

## Owen, David

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**From:** Patrick Anketell-Jones (Cllr)  
**Sent:** 16 February 2018 21:34  
**To:** reviews  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Ward boundary changes in Bath.

Dear LGBCE,

These are my comments on the proposal to reduce Lansdown Ward in size and put one half into Kingsmead Ward thereby cutting the existing community in two. I write as a longstanding resident of the Ward (34 years) and also local Councillor for the Ward.

The truncation of Lansdown to a peripheral ward on the northern slopes of the city will stand in complete variance to its long history as an integral part of the expanded Georgian city. The Assembly Rooms in Bennet St. are in fact the new Assembly Rooms built in mid C18th to replace the original Rooms located close to the Abbey and Pump Room. The new Assembly Rooms were built in fashionable Lansdown.

Lansdown Road which starts at its junction with George St is called Lansdown Road not because it goes to Lansdown but because it goes through Lansdown. Taking away the lower half of the Ward would be an unhappy cultural and social dislocation because the character of Lansdown is almost entirely urban and residential. Kingsmead conversely draws much of its character from large commercial, entertainment and retail enterprises as well as an extensive river frontage.

Bath is a traditional city encompassing all strata of urban life. Whilst the northern slope is generally considered more affluent with a greater number of large properties than the southern half, the two areas are no less connected in community terms and this difference simply provides for a good urban mix within the Ward. Indeed, the Ward, in my view, contributes much more to effective social inclusion because of its mixed communities. A new single member for Lansdown would find themselves at the top of Lansdown Hill separated from the civic life that defines the character of Bath and the long standing community of Lansdown.

Finally, St Stephens Church and its community space is closely identified with the people of Lansdown. The new boundary will affect a large number of residents who live in Lansdown Road and Camden Road. Although these residents would continue to look on the Church as the centre of their community they would be administered under a new identity.

I therefore wish to object to the current proposal for a small single member ward representing only northern Lansdown and ask the Commission please not to reduce the size of the Ward. If anything it should be enlarged southwards to respect its origins and retain its historic identity.

Cllr Patrick Anketell-Jones  
Lansdown Ward.

John Claude Nattes (1765-1830)  
**New Rooms** Aquatint, 1804

By the 1750s Lansdown was becoming the fashionable part of town. The older Assembly Rooms were eclipsed by the New Assembly Rooms which opened in 1769 close to the Circus, and still stand today.

Not only were the New Rooms in the best part of town, they also had a huge ballroom, spectacular chandeliers and ample space at the front for the arriving guests to make quite an entrance. This was a place where being seen was all-important.



NEW ROOMS.