-Trym ward should be retained with only minor changes to incorporate the Bristol Free School to within the boundary. The more challenging parts should also move to within the Southmead ward (which I shall address in the following sections). This ward should continue to be served by two Councillors.

Henleaze

The current ward of Henleaze presently incorporates two communities, Henleaze and Westbury Park. Each has its own distinctive identity, community centre and

educational facilities. The ward should therefore be separated into two distinctive wards to better reflect these independent characteristics.

The reduced Henleaze ward is a compact community centred around the popular and vibrant Henleaze High Street (where my office is currently located). This distinctive neighbourhood could then be represented by one dedicated Councillor.

Westbury Park

The other portion of the current Henleaze ward consisting of Westbury Park could then also be transformed into another one Councillor ward. Since 2011, the Westbury Park Residents Association have been keen to differentiate themselves from the Henleaze Residents Association with whom they currently share a ward. This proposal would therefore allow Council representation for a community that considers itself distinct from the Henleaze community.

Henbury and Brentry

With regards to the Henbury ward, this locality serves both Henbury and Brentry, two inter-connected communities that currently sit happily within one ward. There are exceptionally close links between the two which support their inclusion within one two member ward – such as the Henbury and Brentry Community Council which has existed for decades. A sensible suggestion would therefore be to maintain the existing Henbury ward and to extend its Eastern boundary to include the Charlton Mead Estate. Charlton Mead lies within Brentry but is currently cut off from the rest of the area by its inclusion in the Southmead ward. This anomaly should be rectified to better represent community identity.

Southmead

Within Southmead, this would mean that the more affluent Chakeshill Estate would move into Henbury & Brentry (as it is part of Brentry) with the more deprived area of Westbury-on-Trym moving into the expanded Southmead ward. These changes would ensure that these areas could build on their shared economic challenges and ensure more effective Council representation. It would also allow successful grant applications to reach deprived areas which currently lie just outside the Southmead ward.

Southmead Hospital should also sit within the Southmead ward. The fact that it is currently not constituted within the ward boundary is a challenge to the integrity of the community. The ward should continue to be served by two Councillors.

Horfield

Horfield is again an area with a distinct feel and with individual community focal points which are currently are not represented adequately by the ward boundaries.

The southern tip of Horfield, the area south of Wellington Hill/Kellaway Avenue, has strong links with the main part of Horfield Common, which currently sits within the Bishopton ward. These residents are strongly involved in the maintenance and care of Horfield Common and support the shops along Gloucester Rd. These residents often write to the Bishopton Councillors and to Stephen Williams MP as they assume they are part of the Bishopton ward and Bristol West. All their community facilities lie beyond the boundary and this should therefore be reflected in the make-up of the electoral boundaries. Were this area to move to within the Bishopston ward and other areas as outlined shortly to fall to within the Lockleaze ward, this reduced Horfield ward could be served with one councillor. This would better represent people within the heart of Horfield whilst providing additional support to those within the Lockleaze estates and Bishopston areas.

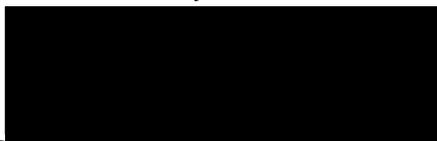
Lockleaze

The new housing estate to the north east of the present Horfield ward is actually part of a larger housing estate and community which runs into Lockleaze. This estate is currently split by ward boundaries. Horfield and Lockleaze have access to different government grants as Lockleaze is considered a higher priority due to its socio-economic demographic. The anomaly in boundaries means that often only half of the estate benefits from extra funding. This entire estate should therefore sit within the Lockleaze ward to benefit from this additional support. This would mean an expansion of the Lockleaze Ward to incorporate those areas neighbouring Horfield with close links to the core of the Lockleaze community and could continue to be served with two Councillors. Lockleaze again has a very strong community identity and is currently considering applying for parish status. This is testament to the extent community cohesion within the area forged through their determination to address issues associated with a more challenging population.

I would be grateful if you could give these suggestions due consideration during the consultation process to ensure that future boundary changes more accurately represent the very distinct and vibrant communities within my constituency. The proposals I have outlined would give better voice to the various communities within Bristol North West and better equip them to face future challenges.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

C