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1st July 2015

**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England,
Millbank Tower.**

Dear Commission,

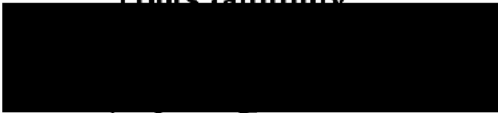
I write as chairman of the Christ's Pieces Residents' Association on behalf of at least the committee members to say that you have been much misled in agreeing to the proposal to create two new wards in the centre of Cambridge to be called St Matthew's and St Paul's. If you proceed, you will be in contradiction of the second purpose of your work, which is to reflect community identity.

Both of the two long-existing wards in the area, Market and Petersfield, are internally coherent, Petersfield perhaps even more than Market, because Petersfield is united by Mill Road. I say that in contradiction of what is asserted in the 'city-wide' proposals. Mill Road has a famous sense of community, expressed in the now annual Mill Road Fair or Fête; it is a road with many small shops either side whose trading has been jealously protected by the City Council against attempts by Tesco to seize it for themselves. The observation that the road divides two residents' associations is of no worth: Burleigh Street in Market ward divides this residents' association from that of Brunswick and North Kite, but that is no more than a demarcation to give us manageable areas; we cooperate on a variety of issues with no sense of division.

By contrast East Road is a divider. It is a busy bus route difficult to cross, and the buildings which edge it are many of them institutional; there are very few houses, and the communities behind East Road look inwards away from it and not across it. There is one pedestrian crossing giving access from the east side to the Grafton Centre, and that is its main function. The continuation of East Road to its south west is formed by Gonville Place, a road with even less housing fronting it and also a busy bus route; the divide here is thus natural and prolonged. Though Christ's Pieces Residents' Association area does not include Parker's Piece, we have been consulted about it from time to time and we have considered adopting it, together with the houses of Park Terrace and Regent's Terrace, but we held back from over-extending ourselves. I mention this to show that our sense of community is on quite a different axis from that asserted in the city-wide proposals.

Further: the distinction you imply between the 'city-wide' proposals and those of 'a political group' is unreal. Both sets of proposals are those of political groups, one the Labour party and the other the Liberal Democrats. You have adopted the one set too easily: there is much that is tendentious and even erroneous in the reasoning offered in the city-wide proposals. There is error, for instance, in what is said about primary school catchment areas in Market ward: I write as a governor of Park Street Primary school until recently who chaired its Admissions Committee. We suggest that you re-examine the whole matter and leave Market ward and Petersfield ward substantially as they are. Perhaps you should consult such bodies as residents' associations and school governing bodies amongst others.

Yours faithfully



Anthony Bowen