Dear Commissioner,

I am extremely concerned that any information from tonight's meeting of the supposedly apolitical Banners Gate Neighbourhood Forum is one sided, as can be seen from the Labour leaflet attached to this email. The only information given to the residents who turned up was the Labour Party plan - myself and my Conservative colleague arrived at this 'apolitical' meeting with our plan, only to find the Labour plan copied out and given to all attendees.

When we queried the process, we were informed by the Chair of the meeting that we could have organised 'our own Public meeting' - when this was meant to be an 'apolitical' Neighbourhood Forum. Our plan was thus not shown to the residents and thus any 'decision' from this meeting must, I respectfully suggest, be excluded from consideration, as the residents were not presented with a balanced view.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Dr Andrew Hardie (Vesey Ward)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Andrew Hardie
Sent: 28 September 2015 23:43
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: Birmingham review

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Yours sincerely,

Councillor Dr Andrew Hardie (Vesey Ward)
THE EXISTING SUTTON VESSEY WARD

Let's keep it as close as possible to the way it is now!

Don't leave Banners Gate out on a limb!
Community Action
Banners Gate Special

Councillor Rob Pocock, Vesey Ward

Banners Gate boundaries battle!

Our battling community leader Rob Pocock is urging all residents to attend Monday night’s meeting of the independent Banners Gate Neighbourhood Forum.

- The meeting is discussing the vital question of preserving the existing Electoral Boundary between the Sutton Coldfield side of Banners Gate, and the Birmingham side. The Forum will be sending off its response the following day.

Monday 28th September, 7.30pm, Banners Gate J&I School

Rob warned months ago, that the national government were ordering the Boundary Commission to re-draw the map of individual electoral Wards across the whole of Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield. Many thanks to everyone who signed Rob’s petition last month.

Rob has called for all residents to work together, whatever their party politics, to fight to retain the existing boundary. We also need to retain the unity of as much of the whole existing Sutton Vesey Ward as possible!

The current boundary is on the map overleaf. The trouble is, that the Boundary Commission have imposed ‘quota’ rules that mean the numbers of Councillors will be cut down, and Wards will be smaller.

But it’s vital to keep the Banners Gate area firmly linked into the heart of Sutton Coldfield. The existing Ward links Banners Gate across to areas like Boldmere and Wylde Green. Let’s fight to keep as much of the existing Ward united together, as possible!

Don’t let them leave Banners Gate out on a limb!

***STOP PRESS - Rob wins backing of Labour’s city leadership to retain the existing Sutton Boundary!

It was announced yesterday that the Birmingham’s Labour leadership will firmly support keeping the existing Boundary between Sutton Coldfield and Birmingham. Rob fought for us all the way with this - it just shows the benefits of having a Labour voice in Sutton Coldfield after all these years!