

# Lenton Drives & Neighbours Residents' Association

Secretary: [REDACTED]

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Date: 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Review Officer Nottingham  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor Millbank Tower  
London  
SW1P 4QP

Dear Nottingham Review Officer

As a long-standing resident of Nottingham City and secretary of a residents' association, I would like to submit a proposal for the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for their consideration of Nottingham City ward boundary arrangements. I have met with numerous members of our residents' association and can confirm that we are agreed on the following recommendations.

We have comments to make about the current wards Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey, Wollaton West, Dunkirk and Lenton, and Radford and Park.

Your proposal to join Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey with Dunkirk and Lenton makes no sense and seems to have been purely to join all areas with any students together regardless of their community identities and good governance. Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey (WELA) is a firmly suburban area with access to open green spaces, good schools and successful local shopping areas. The ward shares most similarities with Wollaton West and in fact, all the school children of secondary age are in the catchment area for Fernwood School on Goodwood Road, Wollaton.

The residential area of Lenton Abbey (named after a farm that was developed into residential housing in the 1920s and nothing to do with Lenton Priory which is over 2 miles away) is a few meters from the residential area of Wollaton West on Wollaton Vale and these communities share the same public house and local shops on Priory Island.

The vast majority (excepting a handful of houses in Wollaton Village) in WELA and Wollaton West were constructed post 1920. All the areas share Wollaton Park as their prized local attraction and there are entrances to the Park from all 4 sides (A52/Lenton Abbey, Parkside Road/Wollaton West, Wollaton Road/Wollaton West and Sutton Passeys/Wollaton Park). The attraction of living close to Wollaton Park and its identity with all the areas is enormous. As well as a private, well-regarded golf club, it is an Elizabethan Hall, with deer park and landscaped lake. The two wards are within the same Nottingham City Council Area 7 Committee where similar issues are discussed with councillors, the public and community representatives. It makes sense to us to retain this structure.

In respect of your proposals for Radford and Park Ward we have the following comments: Whilst we agree that Radford should be a 2-member ward to ensure effective and efficient local government, the Park Estate is not best served by a single-member ward. It has close connections with Lenton and its community and it makes complete sense to combine these



areas. It would also stop the Park Estate being reliant on a single member councillor which can lead to problems when councillors are ill or on holiday.

The two areas of Park Estate and Dunkirk/Lenton both have strong residents' associations (The Nottingham Park Residents Association [www.parknews.co.uk](http://www.parknews.co.uk)) and the Lenton Drives and Neighbours Residents' Association. The two associations share information and write articles for each other's publications. Both residents' associations take part in the same charity fundraising for the Lenton Centre, a volunteer-run community and leisure/swimming centre. Children who live in the Park Estate and who attend state school will generally attend Edna G Olds Academy in Lenton or Dunkirk Primary in Dunkirk.

There are two public rights of way linking the Park Estate with Lenton. The two areas also share the same concerns about planning and how to resist conversion of family houses into houses of multiple occupation (HMO) and how to attract as many non-transient residents to live in the area so a more sustainable community can be achieved. Since around 2000, both communities have been substantially altered by the boom in private rented accommodation. The Park Estate is estimated to have at least one third of properties privately rented, whilst Dunkirk and Lenton is around 50%. The transience of populations in private rented accommodation undermines the cohesion and sustainability of the communities and should be addressed by joint measures.

The two communities also share night-time noise concerns caused by house parties in converted HMOs. The past 2 years has seen combined campaigning by both communities to ask for more resources to fight noise and ASB at night-time. Both communities are concerned with the licensing of sales of alcohol which can affect ASB issues.

The communities also have conservation areas in common. The Park Estate is one large conservation area which was designated in 1987 whilst Lenton contains 2 conservation areas: New Lenton (designated 1976) and Old Lenton (designated 1978). The Park Estate houses a number of residents who take an active part in campaigning for the conservation area to be maintained as agreed and these residents could be helpful in supporting the Lenton Conservation areas which have been more undermined and need a more active voice to support them.

Details of the conservation areas can be found at <https://nottinghaminsight.org.uk/f/96135>.

Lenton is an historic community dating back to before the establishment of Lenton Priory by the Cluniac order of monks in 1108. The area still contains a number of buildings built between the 17<sup>th</sup> Century to the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The 19<sup>th</sup> Century saw much of the house building in the Park Estate and Lenton and Dunkirk take place. The first house in the Park Estate was constructed in 1827.

As well as having similarly dated housing and styles (albeit Lenton/Dunkirk is on a much less grander scale), the areas also share in common mature street trees which as well as presenting much benefit need careful succession planning.

The Park Estate also contains properties at its South West boundary that falls within Dunkirk and Lenton ward and on the North-West boundary there are shops on the Derby Road which fall within Dunkirk and Lenton but whose residential flats above with entrances on Barack Lane fall within Radford and Park ward.



There are also historic ties joining Lenton and the Park Estate. Lenton Priory was once one of the largest monasteries in England and its remains are under protection from Historic England. An offshoot of the Priory was the Rock Chapel of St Mary which lies at the foot of the Park Estate and is also a protected monument.

The two communities are joined by pedestrian Rights of Way. One of those joining Park Road with Lenton Road was officially recognised at a public enquiry by an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 20/11/2013 (Ref FPS/Q3060/7/1). In favour of recognising the order of a right of way, the Inspector said: “I consider that a public footpath from Lenton to Nottingham, across The Park, has an ancient origin and had come into existence by the end of the 17C. “

Geographically there are other strong ties: both communities are boarded by the Derby Road (an ancient track way now a major arterial route) on one side and the Nottingham Canal (constructed 1790s) on the other.

We propose that you join Lenton/Dunkirk, Park and City Centre in the following way:

Polling District	2016	2023	increase	% increase
RPAF	2878	3296	418	15
DUNA	2647	2909	262	10
DUNB	1602	1605	3	0
DUNC	852	855	3	0
BRIB	2333	3423	1089	47
	10,312	12,088		

The ideal for a 3-member ward by 2023 would be 11,523 electors (3X 3,841). The projected electorate for this combined area is 12,088 which would produce a variance of +4.9%. This provide a good electoral equality and joins together polling districts which are set to see unprecedented increases in electors as well as be able to concentrate expertise on licensing and ASB and many other common issues.



The geographical boundaries will be the boundaries of the City Centre, Derby Road, the Nottingham Canal and the Boots Campus. The geographical boundary is logical and will form the basis for good sound local government.

For other proposals, the current ward of Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey (WELA) should be combined with Wollaton West and then divided into 2 equal 2-member wards as such:

Ward	Polling District	Electoral Forecast
Wollaton West	WOWA	2,433
Wollaton West	WOWB	2,110
Wollaton West	WOWC	1,381
Wollaton West	WOWD	2,182
Wollaton West	WOWE	3,076
Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey	WLAA	1,148
Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey	WLAB	856
Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey	WLAC	1,033
Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey	WLAD	902
Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey	WLAE	811
<b>TOTAL FOR BOTH WOLLATON WARDS</b>		15,932
<b>AVERAGE FOR 2 2-MEMBER WARDS</b>		7,966
Variance for 2 2-member wards		+ 3.7%



The ideal for a 2-member ward for 2023 is 7682 (2x3,841) electors. An average per newly designed ward of 7,966 produces a healthy variance of +3.7% and very good electoral equality.

We urge you to amend your initial recommendations to encompass the above proposals which we are certain would make a better and more coherent fit according to your requirements.

Yours sincerely

Virginia Rochester  
Secretary, Lenton Drives and Neighbours Residents' Association.