

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 April 2017 23:06
To: reviews
Subject: FAO: Review Officer (Manchester)

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Dear Sir or Madam

Electoral review of Manchester: Draft recommendations

Re: proposed changes of West Didsbury/Old Moat Boundary

I have only discovered today, 4 April 2017, that there had been a consultation period concerning proposed council boundary changes. I now know that the deadline for representations closed on 23 January (or 25 January for Manchester City Council to respond) and I am very disappointed in the lack of publicity about this. I see from the documents available that there were only 16 submissions to this consultation. This would indicate that out of an electoral constitution of some 400,000 in Manchester this is a tiny proportion and does not suggest a very robust democratic process.

I would therefore like the Review Officer to please consider this late representation for a specific part of the proposed changes.

I live in [REDACTED], currently in the ward of West Didsbury. This area of housing, businesses, pubs (The Old House at Home) and restaurants (Indique) identifies very strongly with West Didsbury and not Old Moat. They are of a very similar character as to the housing stock and businesses along Burton Road to the south, in Didsbury West.

Old Moat is a distinctive and defined area of its own and although redrawing the border along the Metro tram line south of Central Road may have some geographic logic that logic suddenly stops at Palatine Road where the border goes north to Oak Road then east.

A more logical border between Old Moat and the new Didsbury West would appear to be Burton Road north to the junction of Everett Road to Palatine Road. The border can then go south along Palatine Road to Oak Road and East as per the proposal. The area west of Burton Road and North of the Tram line should be Old Moat with the area East of Burton Road (as above) being Didsbury West. Certainly this area is considered to be West Didsbury by all the locals. The Goulden Road Post Office address is also West Didsbury.

The type of property and residents of this area are far more bound up, and in common, with the rest of Didsbury West than they are with Old Moat. Therefore, the council representation of these residents is likely to be more aligned with the Didsbury West councillors than the Old Moat councillors.

I see that there has been one other submission from a resident of Central Road who has also requested that Central Road remains with Didsbury West and is not moved into Old Moat.

These streets, as proposed above, have no affinity to Old Moat, are unlikely to be represented by the councillors of Old Moat and are at risk of falling into an unrepresented 'no man's land'. The two areas are like chalk and cheese.

I trust that you will be able to consider this late representation with your complete attention.

Kind regards

David Jennings