

Representation Review - Manningham City Council - Preliminary Submission Doncaster Bowling club - Doncaster - 23 Jul 2019

Having read the documents attached and considered the impacts of changes both positive and negative I would like to state that we support a balanced approach, and support having a Multi-councillor wards, we believe this represents the best option for our sports and social club, and our membership.

We support the current structure in Manningham of 3 wards and each ward having 3 ward representatives. We propose no change to the current boundary lines. The allocation of ward reps proportional to the number of residents in the ward does pose an inequity. We are a community of interest group with most of the members mature aged – over 60 and many live in a 1 or 2 person household, children having moved on. The club members are for the most part residents of the Manningham Council, however spread across multiple wards. The club grounds obviously have no residents, and would have a low or no proportional representation. We are concerned that the geographical spread of our members across the council's region will mean our club rooms are left without representation, even though our club is the life blood of many aged people who are often isolated. The club binds our members in physical activity of lawn bowling, and equally important is the social events and engagements the club offers to its membership. As people come into the club they make new friends and are less isolated even though they may live on their own.

Here is the problem, if we are left without appropriate representation of our 220 club members because no voters are registered as residing on our premises, and in a proportional equitable allocations based on resident numbers, our club would not have appropriate representation. Our community of interest group and the volume of the membership must be considered in any reallocation based on where people sleep at night (home location).

We support the ward representatives system, as in the past we have found council engagement sometimes challenging and can be time consuming. However, recent engagement with the ward representatives has been positive and supportive. Knowing there are multiple representatives has improved our council engagement and knowledge sharing.