

Solihull

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Olton Ward

I am writing in response to proposed changes to the boundary commission review of Richmond road, Fernhill road and Scott road that would result in these roads being moved out of Olton Ward.

Apart from the obvious and factual inaccuracies in the Conservative Party's description of this historical part of Olton being 'topographically' disconnected, I have lived for 25 years on Richmond Road and our house (built at a similar time to the railway and other properties in Victorian Olton) has always been architecturally and contextually as much a part of Olton as any property on St Bernard's or Kineton Green Road. Perhaps more importantly we have always identified with the community in Olton, with our children attending school in St Margaret's primary school (the foundation stone having been laid by the vicar of Olton...) and Langley school. We have enjoyed being part of the community attached to St. Margaret's church, and my family are keen volunteers for Olton's community projects. In short, we have always identified with Olton, both through the history of our house and the community that we have been part of.

The comment made by the Conservative councillors that crossing the canal on Lincoln Road North was "like entering a different county, let alone a different part of Solihull" is both insulting and clearly culturally blind to the obvious continuity of architecture and historical reference in the history of the railway and canal. Those making these claims clearly know very little of the history of the area or the pride that we share in being part of Olton's community and cultural and historical legacy.

We were somewhat shocked to find that these plans were so far advanced at the time we were made aware of the proposed changes and feel

that proper consultation on this matter has been lacking. The implications for those proposing these boundary adjustments are significant and the counsellors proposing the changes should reflect carefully on the implications their comments will draw and the consequences that their association with these highly unpopular proposals will have on their legacy.

The changes to the Olton ward boundary are incongruous, based on supposition, poorly informed, and clearly fail to recognise the engagement residents of Richmond Road have with community and cultural life of Olton. This includes services such as the library, church, wine bar, schools and restaurants of Olton as well as parades, church services, litter picking and support for our schools (which are an important part of Olton's life). As a long term resident of Richmond Road I understand that this area is intrinsically part of Olton's life and we are proud to continue to be a part of Olton's story and history.

Yours faithfully
Identity Redacted
Dr XXX

Attached Documents:

None attached