

Solihull

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Liberal Democrats (Political groups)

Comment text:

Related subject: Primarily Olton, although brief touching on whole area

As a party, our main concern with the boundary proposals is that of the Scott Road/Fernhill Road area proposed to move from Olton to Lyndon.

As a party representing 2/3 Councillors for Lyndon and 3/3 Councillors for Olton, we feel that while the move to use the canal as the border may represent a hard boundary, it does not make sense for the purposes of reflecting community identity.

Olton is a historic area, predating Solihull itself, and the area has developed as a part of Olton. The primary school exists due to its link with St Margaret's Church up the road (and would be split across wards under this proposal).

The terraced houses on Richmond Road have historic reasons for their construction dating back to a proposed manor to be constructed due to the location being part of Olton and the benefits associated (canal access, rail access). While the manor was never built, the terraced houses do and should be preserved as part of Olton.

The residents of this area fundamentally view themselves as residents of Olton. We have spoken with many about these changes over the past few months and there is a lot of anger. Olton the area doesn't have a clearly defined boundary so the ward boundary has generally been the used boundary. They are proud to be from the area, and it matters to them that they are from that area.

The proposed boundaries are so skewed away from the centre of Olton (which is really the area of the station and library) that the proposed area

barely reflects Olton itself. Previous boundary changes have moved significant parts of northern Olton in to other wards, leading to bizarre situations where 'Olton Jubilee Park' is not in Olton (the ward).

While each individual item could be put down to the difference between an electoral ward and a historic area, in aggregate it makes little sense and redefines what Olton is. Ideally either the boundary should be kept as is with this area preserved in Olton, or the use of the name Olton should be looked at with either the proposed Olton ward renamed to something that actually reflects the area the boundary covers or with Lyndon and Olton renamed something along the lines of Olton North/Olton South

In respect of all other wards, we are happy and in support of the other proposals. Olton is our only issue that we raised with the proposed boundaries.

Attached Documents:

None attached