

Solihull

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

To whom this may concern, my mother sent an email about this same matter from my account earlier this afternoon, I am now sending mine, attached, from this same account.

Regards,

[REDACTED], Resident of Richmond road.

Attached Documents:

- letter-of-objection-to-proposed-redwing-of-olton-boundary-lines.docx

To whom this may concern,

I am irate upon learning from liberal democrat councillors about conservative councillors' plans to redraw the boundary lines of Olton, without the democratic consent of those who live here, or consideration for their objections to the matter.

These councillors have applied their elitist, subjective perspective to delineate new boundaries between what they deem acceptable and unacceptable areas of Olton, hoping to dissociate certain areas from the others that they perceive as more embarrassing. I would like to hear them spell out to our community, brazen faced, exactly what they mean by their opinion that when crossing the canal on Lincoln Road North it "is like entering a different county, let alone a different part of Solihull."

I have spent my life in Olton on these boundary lines, a place I believe to be an important and historic intersection area between Solihull and the beginnings of Birmingham. "Topographically" (in the words of those conservative councillors), the look of the place may represent this intersectionality. The community's character is better off for this topographical variation, however it is very ironic that the Terrace road I live on, proposed for reallocation to Lyndon, is completely in keeping with the traditional architecture of Olton, with houses dating from the Victorian and Edwardian era and fascinating historic links to the building of the railway line. The councillors' plans to disconnect us in name from this place and its history displays their utter contempt about the area they are so determined to slice. And frankly, most residents don't mind the Warwick road McDonalds and Dovehouse parade sharing the same ward postcode.

My family and I have lived on Richmond road for 24 years. All four of my siblings and I attended St Margarets primary school over the course of 17 years and through this school, regularly attended events at St Margaret's church, our local parish. I understand that with these new boundary lines, the church and its school are to be divided into different wards. To say that this is absurd, would be an understatement. It is an insult to the way that the staff at this church have cared about, prayed for and sought to provide for the wellbeing of children at this school for generations.

There is an incredibly committed community living in these roads proposed for exclusion, all of us proud to share an Olton postcode. I would argue that the threads of these relationships that entwine around these roads are the true marker lines of Olton, rather than lines drawn on maps by councillors with evidently little personal connection to the area.

I would like to raise my firm objection to the proposed revision of boundary lines in the Olton ward boundary commission, along with many others in my community who I'm aware also feel keenly about this matter.

Yours sincerely,

