

Solihull

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Comment text:

Related subject: Solihull area M42 motorway ward boundaries

Has any thought been given to using the M42 motorway as the boundary of (1) the westernmost part of the proposed Knowle ward, and (2) the westernmost part of the proposed Balsall & Berkswell ward south of Friday Lane?

The motorway is a clearly-defined barrier that hinders interaction between residents on opposite sides of the motorway, and unless there are strong reasons for a cross-motorway "community spirit", residents will often have little affinity with those on the other side of this major physical barrier.

To use the motorway as the boundary for these wards would be in keeping with the M42 motorway already being proposed as the boundary between the Blythe/Dorridge & Hockley Heath wards.

The main impact on the numbers of residents in each ward is likely to be that residents of the area around the "stub" of the Warwick Road just north of the M42 that currently is proposed to be part of Knowle ward would become part of Silhill ward. I believe that those residents will have more of a natural affinity with Solihull than they do with Knowle, given that the main Knowle residential and shopping areas are not only on the far side of the motorway but further away from them than are Silhill ward residents and Solihull town centre.

Other than this Warwick Road "stub" area, moving the ward boundaries Knowle/St Alphege & Monkspath; Knowle/Silhill; and Arden/Balsall & Berkswell to align to the motorway would affect few residential properties.

It would then mean that where there are proposed ward boundaries that already would be in close proximity to the M42, the motorway would become consistent as the physical and administrative boundary between the relevant adjacent wards.

Attached Documents:

None attached