

Sandwell

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Comment text:

Related subject: West Bromwich wards

Some of the proposed changes to ward boundaries suggested by Sandwell Council will affect the Parliamentary Constituency boundaries. For example, the Jubilee Street and Princess Grove area near Heath Lane Cemetery currently in Hateley Heath and therefore part of the Tipton and Wednesbury constituency would be moved into Charlemont and Grove Vale and presumably become part of the West Bromwich constituency. Would this mean that the Parliamentary constituency boundaries would be redrawn as a result of this? (No bad thing as far as the misnamed West Bromwich is concerned.)

In regard to Charlemont and Grove Vale it still has the oddity of the area around the Red Lion pub (junction of Stanway Rd and All Saints Way) being away from the rest of the ward. I think, the Lincoln Road and Glastonbury Road area or the new part of Friar Park this side of the canal (The Parade estate) would be a more logical areas to include.

The new Newton and Valley ward has a big gap between the existing areas and the new area the other side of Sandwell Valley. However, it is hard to see how the numbers could be made to balance without taking areas from the other side of the Newton Road, which would cause problems for Great Barr with Yew Tree or Charlemont and Grove Vale. Both Newton and Great Barr with Yew Tree are constrained by borders with neighbouring authorities, making it more difficult to expand areas. (The Longleat/Monksfield Av area near Grove Vale school has traditionally been part of Great Barr, with the boundary always previously being the bridge over the canal.)

Sandwell's proposed new wards to replace Wednesbury North and Wednesbury South recognise the anomaly that included the Hill Top area of

West Bromwich in a "Wednesbury" ward. So, Hill Top and Ocker Hill is a much more sensible name for the area covered by most of Wednesbury South.

And although there are no changes, other than the name to Great Barr with Yew Tree, the new name recognises the reality of how locals think of the area, with Tamebridge being separate to Yew Tree.

Attached Documents:

None attached