

The Review Officer (Birmingham),
LGBCE,
14th Floor,
Millbank Tower,
London
SW1P 4QP



Michael Jones,
St. Mark's Residents

4 February, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam

Proposed new Ladywood Ward- Keep St. Marks in Ladywood Ward

I am the lead petitioner for the enclosed petition in support of your proposals for the new Ladywood Ward.

St. Marks residents are delighted to see the Boundary Commission's proposals for Ladywood Ward. We feel that you have come up with sensible proposals for the new Ward boundaries and have kept the core communities of the present Ladywood Ward together. It must have been a difficult task, trying to do this and to balance the numbers of voters in all of the new Wards around the city and at the same time keep linked communities together.

You can imagine our reaction when we found out about a counter proposal from some Jewellery Quarter residents and business men for a 'Jewellery Quarter Ward' of their own.

I checked the election register and found that they have 3,100 voters in the Jewellery Quarter even after big developments like the Mint have been occupied. This is nowhere near enough for a ward according to what we read in the news. It seems to us that they are trying to annex St. Marks and some of the ICC and NIA area off the Parade and Sandpits just to make up numbers. There are around 550 homes on the St. Marks estate, many with only one adult living there, especially in the tower blocks. The apartments across the roundabout by the NIA are not fully occupied and some blocks are serviced apartments like hotels. How does that add up to enough people for a Jewellery Quarter ward?

This has prompted us to draw up a petition in support of your proposals and St. Marks staying in Ladywood Ward. We only found out about the counter proposal just over a week ago giving us only a few days to get round our estate. We cannot take petitions round at night when more people are at home and many residents will not answer the door even during the day. In the light of this I think we have done well. We also tried to get access to the NIA apartments that the Jewellery Quarter has its eye on with little success because of their entry systems and so many empty flats.

I repeat the arguments from our petition below with further explanations:

- **Summer Hill Rd., Sand Pits, Parade and Great Charles St. Queensway form a natural and logical boundary between our community and the proposed new Winson Green Ward.**

This boundary is a good one. It is a very busy dual carriageway. It divides Ladywood and the city centre from the areas that you propose for the new Winson Green ward.

- **Our community has always been part of both the Ladywood community and Ladywood Ward.**

I looked at the Ladywood electoral map and noticed the title 'Ladywood' just above St. Vincent Street next to our estate and the NIA. There is a 'Ladywood' sign on Sheepcote St. near Liberty Place and a Welcome to Ladywood sign up the road on Ladywood Middleway. This supports your proposals for the new Ladywood. It could not be more obvious that we belong in Ladywood.

I refer you to Canon Norman Power's 'The Forgotten People'. He was the vicar of Ladywood from the 1950s to 1988. He wrote about the demolition of the old Victorian terraced houses in St. Marks and the building of our estate and others in Central Ladywood. I can assure you that the people who live on those 1960s and 1970s estates are well and truly part of Ladywood. To remove St. Marks from the rest of Ladywood is unthinkable. We are Ladywood through and through.

- **Our children attend schools in Ladywood and we use shopping, leisure and amenities in Ladywood and the City Centre.**

Although some parents who work in the city centre bring their children to Nelson and St. Johns JI Schools, the clear majority of children in all of the Ladywood primary schools live in Ladywood. City Centre, arterial and circular bus routes link us up with the rest of the proposed Ladywood Ward.

- **St. Mark's is a City Council Housing estate, a firm part of the Central Ladywood estates, managed by the Ladywood Housing Office. We are members of the Ladywood Housing Liaison Board.**

St. Marks residents participate in the Housing Liaison Board for Ladywood. We meet with reps from the other council areas in Ladywood to check on performance and decide how to allocate funding. I do not think there are any council homes in the Jewellery Quarter.

- **St. Mark's and the Convention Quarter are members of the Ladywood Community Development Trust.**

The Jewellery Quarter has its own development trust, neighbourhood forum and development plan. They keep themselves to themselves. The Ladywood CDT includes all of Central Ladywood including St. Marks, plus the City Centre and Lee Bank which you wisely propose to form the new Ladywood Ward.

- **The Convention Quarter is an integral member of the City Centre Neighbourhood Forum, all of which you have included in the new Ladywood Ward.**

On our travels with the petition, we spoke to some residents in the flats along the Parade. Very few of them would come to the door as these are housing association flats with some elderly and vulnerable people living there. They consider themselves to be part of the city centre and Ladywood, not the Jewellery Quarter.

~~Please stick to your guns and proceed with your proposals for the new Ladywood Ward which includes St. Marks and all of the NIA area.~~

Yours sincerely

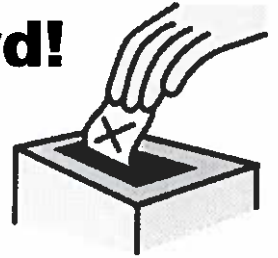


Michael Jones

St. Marks Residents

Keep St. Marks in Ladywood Ward!

To: The Review Officer (Birmingham), LGBCE, 14th Floor, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QP



We, the undersigned Residents, Electors and Friends of St. Marks fully support the Boundary Commission's proposals for the new Ladywood Ward.

- ✓ Summer Hill Rd., Sand Pits, Parade and Great Charles St. Queensway form a natural and logical boundary between our community and the proposed new Winson Green Ward.
- ✓ Our community has always been part of both the Ladywood community and Ladywood Ward.
- ✓ Our children attend schools in Ladywood and we use shopping, leisure and amenities in Ladywood and the City Centre.
- ✓ St. Mark's is a City Council Housing estate, a firm part of the Central Ladywood estates, managed by the Ladywood Housing Office. We are members of the Ladywood Housing Liaison Board.
- ✓ St. Mark's and the Convention Quarter are members of the Ladywood Community Development Trust.
- ✓ The Convention Quarter is an integral member of the City Centre Neighbourhood Forum, all of which you have included in the new Ladywood Ward.

Thank you for keeping us in Ladywood Ward. Please do not change your proposals for the new Ladywood Ward.

Name IN CAPITALS	House No.	Street and Post Code	Signature
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