

Coventry

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Comment text:

Related subject: Tile Hill and Canley, Earlsdon and Wainbody

Fully explanation of views in attached document.

1. Stivichall to be moved from Earlsdon ward and for Earlsdon ward to include the northerly part of Earlsdon north of the train tracks. Additionally, Chapelfields should be included in Earlsdon ward. Earlsdon should in general follow the 1899 city boundary limit for the border with Canley, Wainbody, and Cheylesmore.
2. The area around and to the south of Canley Ford Road (including Cannon Close and Stareton Close) should be moved from Earlsdon and be a part of Wainbody. The area around and to the south of Coat of Arms Bridge Road, and Stivitchall Croft should be removed from Earlsdon ward and be associated with Stivitchall.
3. Canley should be included with Wainbody ward as to better connect the university of Warwick community and to avoid splitting the Canley between 3 wards as it currently stands. I would also suggest that the area of Canley around Canley station is included as a part of a Canley ward.
4. Westwood Heath should move into Tile Hill ward to better reflect the community there. The western part of Charter Avenue should be included with Westwood Heath.

Attached Documents:

- LGBCE Coventry Boundary.docx

Dear The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

I am writing to you to share my thoughts on the proposed local government boundary changes for the City of Coventry. I welcome the opportunity for members of the public from local communities, as well as local stakeholders to give views on the proposals from October. As a resident of the existing Westwood and the proposed Tile Hill and Canley ward I would like to share my thoughts on my local area and the neighbouring wards.

Tile Hill and Canley Ward

Firstly, I do agree with the boundary of Woodlands and Bablake/Whoberley being the A45, at the point where it is the Dunchurch Highway. However, I do have some issues with the other proposed boundaries for these wards. In my view both the communities would be divided by the changes. For example, Canley train station and the surrounding 'Canley' area (around Sir Henry Parks Rd north of A45) is not included in the proposed new 'Canley' ward and would instead fall mostly under the 'Earlsdon' ward. This area of Canley is quite distinct from Earlsdon due to Canley ford, which has only one crossing between them for cars (The Riddings), and an additional pedestrian access (Nightingale Lane). Indeed, the ford was the city boundary from 1899 until the expansion of the city in the 1920s. Due to the limited crossing points, the people here are more likely to shop in the Tesco in Cannon Park or Sainsbury's Canley than the Coop in Earlsdon.

Focusing now on Canley and Wainbody wards, I believe a key factor to consider is the demographic of the area. Canley houses many students from the University of Warwick, particularly around Prior Deram Walk and the western end of Charter Avenue. Due to the similarities between a large cohort of the residents of both Canley and the University itself they should be in the same ward.

With the proposed changes Tile Hill and Canley will be one ward. In my opinion the two areas are distinct enough that they do not need to be one ward. There are only three road access points between them (Station Avenue near Tile Hill station, Wolfe Road, and the A45 itself) with another two pedestrian accesses. The physical border between the two areas is the West Coast Main Line. When I drive along Wolfe Road, I am often struck by the stark difference in architecture between the industrial land and newer builds on Torrington Avenue and the post second world war houses on the Canley side.

Earlsdon

I fully support the moving of the section of Tile Hill Lane from Earlsdon ward to Whoberley, the current Dh polling district. This is an area which is separate from Earlsdon, and I believe the proposed ward reflects where the local community feel more a part of. Additional to this move, I feel that the areas around Sir Henry Parkes and Cannon Close should also be moved from Earlsdon to a ward containing Canley and Wainbody. I would urge you to view <https://www.coventryatlas.org/map/overlays> and the Canley area (1905-1936) overlay which shows the boundaries of the city in this area in 1899 and the expansion of the 1920s. Earlsdon is within Coventry in 1899 and the border mainly follows the Canley Ford, the now Hearsall Golf course and the wooded area next to Kenilworth Road as it follows war memorial park. This boundary defines the southern border of Earlsdon and is clear to follow on modern maps.

Another area that you could consider moving is the area of Stivichall which has in recent times been within Earlsdon ward. In my view it would be better linked with Cheylesmore and Finham. To compensate for the loss of the Stivichall area I propose Chapelfields should be included in Earlsdon ward. There is an area up to Hearsall Lane from the trainline which has not been included in Earlsdon ward and is not currently in the ward. Despite this, the residents there feel as a part of the Earlsdon community. In my view, the area between Hearsall Lane, and Allesley Old Road at least as far as Maudsley Road should be included within Earlsdon.

I notice from your initial report that the commission is of the opinion that the A45 should form the boundary of all wards that border it and I do agree with this when it is a true dual carriageway around the current Bablake ward. However, there are some areas where the A45 does not present as an effective boundary, such as: in the vicinity of Canley and Wainbody and further Eastwards when the Fletchamsted Highway becomes the Kenpas Highway. The communities around here are not divided by the road but are built around it. Indeed, the Cheylesmore Bypass and London Road, A444, runs through the middle of Cheylesmore ward and splits the community as there is no way to cross. It is much more of a community boundary than the A45 Kenpas Highway or Fletchamstead highway.

Wainbody

I disagree with the assessment that the Westwood Heath area shares services with others area of Wainbody rather than with Tile Hill and Canley. The people here use Tile Hill station and use the same supermarkets as people in Tile Hill and Canley. I am aware of the large housing development in the area, and I understand it is difficult to anticipate the views of a population that at present does not exist.

The east end of Charter Avenue is clearly Canley but as you travel west along it, the housing and community reflects more that of Westwood Heath or of Tile Hill. I would suggest this area, including Marina Close and surrounding western area, should be grouped with Westwood Heath rather than the rest of Canley.

There are some areas that seem to have been randomly allocated to this ward. The proposal will create a ward 4 miles long, and only one mile across at its widest point. As it stands there is no connection between Westwood Heath and the remainder of the ward either around Kenilworth Road or Canley Gardens without travelling through the university of Warwick (which has a vastly different demographic). In contrast, the area in the other direction is easily connected with Tile Hill via Station Road. This would in my opinion be a more appropriate choice of ward.

Overall Suggestions

I would like to the following recommendations:

1. Stivichall to be moved from Earlsdon ward and for Earlsdon ward to include the northerly part of Earlsdon north of the train tracks. Additionally, Chapelfields should be included in Earlsdon ward. Earlsdon should in general follow the 1899 city boundary limit for the border with Canley, Wainbody, and Cheylesmore.
2. The area around and to the south of Canley Ford Road (including Cannon Close and Stareton Close) should be moved from Earlsdon and be a part of Wainbody. The area around and to the south of Coat of Arms Bridge Road, and Stivitchall Croft should be removed from Earlsdon ward and be associated with Stivitchall.
3. Canley should be included with Wainbody ward as to better connect the university of Warwick community and to avoid splitting the Canley between 3 wards as it currently stands. I would also suggest that the area of Canley around Canley station is included as a part of a Canley ward.
4. Westwood Heath should move into Tile Hill ward to better reflect the community there. The western part of Charter Avenue should be included with Westwood Heath.

This will of course require some revisions to the existing Woodlands ward for this to do so but I believe that these boundaries will lead to ward that more accurately relate to local communities.

Yours Faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

