

**Jess Phillips**

LABOUR MP FOR  
BIRMINGHAM YARDLEY



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA



1 February 2016

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



**Re: Stechford East Ward Proposal**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to support the concerns of many residents of my constituency regarding the ward that you propose naming as Stechford East.

This area has a rich history as the centre of the ancient Parish of Yardley and includes the old Yardley Village. Many of the residents living in the area feel a very deep personal connection to that history. My own parents were both christened in Yardley Old Church – St Edburgha's.

I support my residents, who ask that the ward name reflect the history and identity of the place that means so much to so many and has a significant historic value in the City of Birmingham. The Village of Yardley grew up around the Church of St Edburgha's, which remains today at the heart of the conservation area. Clear signs remain of the old farm, the blacksmith, the butchers and other aspects of day to day village life.

Local people have worked hard to retain this identity amidst change. I join those people in asking that the Boundary Commission do the same.

Please can we insist that the history of this place and the community's views is reflected in the name of the ward. I would prefer the name Yardley Old Village or Old Yardley, but at the very least, I agree with my residents that the name "Yardley" must appear.

Thank you for your time and effort on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Jess Phillips MP

**Working hard for you in Yardley all year round**

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