

Manchester District

Personal Details:

Name: Katharine Barram

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Organisation Name: Not applicable.

Comment text:

I support the proposed changes for the Whalley Range and surrounding wards. Please see the attached PDF document for further comments.

Uploaded Documents:

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Having read both:
“Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Manchester City Council Electoral review November 2016”
and
“Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England
2016 review of Manchester
Alternative warding proposal relating
MANLEY PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD
Whalley Range
Manchester
24 September 2016



I would like to comment on the following extract of the draft recommendations:

Chorlton, Chorlton Park and Whalley Range

“45 In addition to the Council’s submission we received 13 submissions that referred to these areas. The majority of these submissions were responses to the Council’s proposed scheme which had been shared publicly. These submissions objected to the Council’s proposed boundaries. One submission, from the Community on Solid Ground (CSG) group proposed a revised warding pattern for the three wards.

46 We considered both submissions and note that both provide good electoral equality for the area. Upon visiting the area, we concluded that the warding pattern put forward by the CSG group better reflected our statutory criteria of community identity.

47 Therefore, our draft recommendations for these wards are based on the submission received from the CSG group.”

I have been a resident of the Whalley Range area since July 2014. I have found that the voting boundaries for our Member of Parliament did not resonate with my sense of local identity; having formerly been resident in both Fallowfield and Rusholme, I found it strange to be represented by the same Member of Parliament for areas that appeared to me to have distinct identities, communities and needs. I mention this, as it is relevant for the criteria used in the LGBCE’s decision-making for Council boundaries.

I was reassured to read in the LGBCE Guidance information that “Ward patterns should – as far as possible – reflect community interests and identities and boundaries should be identifiable.”

I impressed with the submission from Community on Solid Ground (CSG). In addition to being well-researched and argued, and clearly presented, it is coherent with my developing sense of the wider community of Whalley Range. I am pleased to see that the LGBCE recognised the merit of the CSG proposal and I would like to lend my support to the draft recommendations that are based on the submission from the CSG group.