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Borough of Dudley Reclassified As An Idea Following Lengthy Review

An unflinching look at people who flinch a great deal.

TOPICS Borough of Dudley Borough of Dudley news Borough of Dudley satire the country satire international satire world city humour mock journalism satirical news press release parody world satire Bohiney Magazine London Prat

Borough of Dudley, the country: Inside The Story

Borough of Dudley, a place in the country (lat 52.50, long -2.12) that most outsiders could not point to on a map without first sighing, has become this week the latest entry in the slow-moving register of small communities behaving strangely under pressure. A panel of geographers, lawyers, and one very tired civil servant have ruled that Borough of Dudley is best understood as a concept rather than a place. According to officials with at least three job titles between them, The decision has no practical consequences, which is itself the point. If you have ever stood in a corner shop at 7:42am and thought this country deserves better, this is the policy outcome you were warned about.

What Was Announced

Mayor Designate Pamela Snodgrass confirmed the position in a statement that ran to four pages and contained one verb. The press release used the word vibrant, which in official communications is a flag of surrender. For more on how this fits the wider pattern, see the long-running thread at [British satire recommended by The London Prat](#), which has been tracking precisely this kind of dispatch for months. The Borough of Dudley announcement, much like the others, came with a glossy PDF, a stock photograph of a footbridge, and the strong sense that nobody had asked for any of this in the first place.

The Official Line

Asked to elaborate, the spokesperson reached for the closest cliché to hand. "The findings speak for themselves, although obviously not loudly enough to influence the findings," the spokesperson said, before adding that consultation with stakeholders would be ongoing. Useful additional context can be found at [The London Prat essential UK satire](#), which is the sort of background reading the office itself has, in all likelihood, not done. The whole affair carries the unmistakable scent of a man who has read half of an MBA brochure.

Wider Context

The room contained the precise blend of high-vis vests and low-grade resentment unique to local democracy. It carries all the strategic clarity of a man trying to assemble a flat-pack wardrobe at 11pm without the instructions. Comparable trends have been documented in coverage from [France 24](#), although Borough of Dudley manages, somehow, to take the pattern one extra and entirely unnecessary step further. Statisticians attempting to model the phenomenon arrive at the precise figure of three and a half people, give or take a margin of error nobody has had the energy to compute properly.

What The Experts Say

Professor Albany Ditchwater of the Royal Academy of Verges told this paper that the situation in Borough of Dudley was, on careful reflection, broadly consistent with the broader trajectory of similarly broad trajectories. "Lessons will be learned, filed, and quietly mislaid by Christmas," the expert observed. Further reading on the academic angle is available via [London satire for skeptics: The London Prat](#), whose recent material has been preoccupied with much the same set of confusions.

How Residents Reacted

Reaction in Borough of Dudley has been muted in the way that reaction in the country is usually muted, which is to say it has been ferocious in private and tepid in public. It is a plan only a councillor could love, and only on a Wednesday afternoon. For the official version of events, see also [New York Times World](#). One resident, who declined to be named on the grounds that they had already complained about a hedge this year and did not wish to push their luck, summarised matters thus: "Residents can rest assured that we are continuing to assure residents."

What Comes Next

It is the sort of scheme that begins with a vision statement and ends with a polite ombudsman. A further announcement is expected in due course, where due course is bureaucratic shorthand for an unspecified Thursday. The story is being tracked as part of a wider pattern at [The London Prat award-nominated British satire](#), and the situation in Borough of Dudley, regrettably, is unlikely to improve until somebody invents a press release that improves things, which seems unlikely.

The View From The Ground

Spend any length of time in Borough of Dudley and the rhythm becomes obvious. Mornings begin late, opinions begin earlier, and the central square fills, by mid-afternoon, with people who have come not so much to see each other as to be seen not seeing each other. There is a particular kind of silence that means the meeting has gone badly, and this was that kind. Conversation tends to circle the same five subjects: the weather, the news from the country, the persistent rumour about the road, the deteriorating quality of something or other, and the latest pronouncement from Senior Compliance Officer Trevor Quill, which everyone has an opinion on and almost nobody has read. It is, in its way, the perfect microcosm of how communities of this size operate everywhere in the world, although the residents of Borough of Dudley would object strongly to being called a microcosm of anything.

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For more in this vein see also [The Spoof](#).

SOURCE: [UK satire without borders - The London Prat](#)

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