

Carlsson-Hyslop, Dan

From: LINDA WOODINGS <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 22 January 2018 23:26
To: reviews
Subject: Review officer (Nottingham) Submission for Nottingham ward boundary changes

Dear Sir/Madam

I was advised last week that the consultation for the Nottingham ward boundary change proposals had been extended to Tuesday the 23rd of January 2018 at 9am in the morning.

I'm afraid I cannot find the link for this, therefore I am sending my submission to this email address instead.

Kind regards

Linda Woodings
Councillor for Basford

Submission for Nottingham Ward Boundary changes in relation to Basford ward

I am pleased that the proposals almost mirror the current ward boundary for Basford, except for the few properties on Charlesworth Avenue and Radford Road.

I notice you have asked for more evidence of the links between the communities on both sides of the river/tram-line/train tracks.

Historically Basford was formed as a village and is listed in the Domesday survey of 1086. At the time it was separate from Nottingham and a stop-off point for day-trippers travelling to Mansfield. It was separate from Nottingham at the time. People moved to Basford because there were three fords across the River Leen, each one at a different level, therefore one crossing would always be open if the water level of the Leen was high.

The village of Basford first formed with houses predominantly on the west side of the river near the 12th century church of St Leodigarius (sited at the highest crossing point of the river). On the other side of the Ford lived agricultural workers who crossed regularly to use the church. There has been a pub on the site of the Fox and Crown (formerly the Bowling Green) since the 17th Century. The cellar was used as the local gaol (a debtors prison). From the 18th Century the village of Basford developed surrounding both sides of the River Leen (and later the train tracks) because of the companies set up for the new bleaching and dyeing industry, associated with textile, clothing and lace manufacture.

Because of the numbers of families working in this industry several Methodist churches set up in the village with their associated schools. These buildings still remain on both sides of the River.

Even to this current day there is a strong sense of a 'Basford' community, joined, rather than separated, by the River Leen and the tram/train tracks. The high wall alongside Vernon Road, separating it from the train tracks, was only built because, at the time, there were still horses using Vernon road, and the trains startled them.

Basford Hall College on Nuthall Road is used by families across Basford and Basford Library is in the centre of the ward and is a treasured community asset.

Unfortunately the river and tram stops still attract incidents of noise, maintenance, and anti-social behaviour issues (such as fly-tipping, littering, wildlife protection, path maintenance). There are issues of tree/shrub maintenance along both sides of the river, but especially around where the tram lines divide at Highbury Vale tram stop, and around the Wilkinson Street tram stop with its adjacent green area of wildlife. These issues occur along both sides of the River Leen and are better dealt with by being encompassed within the same ward area so that a clear and effective approach can be taken to solutions (including sourcing the funding of these solutions).

There are also recurrent issues with commuters parking for the day near each of the five tram stops in the ward. Once again, solutions to these are better found by them being dealt with holistically by ward councillors who have an accountability to residents on all sides of the tram stops. Solutions that do not simply move the problem somewhere else.

There are strong community links between all parts of the current ward centred on our parks and green areas (Heathfield, Whitemoor, Highbury Vale, Stockhill and Vernon), our community centres, our schools and Basford Hall College and Basford Library.

There are numerous traffic issues thrown up by the Basford Crossings at David's Lane, where the road crosses the tram/train tracks to join Arnold Road. This is at the centre of Basford ward. There are parking problems, queuing traffic on both sides, rat runs caused by drivers taking short-cuts and speeding along these short-cuts. Once again these issues are better addressed as a whole by being within the same warded area, rather than finding a solution that shunts these issues elsewhere.

There are ongoing issues with the Colson Transport waste site, on Bulwell Lane, in the middle of the current Basford ward. The site creates dirt and dust, bad smells, noise and its lorries nuisance park on both sides of the tram tracks, blocking traffic, damaging the kerbs and blocking the drains due to uncovered loads and bad driving. Again this is an issue central to Basford ward, which affects people on both sides of the tram stop and those who travel past. A co-ordinated approach by Basford councillors has proved extremely effective in improving the management of the site and the effects felt by people living in the surrounding area. The EA are now prosecuting both the company and its director. This has only been possible because of the efforts of Basford councillors working with residents on all sides, who live near, or travel regularly past, the site.

I am pleased that the LGBCE has proposed the retention of Basford as a three member ward; I have found this helps to give a seamless service to all residents living in Basford. It means I can go on holiday safe in the knowledge that my colleagues can pick up any issues. But in addition to this there are several private apartment blocks in Basford where flats have only stairs and there's no lift available. E.g. The Edge building on Bar Lane, and the Wedge apartments on the corner of Nottingham Road. If these were placed in a single member ward, were that individual to develop mobility issues, it would be impossible to visit residents, or inspect reported problems in these buildings. Similarly there are two-storey sheltered housing properties at Fenton Court, Kersall Court, Pear Tree Court and Commodore Court. Recently the lift broke in Fenton Court. Had I been unable to climb the stairs I would have been unable to visit the people who live upstairs. It is also my experience that some women residents would much rather discuss their issues with another woman. A three member ward means that a woman councillor is much more likely to be available. Therefore the suggestion that Basford remains a three-member ward is very welcome and I'm pleased that this means that there will always be diversity of councillors to serve residents.

Linda Woodings, Councillor for Basford, [REDACTED]

