Local organisation submissions to the Birmingham City Council electoral review

This PDF document contains submissions from all local organisation submissions. Some versions of Adobe allow the viewer to move quickly between bookmarks.
Proposed Boundary Changes: Acocks Green Ward

Submission from Acocks Green Focus Group: a local campaign group in Acocks Green. £7.50 a year membership is open to residents and to those who work or carry on a business in Acocks Green. The group meets monthly to consider local issues, especially those which affect the structure or appearance of Acocks Green and is currently working on a Conservation Area proposal, with the full knowledge and support of Birmingham City Council.

Overview

In drawing up this proposal we referred closely to page 8, paragraph 2, of the pamphlet: How to Propose a Pattern of Wards issued by the Local Government Boundary Commission. Points drawn from here include especially:

- Transport links – we share a lot of public transport – and there are many important bus links in the centre of the Village (It seems worth noting that ‘The Green’ was originally established as a bus terminus.)
- Community Groups/Shared Interests - Acocks Green both north and south of the Warwick Road operates as a highly cohesive unit with a strong sense of its own identity and shared history.

In expansion of this second, we have two neighbourhood forums, one north and one south of the A41 (Warwick Road) which runs through the centre of the area. These two groups work together and with all the other groups referred to below here. Delegates from one forum regularly attend the meetings of the other, but also key representatives from both forums constantly meet in a variety of other local contexts. There are many organisations however which cover the whole of the area. Acocks Green History Society covers the history of the whole of Acocks Green and runs active education in the form of talks, publications and a very comprehensive website. As part of a Heritage Lottery funded initiative it has also just produced a new set of boards involving a history walk detailing history from both sides of The Green. The Gold award winning Acocks Green in Bloom does considerable work in both decorating, and helping to maintain in good shape, the centre of Acocks Green and its membership is drawn from again from the north and south of the Village. The newly established Fox Hollies Park Association in the south has been strongly supported by Acocks Green in Bloom, Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum, and supporters of The Millennium Green on the north side of Acocks Green. The work of the Acocks Green BID manager and Board: liaison with traders, general street and street furniture maintenance, entertainments and events, and with it the complementary work of the community based Acocks Green Village Partnership (which represents all local groups, churches councillors and West Midlands travel) are all focussed on the centre of the Village, which is used by all.

Other key institutions include Acocks Green Library in the centre which is used by all in Acocks Green and The Friends of Acocks Green Library, with its own active agenda has membership from both south and north Acocks Green as well. Fox Hollies Community
Association is based in the South of the Ward and provides a range of services for children and young people, used by both sides of the ward, and has an environmental centre, and city farm, but also has active management participation from the north, where two of the trustees live. Finally there is the Ward Committee itself, which also serves as a forum deciding on some local funding, but where issues right across the village may be raised directly with the same councillors.

Acocks Green Focus Group which campaigns for the fixed features and aesthetics of the area is not as a ‘hands on’ group but continually scrutinises plans for the whole of the area, opposing destruction of important period buildings and works to protect trees and green open spaces also playing a key role across the whole of the area. The group puts forward its own proposals for improvements as well and was initially instrumental in the pioneering of the present ‘Smart Route’ scheme but, as noted above, is also currently working to establish a Conservation Area (currently in the north. It is hoped that another will later follow in the south of the area.) Again, all of these activities are widely supported by other groups in Acocks Green and information is freely passed between groups and discussed at the Ward Committee meetings.

There is a strong core of around forty individuals operating on both sides of the Warwick Road and the focal point of ‘The Green’ on the Warwick Road in the central shopping area, who communicate rapidly together, and with councillors, if there is any perceived threat to the area, but who also support positive initiatives. The centre of the village is particularly complex and is particularly likely to benefit from the continued involvement of two councillors, rather than one. (And terms like ‘The Green’ and ‘The Village’ are regularly and freely used across the B27 area of Acocks Green.)

Finally, but very importantly there is also an extremely popular, and community-strength building, annual carnival taking place in Fox Hollies recreation ground on the South side of the ward: widely acknowledged as the village social event of the year for over forty years. Again, the Carnival Committee and those running stalls and entertainments and attending it are from both sides of the Village. The area is generally peaceable and enjoys low reported crime. It would seem fair to say that whilst by no means the wealthiest area in the City it is a settled and stable one which enjoys a lot of active and highly organised citizen participation.

It also seems worth noting that when The Green itself was under threat from a road widening scheme in 2004 it was people from both sides of the then recently unified Acocks Green who came together to successfully campaign for the survival of this much loved flower-bedded and tree-covered traffic island, surrounded by shops and in recent years this has been extensively tended and enhanced by Acocks Green in Bloom.

Suggested New Boundaries

We want to retain our identity and coherence as a community, continuing to have single Ward meetings and a set of (two) councillors focussing on the whole community so that issues can
continue to be discussed collectively, and collective decisions taken. Community involvement has always been centred on the B27 postcode part of the Ward. Identifiable boundaries: are the canal on the current and obvious boundary on the North side, and that should stay. Losing most of the B11 and Tyseley post-coded Yarnfield – sub-area CAA (currently 2,623 electors) on the West side would remove a considerable number of the excess electors in an area not traditionally identified with Acocks Green, and where participation in Acocks Green events is currently low.

However, there has been support for the inclusion of the Bus Station, always identified as a part of Acocks Green, and a part of its history and the way it functions. There has been some support for making the railway branch line out to Hall Green, Shirley and Earlswood on the West side into a new boundary. This would be likely to add around another approximately 100 properties, in the B27 area here, including part of Mayfield Road and Ninfield Road off it. In the South there is a sub-area CAE, estimated to be 1,888 electors in a few years, so we are assuming around 1,688 now, which is largely B28 and Hall Green identified. (Glaisdale Road, Edenbridge Road, Woodford Green Road, Lulworth Road, Studland Road etc.) However, a small part of this, which projects oddly into the Acocks Green area, including Vicarage Grove and Marie Drive, carries the B27 postcode and occupants here generally seem to take part in Acocks Green rather than Hall Green activities. It would seem sensible to chop this small B27 section (Around another 100 properties or 200 electors) out of B28, probably at Lulworth Road, and to retain it in Acocks Green. However, losing most of our B11 and B28 sections would remove around 2000 electors on 2021 projected figures, without affecting cultural identity or communications in the area, leaving an electorate of about 18,000, or a nominal 9,000 per councillor in a 2 councillor Ward.
Local Government Boundary Commission

On behalf of the Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum

At a recent open meeting of the members of Acocks Green Ward, where the proposals to reduce the number of councillors in Birmingham were outlined. It was expressed that the hub of the current ward centred around what is known locally as “The Green” should not be effected despite the natural thorough fare of the A41 Warwick Road passing through and that the name Acocks Green not disappear in any reorganisation.

The delineation of the ward has some natural boundaries. The Grand Union Canal on the north side until it meets the boundary line with Solihull. This boundary line continues along Gospel Lane until it joins Redstone Farm Road. From here the ward boundary should follow the Postal boundary line between B27 and B28 until it meets the A4040 Fox Hollies Road. The boundary line should then be the central reservation northwards towards the B4514 Olton Boulevard and then left towards Spring Road Railway Station before following the railway line towards the Warwick Road and along Stockfield Road until it meets the Grand Union Canal.

These boundary changes would mean:

1) The Edenbridge and Pitmaston Estates along with the area around Curtis Gardens moving into Hall Green.
2) The Yarnfield estate moving into the Tyseley area where most of electorate consider it to be.

The above amendments would produce an electorate near to the 16,000 limit for a 2 member ward as envisaged by the proposal to reduce overall councillors to 100 members.

Since the last ward reorganisation, when the areas either side of the natural thoroughfare the A41 Warwick Road were brought together around what is locally called “The Green”, the electorate have a hub around which life operates. Whether they live to the north or south of the A41 they come together to do their shopping, entertaining or business. The library, banks, solicitors, schools and churches together with all other facilities are found here.

Sometimes known as “The Village” the recent development of the A41 through the centralised shopping area has improved the environment and safety with the local Business Improvement District incentive (Village BID) working with all groups to this end.

The folk of Acocks Green have moved considerably forward in their outlook since the last ward review. This is a very diverse ward in many ways. People, language, ethnicity, housing, age and social backgrounds. In moving forward there has been greater representation, membership and collaboration between groups who seek to raise the image of the ward without internal conflict.

Such groups are the Acocks Green Focus Group who champion the preservation of the heritage of the ward along with ensuring the fixed environment around us help to improve our pleasure of living in this ward.

The Acocks Green in Bloom organisation which has been born out of like-minded members of our society to bring a little colour into all our lives.

The Village Partnership which has developed the commercial and trading along with the local
Business Incentive Development initiative known as the Village BID to produce enthusiasm for the users of the area by tackling cleanliness and safety through links with the Council and Police and Fire Services.

The various neighbourhood groups centred on roads or estates within the current ward format know that they can operate together without having to outdo each other and this brings groups together for tasks like the Canal clean-up and the opening of public spaces like the Millennium Park and Fox Hollies Park through trusts and friends of these areas.
Birmingham District

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Organisation Name: Acoks Green Village BID Co Ltd

Comment text:

Acocks Green Ward Boundaries submission to the Boundary Commission review of Birmingham by Acoks Green Village BID Co Ltd (Business Improvement District) The BID area is the main commercial centre of the Village which is the main shopping centre for the vast majority of the existing Ward. The only exception to this would seem to be the Yarnfield estate where residents signed a petition in favour of a new Morrisons superstore on Spring Road, on the grounds that the existing shopping centre was too far away from them. The BID is supported in its work to create a vibrant shopping centre for the community by the AGVP. The AGVP (Acocks Green Village Partnership) is a bi-monthly meeting of community groups, statutory bodies and private sector representatives from across the Ward that meets to coordinate activity and in particular formalise links between the community and the BID. The AGVP elects a Community Director to the BID Board (one of 15 directors) and the AGVP group led to the development of a BID in 2011. The BID’s current term runs from Jan 2012 to Dec 2016. The AGVP with support from the BID has also promoted a history trail and heritage trail boards with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund which is due to be in place this November. The BID has also worked with the AGVP and resident volunteers on Acocks Green in Bloom which this year achieved a Gold award, going from Bronze when it first entered 4 years ago. The Ward itself has 2 active Neighbourhood Forums which cover the whole of the ward other than the Yarnfield area. The Acocks Green History Society covers the whole of the ward as does the Acocks Green Focus group. The BID board of directors see logic in removing the Yarnfield estate from the existing Ward boundaries. The Yarnfield estate forms the majority of the existing CAA electoral district. However the natural Boundary would be the railway line, which would mean that Broad Road including the Acocks Green bus station would remain in the new Acocks Green Ward. The bus station manager is involved in the AGVP and public transport routes are important for the BID as it actively serves the shopping centre and ultimately the businesses that fund it. The BID’s other suggestion would be the removal of the B28 post code part of the CAE electoral district, as it is on the edge of the existing Ward and a higher percentage of residents are likely to look to Hall Green for shopping and services than Acocks Green Village. While regretting the proposed changes we think that these make the most sensible boundaries and we would favour a 2 Councillor Ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
ACOCKS GREEN VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP

Proposed Boundary Changes for Acocks Green Ward

From the full meeting held on 22nd September 2015

Firstly it is important to acknowledge the importance of the centre of Acocks Green, which for many years was the terminus for trams and buses and also the last settlement before the boundary of Birmingham gave way to Warwickshire and now the West Midlands conurbation.

Secondly the area was at one time divided down the middle of Warwick Road and this caused many problems for the unity of the centre, not least the lack of cohesion. There are many groups like the Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum, the Acocks Green Focus Group a local history society, Acocks Green Library, the local police and National Express who regular met with local churches and resident associations, plus the carnival group, to ensure that Acocks Green is well represented and puts a united face in aspects of its improvements. The group also regular meets with our local councillors and this assists with maintaining solidarity of the area.

It is therefore vital to the well-being of the area that both North and South of Warwick Road stays in the same ward, we do not need a repeat of the problems that besieged Acocks Green when this was not the case some years ago. No one visitor or trader knew who managed what and how to get things done, so we must not visit this situation again.

Birmingham as the biggest conurbation in Europe has many problems with neighbourhoods working together, but in Acocks Green all work for the well-being of the whole area and this is best served by doing so as one whole area and not being fragmented, round the main central area of “The Village” (the main shopping area.)

Acocks Green has recently been awarded Gold from the RHS and this is thanks to the volunteers who regular met and work to improve and beautify the pavements and streets of the area. We also have folk who work in Fox Hollies Park and the Millennium Green one being on the south side the other on the north of the main centre. Staying as one unit will mean the area can continue to flourish.

Chair: David Treadwell, Treasurer: Ian Jefferies, Secretary: Sheila Huckfield-Powell
The BID Manager works very hard with her team to ensure the whole district is welcoming to all who come to the area. Whether they are there for business or leisure activities, the facilities are monitored to ensure safety and that it is as clean and tidy as possible, this is something all would like to build upon in the coming years which would not be the case if the centre was divided.

Acocks Green has a flourishing conservation group that works closely with the history society to assist with ensure changes are done sympathetically and not as an eye sore. All try to ensure that the history of the area is maintained and to that purpose we are about to install a history trail that all can follow.

The group fully understands that to maintain our area some changes are needed and having looked at the plan and discussed this with our elected representatives as to size and area the group would like to make the following suggestions.

- To use the railway line on the one side of the area thus including Shaftmoor Lane in Acocks Green, but losing the rest of B11, and retaining the Bus Depot which has always historically been in Acocks Green. This is area CAA on the map.

- If we also lose B28 and retain Shirley Road from Lulworth Road, to include Marie Drive and Vicarage Drive, down to the centre of Acocks Green this is area CAE on the map. Leaving all other boundaries as they are this will ensure that Acocks Green maintains its “Village” atmosphere.

These two adjustments would remove approximately 4000 electorate from Acocks Green Ward and leave a suitable ward for two councillors to administer. The meeting on 22nd September 2015 unanimously agreed these proposals be forwarded to you and that this best identified the needs of Acocks Green and its electorate.

It was felt that Acocks Green historically being based very much around “the Green” and being more central for surrounding roads, should retain its uniqueness as far as possible.

Signed on behalf of the committee by the Chairman

Sheila Huckfield-Powell AMIM
Secretary to Acocks Green Village Partnership
**Birmingham District**

**Personal Details:**

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Postcode: [Redacted]  
Organisation Name: Balsall Heath Forum

**Comment text:**

The neighbourhood of Balsall Heath should be bounded by the roads inside Highgate Road, Belgravia Middleway, Pershore Road, Edgbaston Road, Edgbaston Road East, Cromer Road, Brighton Road, Ladypool Road, Church Road, Alder Road, Birchwood Crescent, Dennis Road, Stoney Lane. This is the view of Balsall Heath Forum and is the neighbourhood we have been working with for over 20 years. It is recognised by the residents as their neighbourhood boundary.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
From the minutes of the Banners Gate Neighbourhood Forum meeting held in the Hall of Banners Gate Primary School at 7.30 pm on Monday, 28th September, 2015.

Chairman of the Forum, Tony Willis.

Agenda item 6: Boundary Review of Birmingham

Residents were provided with the proposed map as produced by the Referendum Group and a copy of Electoral Review of Birmingham. Several points of order were raised by Cllr. Collin and Cllr. Hardie and were noted. The Chairman had approached Mark Pascoe the Review Officer in London as to the date of the deadline, 28th September, for submitting comments on boundary changes. The Chairman explained that the Forum meetings had been held on the last Monday in September for the past 17 years and in view of this Mr Pascoe has given the Forum extra time to submit a proposal. The Chairman went through the three criteria and an explanation of the map, which lead to many questions from the floor. It was explained that the recommended changes had been formed by the Referendum Group which comprised of all the Forums in Sutton Coldfield, and the members of several political parties plus independents. After further questions from the floor the Chairman then suggested a proposal: “that we support the submission of suggestions for ward boundaries in the Sutton Coldfield constituency of Birmingham for the ward Boundaries Review Consultation, as made on behalf of the Sutton Coldfield Town Council Referendum Group.”

It was suggested from the floor that the wording of the proposal should read that the borders of Sutton Coldfield were sacrosanct. The Chairman put the suggestion to the meeting and it was fully agreed. The amended proposal now read: “that we support the submission of suggestions for ward boundaries in the Sutton Coldfield constituency of Birmingham for the ward Boundaries Review Consultation, as made on behalf of the Sutton Coldfield Town Council Referendum Group, and that the Sutton Coldfield Town Council boundary is sacrosanct.”

A vote by show of hands was then taken on the proposal and it was passed unanimously, no votes against and no abstentions. One hundred and twenty four residents were present according to the signed attendance sheets. The Chairman thanked the assembly before continuing with the next item on the agenda of the Forum meeting.
ELECTORAL REVIEW OF BIRMINGHAM

What is an electoral review?
The electoral review will recommend new electoral arrangements for Birmingham City Council. Electoral arrangements are:
The total number of councillors to be elected to the council (which we call ‘council size’) – The Commission has announced today that 100 councillors should be elected to Birmingham City Council in the future (from 2018).
The other electoral arrangements of the council are:

The total number of wards.
- The number of councillors representing each ward.
- Ward boundaries.
- Names of wards.

The next stage of the review is to re-draw ward boundaries to accommodate 100 city councillors. We are asking local people and groups to put forward their suggestions for new wards, ward boundaries and ward names across the whole city.

In drawing up a pattern of wards, the Commission must balance three criteria, which are set out in law, namely:

- **To deliver electoral equality** where each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters as others across the city – so if you are proposing a ward to accommodate one councillor, it should contain roughly 8000 voters, a two-member ward should include around 16000 and so on. We would never expect to achieve perfect electoral equality but the further away your proposal is from the target, the more evidence we would expect to see for your proposal under the other two criteria below. Electorate data to help you take this into consideration is available on our website.

- **That the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities** – we would be interested in hearing evidence of community ties (local group activities, issues that affect a local area, shared facilities and amenities etc.)

- **That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government** – so that the ward could be represented effectively (it is easy to travel from one part of the ward to the other, has recognisable boundaries, its name is clear and makes sense to local people etc.)

We are asking local people and organisations for their views as to the best pattern of wards for Birmingham which meet the criteria set out above.

The Commission will treat all submissions equally and will judge each case on its merits and against the statutory criteria. If you wish to put forward a view, we would also urge you to ensure that your submission is supported by evidence. For example, if you wish to argue that two neighbourhoods should be included in the same ward, make sure you tell the Commission why they should be together, providing evidence about community facilities, ties, organisations and amenities, rather than simply asserting that they belong together.
Four Oaks
1. Little Aston
2. Hill Hook
3. Hill Village
4. Roughley
5. Mere Green
6. Four Oaks Estate

Trinity
7. Harvest Fields
8. Little Sutton
9. Whitehouse Common
10. Falcon Lodge
11. Reddicap

Town & Wylde Green
12. Moor Hall
13. Sutton Town
14. Maney
15. Wylde Green

New Hall
16. Berryfields & Springfield
17. New Hall
18. Walmley Village
19. Walmley Hall
20. Minworth

Vesey
21. Boldmere
22. New Oscott
23. Parklands
24. Banners Gate
Beech Lanes Neighbourhood Form

Representations to the Local Government Boundary Commission

Beech Lanes Neighbourhood Forum

The Beech Lanes Neighbourhood Forum was formed 12 years ago to bring together the residents of the area in Quinton Ward shown on the map below. The question of the changes in the ward boundaries was discussed at a public meeting organised by the Neighbourhood Forum on Thursday 24th September. The unanimous conclusion of the meeting was that representations should be made to the Boundary Commission, requesting that the area be moved from Quinton Ward to a ward based in Harborne, to which historically, culturally and emotionally the area belongs.

The area is bounded on the north by Hagley Road West (A456), on the east by Lordswood Road (A4040), on the south by Court Oak Road (A4123) and the west by Wolverhampton Road South (also A4123). This is a compact residential area, with housing comprising a mixture of Victorian houses, Edwardian terraced housing, 1930s semis, 1940s executive houses and 1960s modern houses and flats. A new development of 122 homes is being built on the area formerly occupied by the Martineau Education Centre in Balden Road.

Geographically this area is in Harborne, but has been placed in Quinton Ward.
The area of the Neighbourhood Forum is situated in the north east corner of Quinton Ward and consists of the whole of Polling District CXG and a small part of Polling District CXF. The Neighbourhood Forum believes that the boundary between these two polling districts needs to be redrawn because of the new development mentioned above. According to the map of Quinton Ward, much of the development falls into Polling District CXF, but the only vehicle access will be in Balden Road in Polling District CXG. The map below shows that the area of the Neighbourhood Forum is out on a limb from Quinton Ward.

The residents of the Neighbourhood Forum consider themselves to be residents of the community of Harborne, having no affinity with Quinton. Historically, going back to the Doomsday Book and before, the area is in Harborne; and it was only at the last boundary revision, or the one before that, that the area was moved into Quinton Ward. For the residents of the Neighbourhood Forum, shopping, banking, community library, etc., are all centred on Harborne High Street. Bus services along both Lordswood Road and Court Oak Road all run to Harborne. The Neighbourhood Forum is in the parish of St Faith and St Laurence, Harborne, the parish church of which is in the area; residents also attend other Harborne churches.

Within the Neighbourhood Forum area are also situated the campus of Queen Alexandra College, Harborne, and the offices of the Harborne Parish Lands Charity, a charity dating back to the 16th century.

It is understood that the Boundary Commission is mainly concerned with how communities operate and interact in the present. However, the Forum believes that the views of the area residents are well illustrated by some historical facts. On the next page is a historical map of the area. This map is a composite of the Ordinance Survey Maps (Godfrey Edition) of Quinton 1902 on the left and Harborne 1901 on the right.
As will be seen from the map below, the main road running at the top of the map described as Beech Lane (which is now Hagley Road West) is an ancient county boundary and is still to this day the boundary of the City of Birmingham.

The boundary then turns south down Balden Road before diverting to the west across fields and round ‘Allotment Gardens’, which still exist. Heading south again, the boundary crosses Court Oak Road at its present junction with Wolverhampton Road South. The Boundary Post is marked ‘BP’ on the map. The area marked ‘Industrial School’ and ‘Tally Ho Club Ground’ later became the Martineau Education Centre, the site of the new development mentioned above.

On Hagley Road West heading west there is currently displayed at the junction with Balden Road, a local district sign saying QUINTON. Similarly, on Court Oak Road heading east, there is currently displayed at the junction with Wolverhampton South, a local district sign saying HARBORNE. Both these signs are correctly displayed according to the old maps.

Although Wolverhampton Road South was not historically in Harborne, the residents of that road and the roads which connect Wolverhampton Road South and Balden Road do regard themselves as ‘Harbornites’ and are part of the community of the Beech Lanes Neighbourhood Forum.
Harborne Ward

Although not at present part of the Harborne Ward, the Beech Lanes Neighbourhood Forum does feel qualified to comment on that Ward, because of its wish to be included in that Ward. A study of the Harborne Ward map does show an anomaly, which the Neighbourhood Forum wishes to bring to the attention of the Boundary Commission.

Located in the north of the Ward shown as Polling Districts CLI and CLJ is an area which is not, and never has been, part of Harborne. This is the area north of the Hagley Road (A456). The Hagley Road is a major commuter route from the west into Birmingham carrying a considerable amount of traffic,
and this forms a physical and psychological barrier. The residents to the north of the Hagley Road are not, and do not regard themselves as being, part of the Harborne community, and probably the vast majority of them never have cause to visit Harborne High Street. Almost certainly as a community they do much of their shopping, banking, visiting medical practices, etc., in Bearwood, a major shopping area just over the boundary in Sandwell Metropolitan Borough. The neighbourhood forum covering that area have never used the name Harborne and call themselves North West Edgbaston Neighbourhood Forum, which is geographically more accurate. Birmingham City Council rightly show at the city boundary, on both Hagley Road and Sandon Road, a local district sign saying EDGBASTON.

It is noted that this part of the Ward borders on to Soho Ward and Ladywood Ward. In fact this area probably has no affinity with either Soho or Ladywood. The suggestion that the Beech Lanes Neighbourhood Forum puts forward, although this has not been discussed with those residents or their neighbourhood forum, is that the area north of the Hagley Road from Barnsley Road to either Portland Road or Monument Road becomes a single-member ward, reviving the name ‘Rotton Park Ward’, which is a name recognised in the area and was the name of a previous ward of Birmingham City Council.

Conclusion

The Beech Lanes Neighbourhood Forum request that the Boundary Commission consider favourably moving the area of the Beech Lanes Neighbourhood Forum from the present Quinton Ward to a new ward based on Harborne.

The Beech Lanes Neighbourhood Forum recognise that the decision already made to reduce the size of Birmingham City Council from 120 members to 100 members will inevitably mean that Harborne will become either a two-member ward or two one-member wards. The Neighbourhood Forum would prefer a two-member ward, but if the decision is made to have two one-member wards, then it is considered preferable to divide the two wards along (Harborne) High Street, giving both wards ‘ownership’ of the High Street.
Dear Sirs,

Thank you for sending a large map showing the current ward boundaries in the B6 B7 area. I have now consulted widely and found the current Boundary of Aston ward is not appropriate and some radical changes have been suggested aimed at bringing into one ward community the communities around Aston that use Aston for Faith organisations, recreation and shopping.

I have been surprised by the consensus about ward size and name.

Aston is the areas name going back to the medieval period (it was a large agricultural manor between what is now Birmingham City Centre and Water Orton in Warwickshire) and is a clearly recognised place (Aston Villa. Aston Hall, Aston Conservation Area, Aston station, Aston Cross, Aston Hippodrome and so on).

The Ward should be increased in size and retain 3 councillors. It is considered that this together with 'all out' elections every 4 years will encourage the dominant political party to select candidates that more appropriately reflect the ethnicity and faiths in the ward population.

The attached letter proves a detailed explanation and the map illustrates the suggested changes. (Letter and map to follow in the post).

The other matter that I hope you will brief the appropriate person about is to change the Birmingham Parliamentary constituency names from place names to geographic areas, eg Birmingham Ladywood becomes Birmingham Central

If there are any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on

With best wishes

Nigel Cripps
Hon Co Sec CAN DO 4:13
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14th Floor  
Millbank Tower  
Millbank  
London  
SW1P 4QP

Dear Sir,

Birmingham City Council – Initial Consultation on Ward Boundaries  
Aston – Nechells area.

Thank you for inviting comments as part of the initial consultation on Ward Boundaries.

1 - Background

CAN DO 4:13 is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The Charity’s first objective is to

1) Prevention and/or relief of poverty and need in Parish of Aston and Nechells and the immediate surrounding area.

CAN DO 4:13 has met this objective by running an advice centre and the Trussell Trust accredited Aston & Nechells Food bank.

The 3 directors of CAN DO 4:13 are all members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) the governing body of the Church of England Parish of Aston & Nechells.
2 - Methodology.

We have gathered together information of where the clients we have helped live. Our activities have been delivered from the advice centre in Frederick Road (Aston Ward), and the Food bank Distribution Centres in Gladstone Street (Aston but in Nechells Ward) and Wardlow Road (Duddeston but in Nechells Ward).

In addition we have consulted members of the PCC. The PCC does not meet until October 12th when this letter and these proposals will be presented for formal adoption. We have consulted widely, consequently it is considered extremely unlikely that there will be any changes.

Some further information has been gained from other organisations, principally where pupils live who are enrolled at the two Church of England Primary schools in the ecclesiastical Parish and the Aston and Nechells Churches working together partnerships.

3 - Current arrangements.

The current ward arrangement does not work for the following reasons.

1 – At local elections Aston and Nechells wards have massive majorities and the elected members are not very active in the community.

2 – The ward boundaries divide communities and have inappropriately rebadged areas. For example the medieval Aston village with its infrastructure is in Perry Barr Ward. Aston railway station and Aston Cross are in Nechells ward.

3 – City Councillors in Aston and Nechells wards are generally unresponsive about problems that are outside a narrow ethnic and religious group.

4 – Nechells ward covers a ridiculously large and diverse area. It includes the proposed HS2 city centre station, the yuppie housing developments around Digbeth and two areas with some of the worst poverty in the City adjacent to Small Heath and Duddeston the area north of Landor Street. While the present arrangement is an interesting gathering of diversity the arrangement does not work.

We advocate that there is major change in ward boundaries.

4 - Proposal for change – the reason for a 3 councillor ward.

i. We favour the retention of Aston (the areas name going back to medieval times) Ward as a 3 councillor ward. At present all the councillors are drawn from one ethnic and religious group. All-out elections having 3 councillors will give the controlling group an opportunity to choose a group of candidates that are more representative of the ethnic and religious mix of the area.

ii. When there are problems it is likely that one councillor will respond. (With 3 Wards (9 councillors) involved generally one out of 3
councillors from each ward will respond but it is very variable and seems to depend upon their personal interest.

iii. With a one out each time election the voter is likely to vote for the party irrespective of that particular councillor’s performance. With 3 councillors standing in the same election, if the controlling group have not deselected a candidate the ‘party faithful’ will be able to vote out a poor performing person and use their vote to elect someone else.

5 – Proposal for change – the ward boundary.

a. Witton should be returned to Aston Ward. This can be easily achieved by taking out of Perry Barr the area bounded by – Witton Lane, Aston Expressway (A38(M), M6 motorway and Brookvale Road.

b. a. above is the bulk of the residential population but there are two other areas with very small populations that could also be transferred as part of Witton into Aston ward,
   a. The Witton IMI site. This would involve removing from Perry Barr the land bounded by, the railway line, Aldridge Road and the M6 motorway.
   b. Witton Cemetery. That is the land bounded by Collage Road, the Ridgway, Brookvale Road and the M6 motorway.

c. Witton lakes, (Aston’s original water supply now a public park and surrounding housing). The M6 and cemetery are barriers so people living in this area are more orientated towards Stockland Green and Erdington so it would be inappropriate to include this area in Aston Ward.

d. North Nechells, (Nechells proper and Nechells Green). Until the last boundary change all to the west of the Lichfield Road (A38) was in Aston Ward (includes Aston railway station and Aston Cross). The reality is that the area to the East of the A38 has few amenities except junior schools and churches. Residents tend to use amenities in Aston and bus routes encourage them to use the Tesco store in Witton and take recreation in Aston Park and its conservation area. This area has more affinity with Aston than the rest of the current Nechells ward. The M6 is a massive barrier to the north, so is the A47 Heartlands Parkway – railway to the East. This area has always been seen as part of Aston and should be moved into Aston ward. That is the land bounded by the A38(M), M6, A47 (Heartlands Parkway) or Railway, B4132, B4144.

e. Duddeston. This area is isolated from the rest of Nechells and Saltley ward by railways and canals. In comparison with North Nechells, Duddeston has better infrastructure but some poor housing with high and low rise flats. It is very deprived. Heartland Academy a secondary school (adjacent to Duddeston railway station) draws pupils from Aston, the NHS provides its domiciliary services (eg District Nurses) for this area are based in Aston Health Centre and there is shopping traffic using the train to the Tesco store in Witton. This is not as important as moving North Nechells into Aston but it would make sense if the numbers permit to also incorporate this area into Aston. In times gone by it was part of Aston. This land is bounded by A38(M), Middleway (A4540), the railway adjacent to Lawley Street, railway to, A47, B4132, B4144.
f. Land inside the Middleway (A4540). The Middleway is a very busy dual and 3 lane carriageway road that is pedestrian unfriendly. It is a massive barrier that people don’t cross. In Nechells Ward the land inside the Middleway should be transferred to a new City Centre ward. In Aston ward the residents i south of New John Street West are part of the City Centre and should be transferred to a new City Centre Ward.

g. Newtown. The present boundary between the Aston and Lozells and east Handsworth ward runs through the Lozells community. Lozells Road is a thriving shopping area and centre of the local community. We suggest the Newtown – Lozells part of Aston ward should move into Lozells and East Handsworth ward. This is land bounded by A34, New John Street West, B4515 and the strange incursion into Lozells and East Handsworth ending at Carlyle Road.

6 – Parliamentary Constituencies

The local area names given to Birmingham’s Parliamentary constituencies are misleading and in two instances mention places that are unrecognisable as major centres in the community. It is preferable to adopt the approach in Coventry, Wolverhampton and Leeds by using geographic names eg Ladywood becomes Birmingham Central, Perry Barr becomes Birmingham North West and so on

7 - Conclusions

i. The review presents an opportunity to correct some poor decision taken at the last review that divided communities

ii. Aston ward should be enlarged and remain a 3 councillor ward

iii. To achieve a ward area that more reflects the community and is enclosed by significant features the priorities for change to Aston Ward are

   a. Add Witton
   b. Remove the parts of the ward inside the Middleway
   c. Add North Nechells
   d. Add Duddeston
   e. Remove Lozells to the north of the Middleway

iv. Birmingham’s Parliamentary constituencies should be renamed to suit their geography eg Ladywood should be Birmingham Central

This is the view of this charity and the Governing Body of the Church of England Parish of Aston & Nechells. In the unlikely event of the Parish making changes at a meeting on October 12th I will advise you immediately.

The directors of the charity are
   Chair - Revd Canon Dr Andrew Jolley (also chair of the PCC)
   Treasurer - Mr Geoffrey Miller (also lay chair of the PCC)
   Secretary – Mr Nigel Cripps (also PCC Hon Projects Officer)

Yours Faithfully
CARE OF THE ELDERLY

SO SORRY I DID NOT MANAGE TO ATTEND ANY OF YOUR WORKSHOPS.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE BHAM COUNCIL WISH TO REDUCE OUR COUNCILLORS FROM 120 TO 100, WELL OSCOTT NEEDS AT LEAST 2 COUNCILLORS AND MAYBE THREE, I AM NOT SURE IF OSCOTT HAS 16,000 OR 24,000 VOTERS I AM SURE YOU MUST HAVE THE NUMBERS TO CHECK.

IN THE LAST FEW YEARS WE HAVE HAD MANY AREAS OF NEW BUILD HOMES ADDED TO OSCOTT WARD THAT IS WHY WE NEED OUR COUNCILLORS.

MY GROUP IS A BRANCH OF WEST MIDLANDS PENSIONERS CONVENTION, WHICH IS PART OF THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS CONVENTION.

MY GROUP MEET AT OUR LOCAL PERRY COMMON LIBRARY (ON COLLEGE RD) AT TIMES WE MEET WITH OTHER GROUPS TO DISCUSSE LOCAL & UK WIDE ISSUES WHICH CONCERN US ALL, SUCH AS 2 GROUPS ARE COMBINING TO HOST A MACMILLAN DAY, AND SUPPORT THEIR GREAT WORK.

WE ALSO SUPPORT THE WORK THE 618 CENTRE ON KINGSTANDING RD DO WITH THE LOCAL YOUNGSTERS WITH LOTS OF INTERESTS TO KEEP THEM PLAYING FOOTBALL & OTHER PLAY.

THE CENTRE HOLDS MEETINGS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO TALK OVER THEIR PROBLEMS, WITH COUNCILLORS & OTHERS.

MANY OF OUR YOUNG USE LOCAL PLAYING FIELDS, SUCH AS ALDRIDGE RD & BURFORD RD PLAYING FIELD MANY ARE MEMBERS OF QUESLETT NATURE RESERVE GROUP, WHO IDENTIFY WITH RESIDENTS ON THE ENCLOSED MAP.

TRANSPORT ACROSS BHAM,

WE HAVE A NUMBER OF BUS ROUTES SO WE CAN VISIT FRIENDS & GO SHOPPING IN THE CITY, AND TRAVEL OUT TO OTHER AREAS FOR OUR ENJOYMENT, AND RIDE TO THE NEW MEDICAL CENTRE IN SHADY LANE & COLLEGE RD WHEN NEEDED.

IN MY RD WE ARE PROUD TO BE OSCOTT RESIDENTS AND RECOGNISE THE AREAS MARKED ON THE MAP HAS OSCOTT, ENCLOSED MAP.

OUR BOUNDRIES ARE THE M6, KINGS RD, QUESLETT, KINGSTANDING AND HAWTHORN RD, WE THINK ABOVE KINGS RD MAYBE ADDED TO BANNERSGATE IF YOU FEEL IT NEEDS TO.

SENT ON BEHALVE OF GROUP, KENNETH SMITH.
Birmingham District

Personal Details:

Name: Raymond Goodwin
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name: Castle Vale Tenants and Residents Alliance ltd

Feature Annotations

Map Features:

Annotation 2:

Comment text:

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Selly Oak Ward – Birmingham City Council. I am writing this submission on behalf of Community Partnership for Selly Oak (CP4SO). This is an alliance of around 14 community groups who work in partnership on common issues affecting Selly Oak and its neighbours, while each group retains its own local responsibility for its more local issues. The group includes a residents group of the Weoley Hill polling district that input to the discussion as well. As a group at a recent committee meeting we discussed the Electoral Review and what we wanted as a community group for a ward. Currently Selly Oak Ward has 3 councillors serving around 17,500 voters, with a projected growth to approx. 22,000 in 2021. Selly Oak is an area consisting predominantly of housing with shopping mostly concentrated around local shops and a couple of shopping parks. There are parks and sports fields, and a few small industrial parks. There is no longer a traditional high street area on the main road through Selly Oak as that area is now dominated by premises serving mostly the student population with takeaways, convenience stores and rental agents being the majority. Smaller roads on Oak Tree Lane and Raddlebarn Road provide smaller centres of independent shows in addition to the retail parks on Chapel Lane, and being built on Aston Webb Boulevard. The housing has a mix of residents as one area of Selly Oak, Bournbrook, is dominated by houses of multiple occupancy, (80%) mostly let to students of University of Birmingham that is just over the current ward boundary in Edgbaston. Other areas are mostly family housing, with rented and owner occupied. Key points from the discussion of CP4SO were that all parts of the existing ward are affected by the same issues in the ward, i.e. no area has its own unique problems. These can relate to large developments planned within the ward and on sites bordering the ward e.g. QE Hospital and the University of Birmingham. Having such a large student population also encourages certain businesses e.g. convenience stores and takeaways, catering for the students, which create other challenges the ward has to deal with. There is also considerable growth planned for new student accommodation in halls and studio flats as well as existing houses are being developed into HMOs. We would therefore want to keep the existing ward as one ward. We understand this would mean that additional areas need to be brought in to raise the voter levels to around 24,000 to warrant a 3 councillor ward, as there are no significant areas to lose that aren't affected by the challenges, to reduce to 16,00 for a 2 councillor ward. One area we definitely want to see included in the new Selly Oak Ward is all of the old Selly Oak Hospital site which is planned to be a major housing development (already under construction). Currently the existing ward boundary splits this site as it follows Raddlebarn Road. However Raddlebarn Road is not a major division and the impact of development on one side will be felt by the other. Both sides are being developed as one master plan, as can be seen at this website: http://www.associated-architects.co.uk/projects/masterplan/selly-oak-masterplan/ CP4SO feel very strongly that this whole site should be part of Selly Oak ward to ensure common issues that may occur are dealt with in a united way, rather than being split between two wards. The new boundary would run along the bottom of Camp wood Close and the Sand Pits so they would stay in Bournville Ward. However the old Woodlands site, which is part of the new development, would move into the new Selly Oak Ward. We did consider how to lower the numbers down to 16,000 by shedding the polling districts of CYF and CYI to the east of the existing ward. However these areas are separated from their eastern neighbours by the natural boundary of the River Rea, running through the playing fields, so are more naturally aligned to Selly Oak, and its community
resources. Their neighbourhood community group feel strongly that they want to stay with Selly Oak because of the common challenges. The only other existing polling area we could consider shedding is CYB as there is a natural barrier from the rest of the ward along the route of the former Lapal canal. This route remains waterlogged so has not become a walkway linking it to Selly Oak Park, unlike on northern boundary of this area where paths do cross the Bourne Brook. Options to increase the size to 24,000 include reverting to a parish boundary that would bring areas from both Weoley Castle ward and Bournville ward into the new Selly Oak ward. These would be all of the polling areas of DNK, DNI and part of CFA. The proposal would be to take the ward boundary along Bournville Lane, Woodbrooke Road, Sycamore Road and Laburnum Road in CFA with the northern part of that area moving into Selly Oak ward and the remaining area staying with Bournville Ward. The figures for this Option 1 are: Polling district Existing ward Electorate DEC 2014 Electorate 2021 CFA (Partial) BOURNVILLE 1,063 1,145 CYA SELLY OAK 1,813 1,875 CYC SELLY OAK 2,427 3,166 CYD SELLY OAK 3,830 6,007 CYE SELLY OAK 1,785 1,880 CYF SELLY OAK 1,234 1,384 CYG SELLY OAK 1,726 1,942 CYH SELLY OAK 966 1,391 CYI SELLY OAK 1,949 2,222 CYJ SELLY OAK 1,084 1,195 DNI WEOLEY 1,039 1,100 DNK WEOLEY 739 831 19,655 24,137 If this is too great an area then the polling area of DNK could stay with Weoley Ward as Lodge Hill Cemetery does form a natural boundary to most of the houses in that polling area being part of Selly Oak. The figures for this Option 2 are: Polling district Existing ward Electorate DEC 2014 Electorate 2021 CFA (Partial) BOURNVILLE 1,063 1,145 CYA SELLY OAK 1,813 1,875 CYC SELLY OAK 2,427 3,166 CYD SELLY OAK 3,830 6,007 CYE SELLY OAK 1,785 1,880 CYF SELLY OAK 1,234 1,384 CYG SELLY OAK 1,726 1,942 CYH SELLY OAK 966 1,391 CYI SELLY OAK 1,949 2,222 CYJ SELLY OAK 1,084 1,195 DNI WEOLEY 1,039 1,100 18,916 23,306 If these proposals are not acceptable because of other interested groups’ comments, an alternative would be to bring into the ward the polling areas containing the University itself (CHD), and also the hospital area (CHJ), as both sites have a significant impact on the ward through their users – whether staff, students, patients or visitors. We would still want to keep the entire old hospital site. Most of that will already be in Selly Oak figures for 2021 so the figures for Option 3 are: Polling district Existing ward Electorate DEC 2014 Electorate 2021 CHD EDGBASTON 250 2,285 CHJ EDGBASTON 343 282 CYA SELLY OAK 1,813 1,875 CYC SELLY OAK 2,427 3,166 CYD SELLY OAK 3,830 6,007 CYE SELLY OAK 1,785 1,880 CYF SELLY OAK 1,234 1,384 CYG SELLY OAK 1,726 1,942 CYH SELLY OAK 966 1,391 CYI SELLY OAK 1,949 2,222 CYJ SELLY OAK 1,084 1,195 I have tried to draw lines on the map on-line to indicate our preferences however I can’t get it to work so hopefully the descriptions included are sufficient. Produced by Anne Haigh, Treasurer, Community Partnership for Selly Oak.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Commission review of Birmingham by Fox Hollies Green Neighbourhood Forum The Fox Hollies Green Neighbourhood Forum strongly believes that the area covered by the current Acocks Green Ward should be kept together as far as possible. We believe that since the last boundary review we have had a largely cohesive ward in which groups across the ward work well together and have seen a strong growth in community activity. We believe that we have been well supported and represented by our councillors and consider the loss of councillors to be a retrograde step for a City that already has the highest number of electors per elected representative of anywhere in Europe. However as the reduction in Councillors seems to be an already done deal without any regard to the views of the citizens of Birmingham we will put forward proposals that seek to minimise the harm. The Acocks Green Village Partnership is a by monthly meeting of community groups, statutory bodies and private sector representatives from across the ward that meets to coordinate activity and in particular formalise links between the community and the Business Improvement District. The AGVP elects a Community Director to the BID Board. And its predecessor oversaw the development of the BID. The AGVP has also promoted a history trail and Boards with funding from the Heritage Lottery fund which is due to be in place this November. The Trail covers the history of the whole area with the exception of the Yarnfield estate and some areas to the South of the ward. As well as people from across the ward supporting the development of a Conservation Area (with residents undertaking the area) the AGVP has also hosted the Acocks Green in Bloom which this year was awarded gold. This would have been unimaginable at the time of the last boundary review. The only part of the existing ward that does not send a representative from its Neighbourhood Forum and or BID is the Yarnfield estate. The BID itself is based on the main commercial centre of the Green which is the main shopping centre for the vast majority of the ward. The only exception to this would seem to be the Yarnfield estate were residents there signed a petition in favour of a new Morrisons on Spring Road, on the grounds that the existing shopping centre was to far from them, Morrisons have now put this site up for sale. The ward itself has 2 active Neighbourhood Forums which cover the whole of the ward other than the Yarnfield area. The Yarnfield area used to be part of the Fox Hollies Green Neighbourhood Forum but about ten years ago set up a separate Forum as they considered themselves to be a separate area, however this is no longer active. The Acocks Green History Group covers the whole of the ward as does the Acocks Green Focus group. The community managed Millennium Green is used by and has volunteers from across the ward as does the Friends of Fox Hollies Park. The annual Acocks Green Carnival is organised by community members from across the ward and is attended by people from all parts of the existing ward. While the Fox Hollies Community Forum building predominantly provides activities for people from the Fox Hollies part of the ward it is also used by residents from across the existing ward and has board members who live across the ward. Thus we would see a logic in removing the Yarnfield estate from the existing ward boundaries. The Yarnfield estate forms the majority of the existing CAA electoral district. However the natural Boundary would be the railway line which would mean that Broad Road including the Acocks Green bus station would remain in the new Acocks Green ward. This could also split the small Fox Hollies Shopping centre. At present there are just a couple of shops on the western side of the railway but if the proposed supermarket development on the (now for sale) Morrisons site did go ahead this would suggest that this site should be included in the new Acocks Green
Ward with the Fox Hollies shopping centre. Having considered the only changes that make any real sense this still does not reduce the size of the ward sufficiently for your requirements. Our only other suggestion would be the removal of the B 28 post code part of the CAE electoral district, even though this is part of the existing Fox Hollies Green Neighbourhood Forum area. It is on the edge of the existing ward and may move people and a higher percentage of residents are likely to look to Hall Green for shopping and services. While regretting the proposed changes we think that these make the most sensible boundaries for a 2 Councillor ward. Jon Morris Chair Fox Hollies Green Neighbourhood Forum.

Uploaded Documents:

Download
The Fox Hollies Green Neighbourhood Forum strongly believes that the area covered by the current Acocks Green Ward should be kept together as far as possible. We believe that since the last boundary review we have had a largely cohesive ward in which groups across the ward work well together and have seen a strong growth in community activity. We believe that we have been well supported and represented by our councillors and consider the loss of councillors to be a retrograde step for a City that already has the highest number of electors per elected representative of anywhere in Europe.

However as the reduction in Councillors seems to be an already done deal without any regard to the views of the citizens of Birmingham we will put forward proposals that seek to minimise the harm.

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The BID itself is based on the main commercial centre of the Green which is the main shopping centre for the vast majority of the ward. The only exception to this would seem to be the Yarnfield estate were residents there signed a petition in favour of a new Morrisons on Spring Road, on the grounds that the existing shopping centre was too far from them, Morrisons have now put this site up for sale.

The ward itself has 2 active Neighbourhood Forums which cover the whole of the ward other than the Yarnfield area. The Yarnfield area used to be part of the Fox Hollies Green Neighbourhood Forum but about ten years ago set up a separate Forum as they considered themselves to be a separate area, however this is no longer active.

The Acocks Green History Group covers the whole of the ward as does the Acocks Green Focus group.

The community managed Millennium Green is used by and has volunteers from across the ward as does the Friends of Fox Hollies Park. The annual Acocks Green Carnival is organised by community members from across the ward and is attended by people from all parts of the existing ward.
While the Fox hollies Community Forum building predominantly provides activities for people from the Fox Hollies part of the ward it is also used by residents from across the existing ward and has board members who live across the ward.

Thus we would see a logic in removing the Yarnfield estate from the existing ward boundaries. The Yarnfield estate forms the majority of the existing CAA electoral district. However the natural Boundary would be the railway line which would mean that Broad Road including the Acocks Green bus station would remain in the new Acocks Green ward. This could also split the small Fox Hollies Shopping centre. At present there are just a couple of shops on the western side of the railway but if the proposed supermarket development on the (now for sale) Morrisons site did go ahead this would suggest that this site should be included in the new Acocks Green Ward with the Fox Hollies shopping centre.

Having considered the only changes that make any real sense this still does not reduce the size of the ward sufficiently for your requirements. Our only other suggestion would be the removal of the B 28 post code part of the CAE electoral district, even though this is part of the existing Fox Hollies Green Neighbourhood Forum area. It is on the edge of the existing ward and may move people and a higher percentage of residents are likely to look to Hall Green for shopping and services.

While regretting the proposed changes we think that these make the most sensible boundaries for a 2 Councillor ward.

Jon Morris Chair Fox Hollies Green Neighbourhood Forum.
Birmingham District

Personal Details:

Name: Simon Baddeley
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: The Friends of Black Patch Park

Comment text:

For the committee of the Friends of Black Patch Park I have been asked to make recommendations to alter the boundary of Soho Ward in Birmingham to include this park, which, until 1974, was inside Birmingham. Black Patch Park is presently inside Sandwell MBC, bounded by Foundry Lane, Woodburn Road, Perrott Street and Kitchener Street, at grid reference SP038888. I’ve not marked the consultation map with specific details as the Boundary Commission may, via other consultations, have an expert understanding of ways to include this green space in Birmingham’s Soho Ward. The argument for including Black Patch Park within Soho, has been informed by discussion with Soho Ward members, Cllrs Sharon Thompson and Charman Lal, who, with us, argue that most users of the park, and those most likely to approach their councillors about the park and its unused community centre are nearby residents of Birmingham. Over 20 years all but a few Sandwell residents, once living next to the Black Patch, have moved. The main users of this potentially attractive small green space are separated from it, not by geography, but by a council boundary that we propose should be changed.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Dear Sir or Madam

The Queslett Nature Reserve is a beautiful wildlife sanctuary on the site of a former land and gravel workings. The reserve is an ideal location for nature conservation and environmental studies, it has value for education, both formal and informal.

It attracts a multitude of wildlife, foxes and squirrels have been observed also there have been reports of sightings of muntjac deer but it has yet to be substantiated.

The Queslett Nature Reserve is an absolute haven for anyone with a keenness for ornithology. With regular visits from buzzards, sparrowhawks, herons and red kites all have been spotted over the reserve.

The wildlife refuge has a good range of open grassland along with woodland birds and the Queslett pool attracts a range of waterfowl. Frogs have been seen and it is likely that the pool has a range of amphibian and fish present. Several species of dragonflies and damselflies were recorded and the site no doubt has a good range of butterflies and invertebrates.

The area is well used by local people for informal recreation and as a cut through. There is scope for improving education use for the site. There is access to many other parks and reserves in the area and in neighbouring districts. But I personally like to think that The Queslett Nature Reserve is a beauty spot especially for the residents of the Oscott Ward!

To help with maintenance, a voluntary organisation was formed and was called 'The Friends of Queslett Nature Reserve ' which I am proud to be the secretary of. With a growing membership and is designed for those who care in a practical way about the environment and wildlife. Our members are made up of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. The majority live local in Oscott and in the current ward boundaries which can be from College Road to the Bandywood Estate and can be considered to be one community as they have similar housing. Although there are some members who live in other parts of Birmingham and West Midlands but collectively they are an Oscott Ward organisation.

The Friends of Queslett Nature Reserve work alongside and under the guidance of Birmingham City Parks and Leisure service, with regular work parties on the reserve. Also, our group is actively involved in other projects outside The Queslett Nature Reserve, incorporating the Aldridge Road Recreation Ground. Our members also carry out voluntary clean-up/litter picks across the Oscott Ward and offers assistance to other Oscott support groups in the area.

The Oscott ward has a thriving community which boast a good bus service and transport links, which enable easy transport connexions for many of the residents living there. There are many facilities and amenities which include schools and medical centres. Excellent for shopping with small family run shops and the large ASDA SUPERSTORE which is also adjacent to The Queslett Nature Reserve.
Many of the members of The Friends of Queslett Nature Reserve and residents of Oscott have concerns after hearing from the media that there may be changes to the boundaries in Birmingham. They are happy with these services and the location and they feel there is no need for the boundaries to be changed. The current boundaries include the M6 motorway, the Queslett Road, Hawthorn Road, College Road and Kingstanding Road. Most residents living the East of the M6 motorway would certainly have more in common than those living on the other side of the dual carriageway given the size of it.

Also, there is a strong belief amongst many that there is a need for a continuation for three councillors rather than two to represent the Oscott Ward whatever their political affiliations. In the past there has been a proven success rate of three Oscott Ward councillors working closely together for the good of Oscott and the populace.

I hope this information proves to be of use to the Boundaries commission and if you require any more information please do not hesitate in contacting me at the address given.

Thank you for your time in reading my letter.

Brenda Wilson
Secretary
The Friends of Queslett Nature Reserve

TRYING TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE WILDLIFE AND USERS OF THE QUESLETT NATURAL RESERVE AND THE SURROUNDING AREA
16th September, 2015

Dear Review Officer,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF BIRMINGHAM: HARBORNE

Usually the Society is faced with commenting on draft proposals initially from the City Council and then the Commission so the Society welcomes this opportunity to be able to submit suggestions relating to Harborne Ward directly to the Commission for consideration in drafting the new Ward pattern for Birmingham.

The Harborne Society was founded in 1960 and has over 550 members and takes the whole suburb of Harborne as its area of interest. Three of the Society’s principal aims are -

- To encourage the spirit of community;
- To promote interest in the character and history of Harborne;
- To represent the interests of Harborne and its immediate neighbourhood to civic and other authorities.

The Society has an excellent relationship with Birmingham City Council and is consulted directly on issues affecting Harborne and potential developers are advised by the Council to consult the Society. With a strong membership and significant history of community action and involvement the Society considers that it provides a representative voice for the local community and is well placed to comment on the ward boundary review.

The historic and traditional boundary of Harborne from long before annexation by Birmingham in 1891 is widely recognised and understood by the local community. Harborne is not a community that overlaps or runs into another – people know exactly where Harborne starts and ends. Harborne is still “the village” and the community continues to seek to retain that village character.

Previous ward boundary reviews have transferred very significant parts of the north and west of the Harborne suburb into Quinton Ward notwithstanding that the electors in the areas concerned adamantly regard themselves as residents of Harborne who look to Harborne for their shopping, financial, general practitioner, dental, social, leisure, recreation and community facilities and activities. The residents in these areas simply do not identify with Quinton and do not have, and never have had, any historic ties with Quinton which has no identifiable focal point or shopping area. These residents know exactly where their community is: it is the electoral boundaries which are out of step.
The statutory requirements which the Commission is required to balance are fully recognised. In drawing up our comments and proposals, and bearing in mind our limited resources, the Society has not sought to attempt to take account of the consequences for other Wards but has concentrated on that which the Society knows best - the community of the suburb of Harborne. It is the Society's strongly held belief that local democracy is best served by the electors of Harborne having the right to be represented by, and to relate to, councilors who can have a direct and meaningful influence on decisions which materially affect the community in which they live. That currently is certainly not the case with nearly 6,000 electors living in Harborne being in Quinton Ward and our proposals seek to redress at least part of that situation.

The City Council collects information and statistics on a Ward basis. Unfortunately for Harborne this data gives a distorted picture which is not a true reflection of Harborne itself because a significant number of Harborne residents currently do not live in Harborne Ward while the residents north of the Hagley Road, with no relationship with Harborne, are included in the statistical data. For example, in some cases planning applications contain details of public open space, birth rates and schools in Quinton Ward while ignoring the fact that the development is actually in the suburb of Harborne. This is not effective local government. Bringing Harborne residents back into Harborne Ward would ensure that at least the basic information upon which decisions are made would correctly represent the area.

Harborne High Street and its immediate environs is a designated District Shopping Centre which attracts shoppers from Quinton, Bartley Green, Weoley Castle and Edgbaston. High Street has a number of national chain stores, including 'Marks & Spencer' food store, 'Waitrose, 'Boots', 'W H Smiths' and 'Iceland', together with an array of convenience stores, coffee shops, restaurants, a food school, public houses, opticians, hairdressers, beauty parlours, banks and estate agents. It also has the City Council Community Library rated in the top five of the 37 Community Libraries in the city, and the new Pool & Fitness Centre [361,000 visits last year] is very close by as are an advice centre, two social clubs and a day centre run by Age Concern. Other local leisure/recreational facilities are the municipal and private golf courses, the Harborne cricket, hockey and rugby clubs as well as two public parks. Two large General Practitioner Medical Centres which, as well as being the base for District Nurses and Midwives, offer additional services such as a NHS eye clinic, physiotherapy and osteopathy, serve the whole of the Harborne community together with eight dental practices. There are eight churches embracing several different faiths. The annual Harborne Carnival in High Street is the second largest street carnival in the UK attracting estimated crowds of up to 70,000 people from all areas of the city and further afield.

Numerous bus routes travel via Harborne High Street, to and from the city centre and also from West Bromwich, Halesowen, Oldbury, Northfield and Longbridge by virtue of Harborne's close proximity to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Campus which also has the Women's Hospital and a burgeoning number of clinical specialist and research centres. A new Children's Hospital is to relocate from the city centre to the site in 2022.
With the Commission’s proposed reduction in the number of councillors to 100 the Society recognises that the retention of 3 councillors for Harborne is unlikely to be achieved but we would request that a Harborne Ward be retained as an entity with 2 councillors rather than being divided into 2 Wards. On paper the Ward could possibly be divided along the Lordswood Road/ Harborne Park Road axis [Harborne East and Harborne West] but in our view placing High Street wholly in one Ward would not be appropriate given that just about everyone in Harborne has a view about the health, viability and future of High Street and how it is developing in the face of the major challenges confronting high streets across the country. Harborne High Street and its immediate environs provide a focus for every day community life and activity.

Plans and proposals are enclosed for the Commission’s consideration and I look forward to receiving the Commission’s draft proposals in December.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Stokes
Honorary Secretary

Review Officer (Birmingham),
Local Government Boundary Commission for England,
14th Floor Millbank Tower,
Millbank,
London,
SW1P 4QP.
HARBORNE SOCIETY PROPOSALS FOR “NEW” HARBORNE WARD

1. NORTHERN BOUNDARY [Hatched Orange on Map No.1]

Removal of Polling Districts CLJ & CLI north of Hagley Road. This area was added to Harborne Ward as part of the 2002/03 ward boundary review. The area is totally unconnected with Harborne and has never had the remotest relationship, either historically or currently, with Harborne and cannot in any way be regarded as part of the Harborne community. The area’s affinity is with Ladywood and North West Edgbaston. The nearest and most convenient shopping for residents is Bearwood which is over the City Council boundary in Sandwell District Council.

Hagley Road is a major arterial road into the city centre with high volumes of commuter traffic from local residents, Oldbury, Dudley and Wolverhampton [A4123] and from Halesowen, Hagley and Kidderminster [A456] as well as traffic leaving the M5 Motorway at Junction 3. No doubt the City Council Director of Highways would be able to supply you with details of traffic flows.

It is the Society’s strongly held view that Hagley Road is a major barrier which is the natural, logical and most easily identifiable northern boundary of the community as well as being the historic boundary.

This proposal would remove 3,364 electors from Harborne Ward using the December 2014 Register.

2. NORTH WEST BOUNDARY – AREA BOUNDED BY HAGLEY ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD SOUTH & COURT OAK ROAD
   [Hatched Red on Map No.2]

The whole of this area currently in Quinton Ward is irrefutably part of Harborne but a previous boundary review transferred this significant part of north-west Harborne to Quinton Ward notwithstanding that the electors adamantly regard themselves as residents of Harborne who look to Harborne for their shopping, financial, general practitioner, dental, social, leisure, recreation and community facilities and activities. The residents do not, and never have had, any affinity or historic ties with Quinton, a residential area with no central focus or shopping centre, which was expanded early post-war as a residential area as a result of major municipal housing development.

It is the Society’s strongly held view that the whole of the area hatched red on Map No.2, being Polling District CXG, should be brought back into Harborne Ward, a move which would be widely welcomed by residents.

This proposal would add 3,239 electors to Harborne Ward using the December 2014 Register.
COMBINED PROPOSALS 1 & 2 REPRESENT THE SOCIETY’S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE BUT IN ADDITION REQUESTS THE COMMISSION TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS.

3. AREA HATCHED PURPLE ON MAP No. 2
The area hatched purple runs along the current southern boundary of Polling District CXG and includes Toronto Gardens, Tennal Drive, Ledsam Grove and Nos. 273-287 and 345-389 Court Oak Road currently in Polling District CXF. The site of what is identified on the map as the Martineau Conference & Training Centre and playing field is in Phase 1 of the redevelopment of the site with the provision of 121 dwellings. The whole development when completed will extend right across the rear of Toronto Gardens etc although the road access to the new development is solely off Balden Road. It is the Society’s view that it makes sense for the existing roads south of the new development to be included for electoral purposes with Balden Road, The Lindens etc which as already stated are part of the local Harborne community and are being proposed under No.2 above for inclusion in Harborne Ward.

This proposal would add 141 electors to Harborne Ward using the December 2014 Register.

4. AREA COLOURED GREEN ON MAP No. 2
The transfer to Harborne Ward of the triangular area bounded by Court Oak Road, Tennal Road and Tennal Lane is considered to be a logical and consistent step to bring Harborne residents back into Harborne Ward and would unify this area with the adjacent Tennal Lane/Tennal Road block already in the Ward.

This proposal would add 111 electors to Harborne Ward using the December 2014 Register.

SUMMARY USING DECEMBER 2014 REGISTER
Combined proposals 1&2 = Harborne Ward with 16,635 electors
Proposals 1, 2 & 3 = Harborne Ward with 16,776 electors
Proposals 1, 2, 3 & 4 = Harborne Ward with 16,887 electors
Proposals 1, 2 & 4 = Harborne Ward with 16,746 electors

NOTE
No suggestions are made regarding the eastern and southern boundary of the existing Harborne Ward which the Society considers correctly reflects and adheres to the boundary of Harborne as recognised and understood by residents and which incidentally follows the historic county boundaries between Worcestershire to the west and Warwickshire to the east with Harborne being in Staffordshire until 1911 despite being annexed by Birmingham [in Warwickshire] in 1891.

The Harborne Society
16th September, 2015
I am the Secretary of the Heathfield Neighbourhood Forum which is in the Lozells & East Handsworth Ward. I also own a business on Heathfield Road which is in the Lozells neighbourhood of the ward. I am also a Community Ward for a community organisation in the Ward. I am of the opinion that there should be an electoral ward called Lozells including both sides of Lozells Road. The issues of social deprivation in this area are very similar. The demographics of the community are very similar. Lozells has previously been split into two wards creating a divide of a community that is not reflective of a natural community.
Birmingham District

Personal Details:

Name: Qatib Ali
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: Heathfield Youth Project

Feature Annotations

Map Features:

Annotation 1: Lozells Ward
Annotation 2: 
Annotation 3: Handsworth Ward
Annotation 4: Birchfield Ward

Comment text:

Annotation 1: Lozells is a distinct community that runs either side of Lozells Road. Currently some bit of it is in Aston Ward and most of it in Lozells & East Handsworth Ward. Lozells School, which is situated alongside Holte School and Mayfield School, all three catering for children from Lozells, are based in Aston Ward which is not the best way. I would strongly recommend a Lozells Ward which is likely to be big enough for one councillor as my calculations have it as around 11000-12000 residents. The issues within this area are very similar for the residents.

Annotation 3: Handsworth is currently split between three electoral wards and two parliamentary constituencies running either side of Soho Road which is a distinct centre for Handsworth. East Handsworth in Lozells & East Handsworth Ward, West Handsworth in Handsworth Wood Ward and Soho Finger in Soho Ward. The issues and demographics for the area I have defined and illustrated are very similar with its centre being Soho Road. Handsworth library, Handsworth leisure centre and Handsworth campus of South and City College Birmingham are the key service provisions within this area. The size and population of this ward are big enough to be represented by three councillors.

Annotation 4: The Birchfield area which runs either side of Birchfield Road is also a distinct community with the Birchfield shopping centre and One Stop Shopping centre both being integral to its identity. Currently, the neighbourhood sits either side of the Birchfield Road in Lozells & East Handsworth Ward and Aston Ward. This ward should be big enough for two councillors.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Proposal to the Local Government Commission for England
Amendments to the boundaries relating to:

City of Birmingham, Moseley Ward

Submitted jointly by and on behalf of:

Moseley Forum
The Moseley Society
The Moseley ReGen Group
The Moseley Community Development Trust
The Moseley Businesses

Background

The Central Moseley Neighbourhood Forum [now Moseley Forum] was established in 1998 by Birmingham City Council to involve people living within its designated area (see Appendix B) in issues affecting the area and the community within it. That area was defined after public consultation and has subsequently been amended (February 2001) to reflect the views of residents.

The Moseley Society [the Society] was formally constituted in 1979 and was registered as a charity in 1982. Its principal objectives relate to the area of Moseley and are to promote high standards of planning and architecture; to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest and to educate the public in local geography, history, natural history and architecture.

The Moseley Community Development Trust designates the Moseley area as the same as for the Moseley Society and is defined on the attached map [Appendix C].

The Forum and the Society recognise the remit of the Local Government Commission for England and, in particular, its criteria in determining ward boundaries: a) to reflect the interests and identity of the community and b) to serve effective and convenient local government. The issue of ward boundaries has long been a concern in the area following decisions taken in the 1970s before any of the organisations mentioned above were formed. Until the creation Moseley and Kings Heath Ward in 2004, Moseley had been split by a boundary that had removed a quarter of the area into a different Ward and different constituency. This issue was raised many times at meetings of the Moseley Society and, after its formation in 1998, at meetings of the Forum. There was a specific consultation to identify the area set out in this proposal and the underlying reasons and factors at public meetings of the Forum on 20th February 2001 and the Society in 2001. This proposal was originally presented and agreed at public meetings of the Forum at its AGM and of the Society in 2001.

As a result of our proposals, the Boundary Commission agreed with our findings but removed the eastern part alongside Wake Green Road in order to reduce the size of the new ‘Moseley and Kings Heath Ward’ because it would have been too large.
Proposal

It is proposed that there be a Moseley Ward of Birmingham City Council with boundaries as defined on the map attached at Appendix A. (outlined in blue)

Boundaries should follow natural features such as rivers and should never be drawn down the middle of a road unless it constitutes a major divide between communities. Both sides of a road should be therefore included in one specific ward as followed in this proposal.

In broad terms the area is defined by the natural boundaries of the river Rea to the west and river Cole to the east with part of the southern boundary defined by the natural boundary of Highbury Park and Moseley Golf Course. Other boundaries are formed by main roads wherever possible BUT for Wake Green road in the East to include both sides of the road due to the strong identity felt by both sides to Moseley. (See Appendix A and B). Apart from the area where Moseley becomes Billesley, with Swanshurst Lane being the generally agreed boundary between the two, it is having a B13 postcode that makes residents think they live in Moseley.

It is felt that the proposal comprises the distinct area of Moseley as recognised by the local community and is surrounded by other distinct areas, namely: Edgbaston, Balsall Heath, Sparkhill, Hall Green, Billesley and Kings Heath.

Underpinning rationale

a) The interests and identity of the community:

- Geographical focus

  The area of Moseley is centred around ‘Moseley Village’, the area along Alcester Road, Woodbridge Road and St Mary’s Row in which are situated the shops, pubs, restaurants, parish church and Community Development Trust building. Hidden behind the Victoria Parade shops on Alcester Road is Moseley Park and Pool, for which many local residents are key holders. On the corner of Alcester Road and St Mary’s Row is the ‘Green’, a paved and seated area bordered with grass, shrubs and trees, which was initiated, designed and sponsored by local people. It is considered that the majority of people within the proposed boundaries would see the Village as their natural geographical focus.

- Representative and community institutions

  The Forum was established in 1998 by Birmingham City Council to represent the views of the people living within its designated area (see Appendix B). That area was defined after public consultation and has subsequently been amended (February 2001) to reflect the views of residents by adding two additional areas around Moseley Bog in the east and Moor Green Lane in the southwest. The Forum area lies entirely within the proposed boundaries.
The Moseley Society has been established since 1979 and represents the views of its members primarily on planning and conservation issues. Its designated area is shown on the map at Appendix C and lies entirely within the proposed boundaries.

Moseley Community Development Trust was founded as a company and a charity in 2001 with aims including the economic regeneration of Moseley Village and the support of local community and voluntary groups. It operates in the geographical area defined in its constitution (Appendix D) which is almost exactly that of the proposed ward boundaries.

Moseley B13 magazine has been published monthly since 1973 and covers the area proposed in its distribution and content of ‘all things Moseley’.

- **Retail**
  Shops are situated in the area along Alcester Road, Woodbridge Road and St Mary’s Row in the centre of the proposed area. This is the natural local shopping centre for people living within the proposed boundaries. It is recognised that people within the proposed area will travel to the larger shopping centre in Kings Heath or to very large supermarkets further out, but the Village contains the perceived local shops. A Moseley Traders Association was re-established in 1996 to represent the interests of retailers within Moseley and its members are all located within the proposed boundaries. A Farmers’ Market, set up by the Forum, is held on the Green every last Saturday and has enhanced the Village as a centre for the community.

- **Social**
  The Village also acts as the social centre of Moseley with a variety of pubs and restaurants along both sides of Alcester road and up Woodbridge Road and St Mary’s Row. Moseley is recognised as a distinct social centre both by local residents and by many from other parts of the city who are attracted to the Village particularly on Friday and Saturday nights. The Moseley Festival has become an annual event ever since 1973, now held in July so as to fit in with other annual events – Moseley in Bloom Open Gardens, Mostly Jazz, Funk & Soul Festival and Moseley Folk Festival. Moseley Festival runs over a two week period and includes a wide range of activities, including a large street fair. The festival attracts, in the main, people from within the proposed ward boundaries.

- **Education**
  There are a number of schools in the Moseley area which serve local children and which are situated within the proposed boundaries. The primary schools are: Park Hill, St Martin de Porres RC, Moseley Church of England, King David, St John & St Monica Primary, Moor Green and St Bernard’s RC on Wake Green Rd (in the eastern section to be added – they see themselves as Moseley). The secondary schools are Queensbridge, and Moseley School. In addition there are two schools for children with special needs at Uffculme (all age) and Fox Hollies (secondary). There
are also several key nurseries within the proposed boundaries. It is felt that these are considered to be Moseley schools and should all be within the ward. It is particularly strange that, under current boundaries, Moseley School is not within Moseley ward. This would change if the boundary were to follow the course of the River Cole up to College Road. However, The proposed boundaries have been drawn so that Kings Heath Junior & Infant School lies outside the boundaries as it more properly belongs to a Kings Heath Ward.

- Religious identity
  There is a strong identity among the Christian churches in Moseley which often combine in ventures such as Joint Services, Carol Singing, Charity Collections, Music evenings and concerts. The churches are: St Mary’s, St Columba’s, Calvary Church of God, Riverside, Hope Chapel, St Anne’s and St Agnes.
  There are strong Moseley identities in the Buddhist Centre in Park Road and the Mosque in Church Rd both of which lie in ‘North Moseley’.

- Health
  G P practices used by Moseley residents are: Wake Green Surgery (North side of Wake Green Rd), St Georges Surgery (School Road) and Moseley Medical Centre (Salisbury Road).

b) The argument against dividing Moseley
  We are aware that neighbouring wards may wish to increase their areas to include part of Moseley. We believe that would be a retrograde step as before the changes in 2004, Moseley suffered from being split two ways. This affected:

- Provision of services
  Being split between two wards caused continual difficulties and anomalies in the provision of services to the community. Balsall Heath, Kings Heath, Hall Green/Springfield and Billesley are also distinct communities and different in their needs and aspirations. The proposed ward boundaries would ensure that planning and delivery of services for Moseley would address a distinct local community, while the community can interact with a single ward infrastructure.

  ➢ Street repairs
    The Forum encountered numerous examples of repairs being carried to roads, paving and other street furniture up to but not across ward boundaries, particularly where budgets are allocated to specific wards. This was particularly evident in the Village, where we had seen paving and other street furniture repaired on one side of the road but not the other.
Street cleaning
Similarly, street cleaning was organised on a ward basis leading to inefficiencies in carrying out cleaning and anomalies and inconsistency in cleaning particularly around the Moseley/Sparkhill boundary.

Refuse collection
Bulk refuse collections are allocated on a ward basis. This became difficult as Moseley was seen as a minority part of two separate wards. Thus the Forum was consulted on bulk collections in one but not the other ward.

Local Democracy
In January 2001 Birmingham City Council published a Green Paper on devolution. This set out proposals designed to:
“empower local communities to both influence decisions impacting on their area and tackle local problems in their own way. To support this a key aim is to provide an integrated, better resourced and locally based approach to community development.”

This restructuring of local democracy was ward based as its fundamental unit. At the heart of proposals for local governance were the Strategic Partnerships. It is considered that these should reflect strong communities, of which Moseley is one. If Moseley is split then we would come under two different Strategic partnerships.

The paper stated that “it is imperative to the whole thrust of supporting and empowering local communities that budget control and decision making should be transferred to the local level.” This makes it even more important for the convenient and effective provision of local services that the ward is a unit which encompasses a distinct community area. It is submitted that the proposed boundaries do that and that would enable these proposals for local service provision to be implemented as envisaged.

c) How the proposal will serve effective and convenient local government

Community Planning
The Local Government Act 2000 requires local authorities to produce a community strategy for promoting and improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of communities. The City Council recognises that in a city the size of Birmingham this must have a strong local and community focus. This can only realistically be effective if the community of Moseley is properly reflected by the ward boundaries.

Neighbourhood Forum
The Forum was established by the council with a brief to consult and involve local residents in issues affecting the areas in which they live. The Forum area has been decided by local people as best representing their community. The Forum area used to
fall equally between the Moseley and Sparkhill wards. This meant that the Forum had
to liaise with two sets of councillors and two ward officers, and to send representatives
to two Ward Advisory Boards. In dealing with local issues it had often first to resolve
the problem of who was responsible – particularly as most issues relate to the centre
of the Village which was also divided between the two wards.
An example of the latter is that of the Moseley Farmers Market held once a month on
the ‘Green’. The ‘Green’ was right on the ward boundary and it would therefore pose
a problem regarding accountability and service provision.

In practice, the Forum was rarely consulted by councillors or officers from the
Sparkhill ward and did not therefore function as well as it might in respect of that half
of the Forum area.

Since 2004 the work of the Forum has been carried out with much greater
convenience and efficiency. Similarly, the work of councillors and officers was made
more convenient and efficient as they could work with Forum representatives devoted
solely to their ward. Forum consultation with its members produce feedback to the
council related directly to only one ward.

- Planning
  Planning applications are listed by ward. If Moseley were to be split in two, it would
make it difficult for people in Moseley to be aware of applications which might affect
them if they are just across the boundary. Being in one ward reduces the burden on
local groups such as the Forum and the Moseley Society. It has made the planning
process more open and effective for local people.
  In 2014 the **Moseley Supplementary Planning Document (Moseley SPD)** was
adopted by Birmingham City Council Planning Department. The first such
community-led plan in Birmingham is described in the foreword by the Cabinet
Member as “testament to the positive value of community engagement. Local people,
together with their elected Ward Members, have worked closely with officers of the
City Council to deliver a vision for Moseley that will provide robust guidance for the
future’. Production of the SPD was a lengthy process and included a great deal of
consultation with residents within the area. However, the Appendix map D was
restricted in the East by the current ward boundary: it was allowed to extend the SPD
area to include the Moseley Bog: The original map included the eastern area as
proposed in Map A, as desired by residents.

- Licensing
  It is understood that licensing is dealt with on a ward basis. It would be more
convenient and efficient for applicants, officials, representatives and interested parties
to deal with matters in relation to one ward only.

- Local Democracy
  Before 2004, Moseley formed a minority part in the centre of Moseley Ward and a
small part on the edge of Sparkhill Ward.
Political issues in Sparkhill revolved around the Stratford Road, there was little political capital in taking account of the views of people in Moseley and as such the Moseley part of the Ward was largely ignored. It appeared that people were disenfranchised and certainly this is the feeling of residents that are still in the Sparkhill Ward yet belong to Moseley down the eastern end of Wake Green Rd. To quote a local resident “we’re in no man’s land!” The area within the Moseley Ward is better represented by councillors, but it is the perception of people in Moseley that more attention is paid to the larger area of Kings Heath and the more deprived area of Balsall Heath.

Creating a ward covering Moseley along the proposed boundaries would allow elected representatives for a distinct community. People would be re-enfranchised and this would further stimulate local democracy. It is suggested that this too would make local government more effective.

d) Summary

- Moseley has always had a strong and vibrant identity. Despite being incorporated into Greater Birmingham in 1911, it has sought to retain its ‘village feel’ keeping the name for the centre of Moseley. The boundaries to Moseley have remained clear both socially and geographically.
- The number of eligible voters in the proposed ward is 15,412 as at December 2014. This would meet the requirements for a two councillor ward. See Appendix E.
- Apart from the Billesley area, it is having a B13 postcode (and a 449 telephone number) that give people a sense of belonging to Moseley.
Appendix A: Proposed Moseley ward Boundary (blue), current Moseley and Kings Heath Ward (red) and Moseley Forum (green)
Appendix B: Ward boundary and original Forum boundary with additions from 2004

[Map showing ward and forum boundaries with additions from 2004]
Appendix C: Map showing the Operations Area of the Moseley Development Trust in 2000
Potential affordable housing
Community assets
Possible new Open Space
Employment uses to be retained
SPD boundary
Conservation Areas
Existing Open Space
Woodland
Allotments/potential for micro generation
Wards
Possible new station
Camp Hill railway line
Traffic calming measures
Development proposals
Proposed village green
Cycle Routes
Road junction improvements
Inset Map
Listed Buildings
Rivers/water courses
Policy References
Appendix E: Number of people eligible to vote in the proposed new Moseley Ward

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Polling district</th>
<th>Current size Dec 2104</th>
<th>Projected size 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Moseley Ward minus most of Kings Heath (although CSG contains some of KH)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell/Salisbury/Railwayline/Queensbridge</td>
<td>CSA</td>
<td>2,424</td>
<td>2,689</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salisbury/Edgbaston/Alcester</td>
<td>CSB</td>
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<td>Elizabeth/Shutlock</td>
<td>CSC</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2,745</td>
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<td>Billesley/Golfcourse/YWdRd/WakeGrRd</td>
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<td>1,176</td>
<td>1,236</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>14,174</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,569</strong></td>
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<td>Add in the part of Springfield Ward that includes Moseley Bog and Wake Green Rd</td>
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<td>YWdRd/Swanshurst/WakeGrRd</td>
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<td>1,414</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>15,412</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,983</strong></td>
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<td>Remainder which is all Kings Heath and should go to the Kings heath Ward</td>
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<td>Kings Heath West of High Street</td>
<td>CSD</td>
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<td>Institute Rd area</td>
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<td>Kings Heath between Addison/Wheelers Lane</td>
<td>CSE</td>
<td>1,070</td>
<td>1,176</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4,394</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,920</strong></td>
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</table>
THE REVIEW OFFICER (Birmingham)

As the senior member of the NPI I have been asked by my group to submit the following comments regarding the Boundary review for Birmingham.

1. Members are very unhappy this review is taking place and believe it is not necessary.
2. As a group we have been running for approximately 15 years and have always worked within the current Oscott Ward boundary excluding the extension in regards to part of the Beeches Estate.
3. We have worked hard to create an Oscott identity and feel we are all one not only in regards to Local Policing but also as a community. For example we have members covering the whole of the Oscott area and their problems are clearly similar.
4. We work closely with the Oscott Residents Group, the Oscott Disability Group and the Oscott Elderly Residents Group on a number of issues.
5. We believe far from reducing the amount of local Councillors we should have more to redress what we feel to be other areas in Birmingham having an unfair advantage.
6. We would strongly urge that the current Oscott boundaries stay in place and that at least 3 Local Councillors are retained.

Finally we believe the Kingstanding Road, College Road, Hawthorn Road, Queslett Road are all easily identifiable as boundaries to our community as is the M. motorway. The roads within this boundary link the area very well. and all our members despite the name Kingstanding (the name of the Police station) think of themselves as Oscott Residents.

Thank you

Brian Brookes
WE UNDERSTAND THE B.HAM COUNCIL WISH TO REDUCE THE 120 COUNCILLORS TO 100, IN OSCOTT WE HAVE 3 COUNCILLORS AND WE ARE NOT SURE HOW MANY PEOPLE THEY REPRESENT.

WE THINK OSCOTT WARD DOES NOT NEED ANY CHANGE, BUT WE HAVE A IDEA OF SOME CHANGE PLEASE FIND MAP WHICH SHOWS OUR IDEA, ABOVE KINGS RD COULD BE TAKEN INTO BANERSGATE WARD.

OSCOTT WARD BOUNDARY IS M6 MOTORWAY, KINGS RD, KINGSTANDING RD HAWTHORN RD COLLEGE, QUESLETT RD THIS IS RECOGNISED BY MOST PEOPLE IN OSCOTT WARD.

THE HOUSES ARE MOSTLY BOUGHT OF A SIMILAR TYPE, 2 OR 3 BED HOMES WITH MANY FLATS ABOVE SHOPS ON SOME RDs.

many groups use 610 community centre where people meet to solve local problems with councillors help, we also have the use of our perry common library a good place to hold meetings, for all ages & groups.

On kingstanding rd we have our police station which is used by our tasking group we meet with other groups, to help police with keeping crime down.

Other places such elim church (on warren rd) the community room is used by many diverse reasons, with a idea of helping local people. north zone neighbourhood watch hold quarterly meetings where security is always top of agenda.

Oscott ward is crossed by a number of bus routes which take locals to the city or out to other interesting places in the country side. because of numbers of pensioners here the bus pass is a very needed item which helps them keep in touch with friends and travel to meetings.

YOURS KENNETH SMITH.
PLEASE CAN YOU RETURN MAP.
Re Boundary review Birmingham:

Thank you for your letter regarding your proposed boundary review.

My group has now had the opportunity to read and discuss your letter and this is our response.

It was generally felt that as we are a none political based group we should inform you we feel this review is politely motivated and there was no need for it. We note Mr Kerslake has now become Sir Kerslake?

There is plenty to identify the Oscott Ward as a community and we believe the name Oscott should be retained. 90% of our member live within the Oscott Ward Boundary and continue to wish to do so.

Oscott's current boundaries are all well known and include large road divisions. The ward is well linked from one side to another and many bus routes go through the ward making travel within the ward easy even for the elderly.

To disturb the current makeup of the ward and the amount of Councillors would disadvantage the elderly residents in this ward.

There were some members however who think that the Beeches estate part of the Perry Barr ward could be extended to come within the boundaries of the Oscott Ward. Also the opposite side of the Hawthorn Road could also be added to the Oscott ward and this would mean all of the Hawthorn Road shopping area would be in Oscott.

All members feel 3 Councillors are needed for the ward and note they have always worked well together on behalf of residents.

Thank you

Maureen Byrne

Chair Oscott Elderly Residents Group
THE OSCOTT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING THE WHOLE OF OSCOTT AND ALL ITS RESIDENTS

WORKING TO HELP ALL OSCOTT RESIDENTS TO GET A FAIR DEAL

TO The Boundary Review Officer (Birmingham)

Thank you for giving the community group I have the privilege to be Chair of, the opportunity to express our views.

Firstly the Oscott Resident Group was set up over 17 years ago to ensure various Council administrations, would not try and break up the Oscott Ward into artificial so called communities. It is in our constitution that we represent the whole of the Oscott Ward and our membership reflects this as is shown by the fact they live throughout the Oscott area. They reject the idea of being divided up into artificial communities. Working together as one is our aim.

We have found over the years that our members and RESIDENTS we represent believe firmly that they are Oscott residents. We have close family links as many residents stay in this area for many years as seen by the elderly age many residents are in this area and their children want to remain here to. It is not uncommon for residents in many roads to have siblings living in the same road in the Oscott area. Much of the housing is of similar style and for example has rear access way, and tree lined roads. We use the same facilities across most of the ward such as doctor’s schools, the Hawthorn shopping are, small groups of shops and the large ASDA.

The Oscott Ward is lucky currently following extensive consultation at the last boundary review, has clear cut boundaries unlike some other wards and people recognise this when joining or communicating with our group. We have good roads linking across the wards and our bus services do likewise.

We do recognise that for reasons beyond our understanding the Boundary Commission now may wish to alter the boundaries across Birmingham, but possible more importantly to us the shape of the Oscott Ward,( however unpopular that may be locally).

Only with this in mind, reluctantly, our suggestion would be if this has to be the case, is that the Kings Road (Queslett Road to the Kingstanding Circle) could become an ideal boundary as it is a dual carriage way. /The residents who live on the Bandywood Estate (formally mainly council house stock but now in a lot of cases privately owned or rented) at the top of the ward (northern edge) could become linked with the top edge across the Kingstanding Circle with part of current Kingstanding ward to make up a single seat ward?. The estate has similar housing to much of the Kingstanding Ward and was once linked to what is now the Kingstanding ward (Re the Endhill Road/ Rough area.)
The remainder of the Oscott ward below the Kings Road, given our view that it is one community with similar needs and aspirations could become given an approximate population of 16 thousand a 2 seat ward enabling councillors to work together for the local residents regardless of political party.

We would also suggest granting Sutton Coldfield independence from the Birmingham City Council which would automatically reduce the number of Birmingham Councillors by 12. This would also give them the self-determination they seem to want.

Thank you

Nigel Quinn

Chair ORA

The ORA is a voluntary organisation dedicated to improving the lot of Oscott residents where ever they live and to cutting bureaucracy to achieve that aim. DON'T BE BULLIED BY BIG BROTHER!

If you would like to get involved please ring [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]
Mr. Mark Pascoe  
Review Officer (Birmingham)  
Local Government Boundary Commission  
14th Floor Millbank Tower  
Millbank, London SWIP 4HQ

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the above Association I wish to thank you for inviting us to participate in the forthcoming re-arranging of Council Boundaries.

Our Association was formed as a result of the street parties held in 1953 to celebrate the Queen’s Coronation. In 2003 we were awarded the Queen’s Jubilee Award for Services to the Community. At present we have 500 registered houses as members. Numbers have dropped in recent years owing to changes in house occupancy. We are run completely by volunteers. We have a Committee of 12 persons and 24 Road Reps, who deliver our magazine to members each month. (Copy enclosed for your perusal) We have no Community Centre - local residents have organised an Art Group, Friends of Perry Hall Park and a Craft Club to encourage people to come out and meet other residents. We do have several Associated members from Great Barr and Beeches Estate who come on our Coach Trips and attend functions in our area. Perry Beeches use the library which is in our area and Perry Barr use the Swimming Baths in their area.

A new Medical Centre was opened in 2011, which is an amalgamation of 3 surgeries. One in Perry Barr, one in Great Barr and one in Beeches Estate. We have managed to get them to install a Community Noticeboard where organisations can advertise any functions they are organising.

We are represented on the Council Ward Advisory Board. Perry Beeches is also represented.

We do not have any connection with Witton, Aston or Yew Tree.

Many of our children have to attend Perry Beeches School or Great Barr School, as we do not have Secondary Education Schools in our area.

We would like to see our Boundary as follows. One-Stop Shopping Centre up Aldridge Road up to the Sandwell Boundary then down Old Walsall Road and then follow the Railway Line back to One-Stop.

I hope some of this information will be of help to you when final decisions are made.

Yours faithfully,

Winners of The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award 2003
2015

PERRY HALL
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1953

MONTHLY MAGAZINE
A NON-POLITICAL AND NON-SECTARIAN BODY

AUGUST
**Birmingham District**

**Personal Details:**

**Name:** Dal Singh Dhesy  
**E-mail:** [Redacted]  
**Postcode:** [Redacted]  
**Organisation Name:** Sikh Community & Youth Service UK

**Comment text:**

Electoral Review of Birmingham 1. We would strongly propose that there should be one Councillor per ward and this will be sufficient, as one MP is able to manage a whole constituency and we feel that one Councillor will be able to manage a Ward and this will also save the taxpayer a lot of money. 2. Each constituency should consist of only 2 or 3 wards, where necessary the wards should be made larger. 3. If any particular councillor or Mayor is not doing their role effectively then there should be an option for constituents to request that Councillor or Mayor to be replaced. 4. There should be an elected Mayor for the City of Birmingham, not as current where they are appointed. 5. This proposal will save the City of Birmingham a lot of tax payers money and will ensure that the Councillors have sufficient work.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
Birmingham District

Personal Details:

Name: Mohammed Ashraf
E-mail: [Redacted]
Postcode: [Redacted]
Organisation Name: Sparkbrook CIC

Comment text:

This is a submission based upon local consultation with local residents – there are three neighbourhood Forums that have very similar profiles in demographics and identity. As the map shows it has a voter population of over 24,000 people. There are natural communities contained within the boundary that are unique and distinct for the area and has over 200 different communities living together; there are local retail centres that give the place a cultural identity focus on textile and food. The issues facing local residents are the same with common social barrier that prevent people from accessing and gaining opportunities The creation of this 3-member ward or 3-single member wards will consolidate three neighbourhoods to act as a single voice for the area as a whole. Each single member ward contains between 8,000 - 8,500 voter population. The three neighbourhood are Sparkbrook Central, Sparkhill Central and Sparkhill North each having its geographical independence but strengthened by uniting these three areas as a natural ward. I hope that the commission sees favourably this outline boundary and considers this as part of the future design for a ward to be part of the new structures for Birmingham

Uploaded Documents:

Download
We are the Still Waters Community in Harborne, incorporating Wood Lane, Elm Tree Road, Woodville Road, the western end of Wentworth Road, and adjacent parts of Court Oak Road. The area is mainly residential but surrounds the Queen Alexandra College campus and includes various associated organisations and others in the third sector, as well as the Queen Mother Gardens sheltered housing scheme. Our name derives from the fact that Wood Lane was originally Still Waters Lane. Our mission is to share local news, and discuss local issues with local residents. We have been in existence for about eighteen months and hold regular quarterly meetings to which all residents are invited.

Residents are concerned that Birmingham City Council now classes our area as Quinton - this has been the case since the last time that the ward boundaries were altered, we believe in about 2002. In canvassing opinion for this submission it was apparent that many residents had no idea that the City Council now classes us as Quinton. In all other respects the area covered by our group is in Harborne and always has been - one resident was born in Wood Lane over 80 years ago and there are many other people who have lived in the roads for over 40 years: all consider themselves Harbornites.

We acknowledge that communities change over time and also that perceptions can vary between individuals as to the nature of their ties; however, we submit that the community to which we belong is as strongly part of Harborne now as it ever was and nothing has happened recently to change that.

We welcome the opportunity you give us to "have our say on new council and ward boundaries". We note that the Commission aims to ensure that the new council wards reflect, as far as possible, the interests and identities of communities across Birmingham. We are also pleased that you will take into account local community identities.

We have spoken to local residents in our area and know that the majority feel that our local community is Harborne. As mentioned above some had no idea that the Council now lists this as Quinton.

1. Our postal address and post code are Harborne "B17, Harborne, Birmingham" - Wikipedia.
2. Our only shopping centre is Harborne High Street.
3. For many, if not most, of our Christians, our parishes are Harborne.
4. For most of our children, our local schools are Harborne.
5. The Queen Alexandra College describe themselves as being in Harborne.
6. The Headquarters of the Harborne Parish Lands Charity is in Wood Lane.
7. Our telephone code is 0121 427 (HAR) xxxx – Harborne.
8. Many of us belong to and are active in the Harborne Society.
9. Look up Harborne on Google and Wikipedia – the lists include a number of “Quinton” establishments (such as the Anglican church) as in Harborne, while the only map shows this area as Harborne.
10. Estate agents refer to the roads we represent as being in Harborne – for instance, Zoopla has "House prices in Wood Lane, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9AY".
11. Businesses in our area describe themselves as being in Harborne, for instance the Harborne Chiropractic Clinic.

In short, we belong to Harborne – Harborne’s Village atmosphere is an important part of living here and we feel part of that wider community. We feel that our elected representative should be representing our interests as members of the "local community of Harborne" in which we reside and not the one up the road!

In response to the specific points in your News Release of 21st July:

- We believe that the ward boundary between Quinton and Harborne should be returned to the pre-2002 situation so that our part of Harborne is recognised as such for local government purposes as well as all others.
- As is, we hope, apparent from what has been said above, we identify our local community as Harborne - which is where we live.
- Our local facilities, shopping centres, banks, farmers market (and so on) are in Harborne as are leisure facilities such as the swimming pool and fitness centre.

If you would like any further information about our organisation or about what we set out above, please contact our Chairman whose details appear above.

David Jeffery - Wood Lane
Eric Deeson - Woodville Road
Lincoln Boffey - Wentworth Road
Lillian Hands - Elm Tree Road
Christine Braithwaite - Wood Lane
Peter Worrall - Wood Lane

The steering group of the Still Waters Community – 21st September 2015
Birmingham District

Personal Details:

Name: Sandra Cooper
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name: Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

Comment text:

The question of Ward boundaries was discussed at a recent meeting of Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum. There was general agreement that this was an opportunity to restore Stirchley to the position it previously held when it was a well-recognised area rather than being a small part in the corner of a larger Ward. This could be achieved by being a single Councillor Ward consisting of the following electoral areas; CFH, CFK, CFI, CFJ and incorporating CYG and a small part of CYI. This would mean that the boundaries would be defined by the canal from the southern junction with Pershore Road at Breedon up to Umberslade Road, along Umberslade Road to Warwards Lane, following Warwards Lane to St Stevens Road to the Dogpool junction with Pershore Road and everything to south and east of Dads Lane. Then following the existing Bournville ward boundary back to Pershore Road at the Breedon. This would make a reasonable sized Ward using canal and road boundaries with the well known, well established area of Stirchley with a number of community facilities such as a public library and churches at its centre.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Birmingham District

Personal Details:

Name: Ian Edwards
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: St. Paul's Community Development Trust

Feature Annotations

Map Features:

Annotation 1: Proposed corner of Balsall Heath
Annotation 2: Proposed corner of Balsall Heath
Annotation 3: Proposed corner of Balsall Heath
Annotation 4: Proposed corner of Balsall Heath

Comment text:

St. Paul's Community Development Trust proposes the creation of a one Councillor Ward called Balsall Heath with a boundary based upon locally recognised roads (marked on the attached map). Currently Balsall Heath is part of the Sparkbrook Ward. Anecdotal evidence points to residents feeling that they live in either Balsall Heath or Sparkbrook, depending upon which side of the Stoney Lane border they live. There is very little contact between the areas; each has its own Forum, transport links and facilities. There are a significant number of active residents, voluntary & community groups and charities that identify with and primarily serve Balsall Heath. For example: • Balsall Heath is Our Planet aims to minimise Balsall Heath's impact on the local environment. • Balsall Heath Forum relates to residents, groups, schools, organisations and faith institutions within the boundary of the attached map and represents the area in dealings with local and central government, such as developing the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan. • Several residents' associations represent their part of the area and receive support from Balsall Heath Forum. • Balsall Heath Local History Society is a very active local group that promotes the history of the area and provides services to schools and other groups interested in learning about that history. • St. Paul's Community Development Trust, one of the area's largest employers states that its mission is to 'To work for and with the community in Balsall Heath and nearby areas to help secure better opportunities and quality of life for all.' It does this through the provision of services for children, young people and families (such as nursery education, play schemes, support for parents and children under four through the Balsall Heath Children's Centre). The Trust further provides education, training, employment and volunteering opportunities for local people. • When asked, residents will say that they live in Balsall Heath, not Sparkbrook. Many of the groups in Balsall Heath will collaborate where it is desirable for the interests of Balsall Heath. For example: • Four groups came together to create Balsall Heath is Our Planet; residents created a street watch group to drive criminal activity out of the area. • St. Paul's Community Development Trust was created from a merger of three existing groups working in the area. • St. Paul's and the Jericho Foundation worked together to refurbish a disused church hall to create a hub to develop, promote and support local young people in starting up social enterprise businesses. The Balsall Heath Forum has widely consulted on and developed a Neighbourhood Plan, which is the subject of a referendum on 8th October. Balsall Heath was one of the first ten areas in the country selected to develop such a plan. It is the first urban area to take its plan through to a referendum. It is the first plan to be developed by a non-statutory authority. The Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan sets out a planning framework for Balsall Heath for the next 17 years. Research undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan shows that people in Balsall Heath consider Ladywood Rd, Moseley Rd and Edmond Rd as the important local centres of the area. The plan can be viewed at www.balsallheathforum.info. The number 50 bus route (the busiest in Europe) runs through the centre of Balsall Heath. Balsall Heath has its own library and library services on the Moseley Road and currently its own swimming baths. Balsall Heath has its own parks and green spaces. Balsall Heath has a local, national and international reputation as an area that embodies and promotes the values of the 'Big Society'. This is something for which the area has been known for decades. It has been visited by press, politicians of all parties and academics. There are many community events throughout the year in Balsall Heath, but the biggest is the annual Balsall Heath Carnival which sets out to celebrate all that is good about the area. Now in its 39th year, one of the most popular exhibits is old Carnival photos where generations of families will show their children and grandchildren photos of themselves when they were young and taking part in Carnivals gone by. Although Moseley Road swimming baths are under threat of closure, a working group made up of several organisations and individuals from Balsall Heath is collaborating with Historic England in an attempt to keep the baths open. There is a long standing Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Strategic Partnership (NSP) in the area. It is made up of police, fire, city housing, other council offices, representatives of housing associations and voluntary groups. The NSP sets out to tackle issues that affect the area in a strategic and joined up manner. Although the Edgbaston Cricket ground does not currently lie in Balsall Heath, many residents believe that it should as its activities have a significant effect on local residents, especially on match days.
Local Government Boundary Commission for England,
14th. Floor,
Millbank Tower,
Millbank,
LONDON, SW1P 4QP

6th. October, 2015

Dear Sirs,


At a full Committee meeting of the Tudor Hill Area Residents Association, we discussed the proposals put forward by our three councillors, together with a map of their proposed new Trinity Ward within the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield.

We were all quite content with these proposals appertaining to our area and believe they have correctly safeguarded the interest of our members and the electorate.

Will you kindly feed our views into the review structure. Should you have any questions or wish for further clarification then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

David Roy,
Chairman of the Tudor Hill Area Residents Association.
Dear Commissioner,

I have been informed that a meeting took place on the evening of the 28th September, this being run by the Banners Gate Neighbourhood Forum. The objective of the meeting was to discuss and vote on the forthcoming boundary changes and the nature of the best pattern for the wards.

It seems that someone at the meeting stated that the WRA had agreed as part of a collective of forums/Associations to the proposal that the Banners Gate forum had put forward to the boundary commission.

The true facts are:

- The WRA have not been consulted on the detail of these proposals and we do not support them.
- The WRA have been misrepresented in comments/submissions made by the Banners Gate Neighbourhood Forum to the commissioner.
- The BGNF at best, represent a small proportion of the Sutton Coldfield residents and have no authority to speak for most residents and that includes Walmley residents.
- The BGNF submission regarding new ward boundaries seems to have been seriously politicised.

In summary the BGNF are perfectly entitled to present their views (and the political motivations behind them) but they must not be allowed to pretend that they represent the views of a significant number of Sutton Coldfield residents – they have not consulted widely.

We are a non-political organisation, where we endeavour to ensure that our members are given an informed and balanced view of any issues that may impact on them. We would not force our own personal views on our membership which I feel is the case of the BGNF approach.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Storer
Walmley Residents Association (WRA)
Dear Sir or Madam

Response from West Midlands Fire Service Birmingham City Council Electoral Review

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to be consulted upon proposals for change in respect of Birmingham City Council’s electoral arrangements.

Our response to consultation is contained below.

In respect of the pattern of wards, West Midlands Fire Service agrees that any solution should be based and balanced upon the three criteria of

- electoral equality;
- the pattern of the wards should as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities; and
- that electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

The naming of local wards should be a matter for local communities. In the event of the redesign of wards involving the amalgamation of existing wards, we would request that in determining a name relevant to local people that an amalgamation of the current wards names are considered. For example, should Erdington and Stockland Green wards be combined the name of the new ward could be Erdington and Stockland Green ward. This continuity in naming will limit the disruptive impact of any proposed name change upon West Midlands Fire Service and the delivery of our services to our Birmingham communities.

Other than above, West Midlands Fire Service is confident that any changes necessitated by this electoral review will not unduly or adversely impact upon the services it delivers or its local partnership arrangements.

Yours faithfully

[Name]
Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Proposed New Boundaries for Wylde Green.

The Wylde Green Neighbourhood Forum is the group of local residents supporting the local community in the Wylde Green area of Sutton Coldfield. We are very active in a range of issues such as addressing anti social behaviour, crime, litter and general pride and aesthetics for the area. We hold several Public Meetings in our Community Hall per year with speakers of local interest; these meetings are always well attended. More details on our website, www.wyldegreen.com

New Boundary Defined. (See attached map of existing and proposed extended boundary)

- Proposed border to the South
  This will be the existing southern boundary of Wylde Green/ Sutton Coldfield.
- Proposed border to the West
  The western border currently runs partly along the railway line and partly along the Boulevard. We wish to extend the border further north along the railway line up to Jockey Road with a slight easterly bend so that it meets the junction of Goldieslie Road and Jockey Road. From here it passes easterly along the centre of Jockey Road to the northern corner of Pilkington Avenue and Birmingham Road.
  A major advantage of this is that Wylde Green Station would be in and serve the proposed Wylde Green area. Its current situation outside Wylde Green is known to be confusing to visitors.
- Proposed North-East and East border.
  The border continues along both sides of Pilkington Avenue to its junction with Maney Hill Road. It continues in a southerly direction along both sides of the bottom section of Maney Hill Road as far as Wylde Green Road. It then continues along both sides of Wylde Green Road as far as the railway line next to East View Road. From here it follows the existing eastern boundary i.e. behind Bishop Walsh School and south along Plants Brook Stream, over Penns Lane to meet the southern boundary at the Sports Ground. Making the upper section of Wylde Green Road part of Wylde Green again makes sense; the lower portion beyond New Hall Valley Country Park has a closer link with Walmley.

Numbers of electorate in proposed new area of Wylde Green.
From the figures available we estimate that the area will be approaching the required number of electorate for a one councillor region. Currently there are proposals for a housing development on the golf course on our eastern side which would increase this number as would, if considered desirable, the inclusion of that part of Maney area bounded by Holland Road, Coles Lane, East View Road and our proposed north-east boundary. This would create another natural boundary to the Wylde Green area.

Interests and identities of the local community, Wylde Green.
- The proposed boundary would address the anomaly that currently exists in that two land marks both have Wylde Green in their title but are not in Wylde Green i.e. Wylde Green Station and Wylde Green Road.
- The central spine of the Wylde Green area is the main Birmingham Road (A5127) which runs parallel to the railway line, both providing excellent transport links to Sutton Town going through our proposed extended boundary.
• The residents in the proposed extended northerly boundary are closely enough linked to use the facilities and identify with Wylde Green. We know from friends in the area that many of these residents already identify with Wylde Green and use their many facilities.

• Wylde Green has a well developed shopping and commercial area which attracts residents from the length of A5127 and to the west and east of the new boundary outlined. It has an infra structure which would cope adequately with the proposed extended region i.e. good parking facilities which are free in the shopping area and also has a range of local and national outlets and commercial businesses. All this makes the area a popular place for residents and a vibrant community centre.

• Amenities accessible to the proposed extended boundary area are already currently used by many of the residents from this region and include health centres, dentists, chiropodists, hair dressers, dry cleaners, launderette, banks, restaurants, public houses, schools, nurseries, residential developments for the elderly and churches of a range of denominations. We also have an excellent community hall and will have a second railway station.

Identifiable boundaries.

• The railway line creates a natural boundary to the west.

• To the east is New Hall Valley Country Park and the Plants Brook Stream.

• The south border displays a sign depicting the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield which proudly identifies the area.

Summary
It is our belief that the present boundaries of Wylde Green represent a vibrant community with several natural boundaries and that our proposals would not compromise this. Residents in the extended region would still be close enough to benefit from the range of amenities that Wylde Green can offer and be close enough to identify with and feel part of its community due to the excellent transport links that run through the centre of the region. The attached map will make this clear.
Wylde Green Neighbourhood Forum

PROPOSED NEW BOUNDARY FOR THE WYLDE GREEN AREA

KEY

Existing boundary

Proposed new boundary

Possible inclusion of part of Maney