

Solihull

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

I would like to strongly express my objection to moving the Village of Meriden into the new ARDEN ward and its separation from Balsall and Berkswell Ward.

MERIDEN IS SPECIAL.

We are MERIDEN known all over the world as the village in the Centre of rural England, our history goes back in time for centuries, a rural area rich in local traditions and connections with our neighbours of Balsall and Berkswell. My family has lived in the area for generations and visited since I was a child, now I feel privileged to have been a resident since 1977 and do not feel the change would be good for us or our close neighbours if this change was to go ahead. We have more in common with the Coventry side of the village both from working environment and social scene rather than Birmingham and it's surrounding areas.

We have a long history of connections and working with our friends in Balsall and Berkswell both on a personal and close working relationship including many issues which are constantly cropping up. Working closely together with our Ward officers, often concerning problems, currently involving large Quarry sites, road traffic control and HS2 to name just a few. We know and rely on our current Ward Councillors of which a close rapport is very important, we feel we can contact and speak to them with confidence as they know how the village works. A different area where the rural aspect alone, and its implications, is something of a completely different knowledge set to new Ward Councillors and their residents who would have completely different interest or concerns to those we have in Meriden. This would also apply to Meriden residents not having the

same interests or daily routine as the new boundary areas!

We are a close knit community, after all we are a village in a rural area which is enjoyed by groups and societies, we have just had a picnic in the park event enjoyed by all at the sports ground and Pavillion, a hub for the village to meet for many groups and associations.

The village closes its main roads when it meets every year in November for the rememberers Sunday service which takes place at the war memorial on the corner of Berkswell Lane, dedicated to the fallen in WW1 and WW2 the monument originally erected by the family of Captain Banks, then of Meriden Hall, who tragically died of friendly fire in WW1. There is also a stained glass window in Meriden Church in his memory. The church dates back centuries with connections to Lady Godiva and other gems and connections seeped in history. The churchyard is of course precious to families and their families laid to rest there.

We also have a very important Cyclists memorial held annually on the village green in June, once again to remember the fallen, it is attended by visitors and cycling clubs, many from overseas to whom Meriden is a special place to pay their respects.

It's worth mentioning many people far and near know of Meriden Village, however so many people in Meriden have never visited the areas in the proposed ARDEN Ward but all would know Balsall Common and Berkswell very well and use facilities thereabouts. We are cut off from most of the proposed Ward by the A45 Meriden bypass, but we are connected within a few country lanes between Balsall and Berkswell therefore our affinity is there not in a totally different area which we don't know.

We share medical facilities with Balsall and Meriden Practice, there is a Health and Well being group with a volunteer driving scheme to aid residents needing help with travel, especially the elderly and also to get to hospital appointments etc. Our Ward Councillors have also helped on this and many other issues to help, we also travel to Balsall Opticians, dentist etc

Education is another important issue as the school catchment area is a link from Meriden Junior to Balsall as most go on to Heart of England Secondary school, which is geographically closer than proposed ARDEN areas.

Transport from both Berkswell and Balsall train station, petrol station restaurants and shops at Balsall. The list goes on.....

I have possibly repeated my reasons for objecting to the plan but it is a serious worry for my family and so many others in the village. We have no family ties with Marston Green, Chemsley Wood, Fordbridge, or Bickenhill etc.....our history both past and present is Balsall and Berkswell on the Coventry side of the village.

I sincerely hope the proposed plan to alter our present boundary will not take place.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

ALMOST, Berkswell Road, Meriden, CV7 [REDACTED]

Attached Documents:

None attached