

Manchester District

Personal Details:

Name: Rick Walker

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Postcode: 

Organisation Name: Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association

Comment text:

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association and of Celebrate Whalley Range Festival to object to the proposed boundary changes to Whalley Range ward. My understanding is that the streets around JNR8 Youth and Community Centre and the streets off Clarendon Rd known as the Dukeries may be transferred to Chorlton. Since 1982 Whalley Range Youth Opportunities Association has been providing positive activities for young people in Whalley Range, with the aim of "developing their physical, mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and that their conditions of life may be improved." In 1996 WRYOA negotiated with MCC Youth Service to run youth club sessions 2 nights a week from Manley Park Methodist Church. At the time MCC Youth Service were also providing two sessions per week, but that direct provision was cut and we have been running 4 evening sessions per week for some years now. We currently have over 180 young people on our books, with 4 staff supported by a number of volunteers delivering a range of activities including Thai boxing and Healthy Eating. 1999 Lottery Community Fund gave us a three year grant to do up the hall at the Methodist Church into what became JNR8 Youth and Community Centre in Cromwell Avenue, our base. Our work is not entirely building based. Since 1998 we have organised the annual Celebrate Whalley Range Festival. Initially held at the GMB College in College Rd, the festival has been peripatetic since it closed down. In 2012 and 2014 it was held at JNR8 and in Cromwell Avenue. In 2016 the Festival took place for the first time in Manley Park, with such success that that venue may become the festival's permanent home. The sense of identity and association with Whalley Range is very important to the young people we work with. JNR8 is the one community facility in Whalley Range which is used by all sections of the community and is not associated with a school or a particular religious group (in spite of being rented from the church). We believe that our role in promoting community cohesion in Whalley Range is valuable and would be significantly hindered by the proposed changes.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded