

Solihull

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Solihull and Meriden Labour Party (Political groups)

Comment text:

Related subject: All areas covered

We recognise the difficult job involved in producing a plan for new ward boundaries in Solihull due to the shape of the Borough and spread of population within the Borough.

We generally agree with the proposals of the LGBCE, but have set out some minor amendments below. We will make our comments using the same geographic sections as the LGBCE.

1) Urban North

We support the LGBCE proposal to enlarge Castle Bromwich ward and add the area from Smith's Wood known as the "cars estate" to Castle Bromwich.

We believe the new Smith's Wood ward would be better renamed as "Kingshurst and Smith's Wood" as the whole of Kingshurst village centre will now be in this ward. As a consequence of this we would propose the ward in the LGBCE proposal called Kingshurst and Fordbridge to be renamed as just "Fordbridge". There was previously a Borough ward called Fordbridge prior to the last review in 2003.

2) Suburban West

We support the proposed new boundary between Lyndon and Olton wards being along the Grand Union canal and would not support the

Council's original proposal to move a part of the current Shirley East ward south of Streetsbrook Road near the cemetery into Olton ward.

We cannot support the proposal to add part of the current Shirley East ward east of the A34 Stratford Road between Longmore Road and Union Road into Shirley West ward. We feel that the A34 running north to south through Shirley acts as a natural eastern boundary for Shirley West ward, and if extra voters are required to bring Shirley West ward up to the numbers required they should come from Shirley South ward near Shirley railway station, currently in polling district SS04. We feel extending the ward boundary along Bills Lane south of the junction with Burman Road until Bills Lane bends at 90 degrees to the right will provide a natural boundary between Shirley South and Shirley West wards. The triangular shaped area bounded by Longmore Road, Union Road and Stratford Road proposed to go into Shirley West could then go into Shirley South ward.

We would support the Sharmans Cross ward being named "Shirley East and Sharmans Cross" to both retain the historic link with Shirley East and reflect the new wider geographic area it covers stretching towards Solihull Town Centre.

3) Rural East and South

We largely support these proposals, although we feel that the Arden ward should be called "Bickenhill and Meriden" and the Balsall and Berkswell ward should be called "Balsall Common and Berkswell" to better reflect the areas they cover.

Attached Documents:

None attached