

## Pascoe, Mark

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**From:** Mayers, Mishka on behalf of reviews  
**Sent:** 03 February 2016 12:01  
**To:** Pascoe, Mark  
**Subject:** FW: Birmingham Ward Boundary Consultation

**From:** Daz Wright [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 February 2016 11:18  
**To:** reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>  
**Subject:** Birmingham Ward Boundary Consultation

Hello,

I would like to lodge my concerns about your recent draft proposals for ward boundaries in Birmingham.

I feel that the proposals have been taken without due regard to the stated objectives set out in your report, namely:-

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

I do not believe that your proposals in any way take account of the last two objectives. An assessment of locally submitted proposals, in the appendix of the report, demonstrate that more often than not local submissions have been largely dismissed. Frequently with the odd claim that locally submitted proposals would split communities.

The lack of attention to local knowledge of how Birmingham communities are structured, and function, indicates that insufficient effort has been made to engage properly with local communities.

The purpose of this exercise was to create a model of local government that would be able to better engage with local communities (as per your third objective). In many cases (Moseley, Balsall Heath, Acocks Green, Hall Green and Erdington) your proposals split communities into many parts. This will make engagement with local government much less effective and considerably less convenient. In the examples cited above it is more likely that engaging with local government will become less convenient than it is at the moment.

This creates the situation where your proposals will create more problems for communities than currently exist.

The disquiet in Birmingham in relation to these proposals should indicate to you that that they have been drafted in haste. Such haste can be evidenced by the decision to hold such an important consultation over the Christmas period. This is in direct contradiction of previous Cabinet Office advice on good practice in consultation.

This process has been started as a result of the recommendations contained within the Kerslake Report. The Birmingham Improvement Panel have been supporting the City Council to make changes as set out in the report and, I believe their task is next to impossible in the light of these draft proposals. I have put together a petition to illustrate concerns with the Boundary Commission's process and report. This has been directed at the Improvement Panel to reflect their role in making significant change in Birmingham a reality.

I hope you will also take on board the number of people that have contributed to the petition and hope you will take on recognise their concerns in re-evaluating your plans. The petition currently stands at over 1000 signatures.

<https://www.change.org/p/john-crabtree-chair-birmingham-improvement-panel-halt-proposed-changes-to-birmingham-s-ward-boundaries>

Although I think the proposals are wholly flawed I would like you to take into account some specific comments in regard to the ward where I live, currently Moseley and Kings Heath.

I broadly support the proposal to create a new Kings Heath ward in order to reflect local identity. I do not support the current proposed border. Equally the proposals for the new wards of Moseley and Balsall Heath & Cannon Hill make little sense at all. They split communities in two and bear little resemblance to the submission made by with Moseley community groups nor Balsall Heath Forum.

The proposals made by local communities were entirely consistent with the objectives set out for this exercise and created a good plan for how future wards could work together and left room for anticipated population growth.

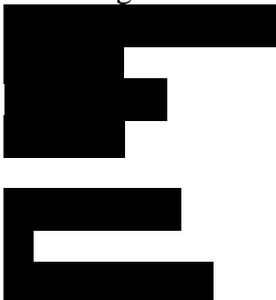
The communities of Moseley and Balsall Heath have a rich history of community development and as such are well aware of where local boundaries fall. I urge you to adopt the proposals that were submitted to you in the first stage of this process.

In altering your plans I would suggest that you design wards that fit natural communities and then give consideration to population numbers. This will then give you the ideal number of Councillors to support the City. Starting from the point of crude population numbers has clearly not worked.

Given the level of concern that is being felt across the City I ask you to reconsider your timetable and make effort to visit Birmingham and hear directly from the communities that feel so threatened by your current plans.

Many thanks

Daz Wright

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and contact information of Daz Wright.