

Leicestershire County

Personal Details:

Name: Michael Charlesworth

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

At first glance your proposals for the Oadby and Wigston area do ensure electoral equality, but that is all they achieve. In ensuring electoral equality it ignores all of your other guiding principles. Community Identity; How can mixing the towns of Oadby and Wigston maintain the very distinct and separate natures of these 2 towns. They have been separate communities since the beginning, and there is no regular public transport between them. Even at Christmas the residents compare the Oadby lights and the Wigston lights, each having their own switching on ceremony. The splitting of the Little Hill Estate is at best ill-judged. Since it was built 40 - 50 years ago it has developed its own identity, character and its own residents association. I do not believe it will help effective and convenient local government, voters in Wigston - when they learn of the change - will not understand why they are voting for someone who does not even live in Wigston. This will have a negative effect on turnout. The proposed name for the 2-member ward is unimaginative and bears no relation to the identity and heritage of the area it covers. To mix the 2 town centres and split apart an established estate for electoral equality is unreasonable. Your own organisation recognised years ago that a 2-member ward for Oadby is the most appropriate solution - it still is. Wigston can be easily tweaked with little impact on community identity and an improvement on clear and defined boundaries which will give 3 wards with nearly identical numbers. You will never be able to get near the county average in Oadby and Wigston because of its small size, and this will only get worse over time as neighbouring authorities expand, ultimately leading to a change in the number of councillors representing the borough. In the meantime why cause so much upset and confusion purely for the sake of numbers? Each of the 3 Wigston wards would touch the town centre in a community relevant way. Please take my comments on board. Thank you. I have tried to use your interactive map, but with no success.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded