



Monday 22nd January 2018

Review Officer (Nottingham)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower
London
SW1P 4QP

Dear Review Officer

I would like to comment on your draft recommendations for Nottingham City. I live in the current ward of Dunkirk and Lenton. I am a primary school teacher, chair of a residents' association and also a community representative at the Area 4 Committee.

I strongly disagree that the ward of Dunkirk and Lenton should be combined with Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey. I also disagree with the recommendations for single member wards in other parts of Nottingham City. This could leave a community reliant on an ineffective councillor and without a voice to speak for them. I believe the ideal is a 2-councillor or 3-councillor ward which ensures accountability but also a choice for residents who need assistance. A 2-member ward often involves 1 female and 1 male councillor which I believe serves the population well.

I was born in Lenton to a Jewish father who escaped Nazi Germany in the 1930s and later married my mother in 1970. I now live in the same house my late parents raised me in. The area in which I was raised was home to other refugees like my father and many residents from Poland, Italy, the West Indies and the Sub Continent as well as indigenous English. Similarly, the Park Estate was also home to Jewish refugees and other international residents. Today, both areas continue to be home to residents from all over the world.

My father trained as a GP when he arrived in Nottingham and my home was also a GP surgery with patients of all nationalities waiting to see him. Many of his patients were from Lenton and The Park Estate and I know several who still live in the area today. Our current health centre, Derby Road Health Centre serves the communities of Lenton, Dunkirk and the Park Estate as it did 50 years ago, when my father was the senior partner of the practice.

I am Chair of a resident's association, The Lenton Drives and Neighbours Residents' Association (LDNRA) which was formed in the summer of 2016. The LDNRA already has nearly 100 members, made up of residents from both Lenton and The Park Estate. Many of these members have asked me to write on their behalf.

The Residents' Association strives to:

- Tackle problems and issues connected with noise, anti-social behaviour, litter and refuse;
- Connect different groups of people within the neighbourhood and improve relations;
- Seek ways to balance the local community and attract more families to an area which has, in recent years, lost the community cohesion that was once so strong.

The primary concern of many of our residents, both from Lenton and The Park Estate, was to campaign for better responses to the noise and low-level ASB that afflicts our area. The noise and ASB is caused by occupants of large student households holding regular, all-night parties any day of the week and drinking and shouting in the street when returning home from clubs in the early hours. Around the same time, residents in Lenton and the Park Estate were calling the Police 101 line on numerous occasions to complain about noise and ASB. In fact, there were so many calls that the level of complaints resulted in a Community Trigger being activated. This is a multi-agency case review which involves various agencies (eg. local Police, Local Authority, and in this case residents from the Park Estate and Lenton, The University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University, both student unions and landlords). The Community Trigger process should find solutions to the problem and stop the anti-social behaviour. In our case, the issues discussed at the Community Trigger is still being worked on as no ideal solution has yet been found. The joint working has however, resulted in many improvements. The residents' association is also looking at the licencing of alcohol and late-night licences. How this matter affects residents in Lenton and The Park Estate is a topic that we have also discussed in the Community Trigger Meeting. It is something that our several of our members have commented on in recent planning applications for new licensed developments. I believe, this is something you mention in your review.

Lenton and Dunkirk ward is an urban area and shares many similarities with the Park Estate:

- Many houses are of a Victorian, Edwardian and pre-1920 design. They are large, and on the whole poorly insulated.
- Both areas have many HMOs with students and young professional renters
- Both areas are close to city centre
- They share the same Area Committee structure – Area Committee 4 covers: Radford and Park, Arboretum and Dunkirk and Lenton. Over the last year I have been attending these meetings as a member of the public. However, I have recently become a Community Representative. Dunkirk and Lenton and The Park Estate are combined in the Area Committee 4 along with other wards in NG7. Issues which this area committee discusses frequently include night-time noise, street drinking, fly tipping and dirty streets and houses in multiple occupation. The postal code of NG7 is characterised by being close to the City Centre and containing a housing stock which is older, larger in size and in many cases owned by private landlords and rented to multiple occupants. Wollaton East, Lenton Abbey or University Park generally do not suffer from these issues.
- Children in both Lenton and Dunkirk and The Park Estate attending state primary schools, generally attend the Edna G Olds Academy or Dunkirk Primary School
- There has, up until now, been no community secondary school that children can automatically apply to and this has resulted in children from the areas travelling out to Beeston, Chilwell and faith schools around Nottingham and the County. The NUA school has, just this year planned to open it's doors to children from Year 7 (previously just Yr 10 upwards) in the coming 2018 September term. This will provide the opportunity for children in the local primary schools mentioned above, to continue their education with friends and extend friendships in their community.
- The Park Estate and Dunkirk and Lenton contain hilly areas and low-lying areas with significant problems with flooding on lower lying areas.
- Both areas have mature street trees which as well as presenting much benefit need careful succession planning
- Shared 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. "
- Lenton was joined with the Park Estate for many years in the same ward.

I would also like to talk about Lenton as it seems to have been dismissed as having an identity as a historic, urban area. Lenton is an historic community dating back to before the establishment of Lenton Priory by the Cluniac order of monks in 1107. The area still contains a number of buildings built between the 17th Century to the early 19th Century. It has its own Independent cinema which was established in 1935 and streams live theatre and opera as well as mainstream films. It also has an Independent community swimming pool built in 1935 and run by a community Trust. Much of its clientele comes from Lenton/Dunkirk and the Park Estate.

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>.

Geographically there are other strong ties. Both communities are boarded by the Derby Road which, once an ancient track, is now a major arterial route into Nottingham City Centre on one side of Lenton and The Park Estate and the Nottingham Canal (constructed 1790s) on the other.

The two areas also share the same concerns about planning and how to resist conversion of family houses into houses of multiple occupancy (HMO) and how to attract as many non-transient residents to live in the area so a more sustainable community can be obtained. 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.

Members of our residents' association are very pro-active regarding planning and HMO licensing. We are keen, whilst encouraging our student residents to become more involved in the community in which they temporarily reside, to also enable and encourage more families and long-term residents back into our community in order to rebalance and develop a more sustainable, cohesive community. To this end, members of our group comment on planning applications that will have a positive or negative effect on these long term aims in both The Park Estate and Dunkirk and Lenton.

The issues that we face regarding large numbers of student HMOs in Lenton and Dunkirk and on The Park Estate borders, are gradually beginning to emerge further within The Park Estate. The knowledge and experience our association, local councillors and enforcement officers have developed to deal with these issues could easily be extended into the rest of The Park Estate. Additionally, the community events that we hold to develop community cohesion and awareness are already a shared asset, such as the regular Park Farmers Market and more occasional events such as the LDNRA Community Street Party and the Lenton Community Fun Day. All these events have been attended by both permanent and transient residents of The Park Estate, Lenton and Dunkirk. Furthermore, there are many facilities and groups shared by members of Lenton and The Park Estate. Many Lenton residents are members of The Park Tennis Club and The Park Squash Club, and several Lenton families have attended The Park Day Club, a toddler group which has been running for over 12 years. Residents of The Park Estate use The Lenton Centre which has a small local swimming pool, gym and youth groups, and also attend the local Lenton churches, Thomas Helwys or Holy Trinity, and their associated family groups. It is therefore obvious that many strong social links already exist between residents of The Park Estate and Lenton, as well as shared local facilities.

Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey share the same characteristics as Wollaton West. These are:

- Suburban low density
- Balanced population
- Vast majority of houses built in 20th Century post 1920.
- Access to good schools – all children in both wards within catchment area for Fernwood Secondary School
- Good range of local shops
- Access to large areas of open green spaces
- Low levels of crime
- Share the same Area Committee – Area 7 so precedent for keeping them together to ensure effective and convenient local government as common decision making
- All back on to Wollaton Park - All the areas of these 2 wards have access to Wollaton Park and are mostly situated around the 4 sides of the Park. Lenton Abbey and University Park have immediate access to the Park from the gatehouse on the A52, Wollaton Park residents from the Golf Club and Sutton Passeys Crescent, the north east of Wollaton from Harrow Road and the main entrance and the north west from Park Side. The estate of Wollaton was developed around the Park and it is our jewel in the crown.

I believe the obvious solution would be to combine both the Wollaton Wards (Wollaton West and Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey) and then divide equally into 2 2-member wards. The variances would be:

Ward	Polling District	Electoral Forecast
Wollaton West and Abbey	WOWD, WOVE, WLAC, WLAD, WLAE	8,046
Variance for a 2 2-member ward		+4.7%
Wollaton Park	WLAA, WLAB, WOWA, WOWB, WOWC	7,946
Variance for 2 2-councillor wards		+3.7%

The variances are +4.7% for Wollaton West and Abbey and +3.7% for Wollaton Park. These would provide good electoral equalities.

For Dunkirk and Lenton, and Park Estate, a review of the expected increases in the electoral forecasts reveals that the Park Estate and polling district A of Dunkirk and Lenton will increase in electors by 418 (15%) and 262 (10%) by 2023. This anticipated change in population will put extra pressure on services provided by the Council and effective governance of the areas. It is a strong reason to put both Lenton and the Park Estate together. None of the polling stations in Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey, as you would expect with a suburban area, show increases of any more than 1% and are at most 10 electors.

For Dunkirk and Lenton and Park Estate, I feel the model that achieves electoral equality, reflects community identity, provides a sustainable solution and effective and convenient local government is for a 3-member ward for Dunkirk and Lenton, Park Estate and City Centre.

	2016	2023
DUNA	2,647	2,909
DUNB	1,602	1,605
DUNC	852	855
RPAF	2,878	3,296
BRIB	2333	3423
	10,312	12,088

This variance of +4.9% would provide an excellent electoral equality and join together polling districts which are set to see unprecedented increases in electors as well as be able to concentrate expertise on licencing and ASB.

I look forwards to your final recommendations and trust they reflect community identity and provide for good governance as well as electoral equality.

One final query. Why, with a decision that will so impact on local, tax paying residents, has there not been information and consultation sent to all those paying council tax in Nottingham?

Yours faithfully

Kate Loewenthal

Chair of Lenton Drives and Neighbours Residents' Association

Area 4 Committee Community Representative