

# Sandwell

## Personal Details:

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## Comment text:

Good evening

Please find attached my response to the above consultation.

I would be grateful if you would confirm receipt.

Kind regards

Alex

Alex Ballinger MP  
Member of Parliament for Halesowen

## Attached Documents:

- boundary-commission-consultation-response---alex.docx

**By email to reviews@lgbce.org.uk**

The Review Officer (Sandwell)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row  
London  
EC1Y 8YZ

9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Review Officer

**Local Government Boundary Review – Sandwell**

I am the elected Member of Parliament for Halesowen, I represent a constituency that includes over 11,000 electors and more than 6,000 households in Cradley Heath, Old Hill, and Blackheath.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed changes to the boundaries of the Cradley Heath and Old Hill ward within Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council.

I have engaged with the community including listening to local manufacturers, teachers and parents, businesses and others.

The proposed boundary changes do not reflect the community identity or the recognised boundaries of Cradley Heath and Old Hill. These areas form one community with shared commercial, historical, and social ties. Dividing them would create an artificial separation that would confuse residents and disrupt access to local services.

Cradley Heath and Old Hill are intrinsically linked, not only by geography but also by a shared history. The main business streets in Cradley Heath and Old Hill form a single commercial zone, and residents frequently move between these areas.

Residents of Cradley Heath and Old Hill share vital services including libraries, supermarkets and schools.

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The proposed changes would place key landmarks, such as Old Hill Railway Station, on the boundaries of their respective wards, treating them as peripheral rather than central focal points. Other landmarks would find themselves in the wrong ward entirely e.g. the Old Hill cricket club.

Furthermore, the Waterfall Lane area, historically part of Blackheath, would be included in the Cradley Heath ward despite being detached from the remainder of the ward. This area is clearly physically divided from Cradley Heath and Old Hill by the canal and the railway.

The proposal to divide these areas overlooks the cohesive community identity and practical realities of local governance.

The entirety of Cradley Heath and Old Hill falls within the Halesowen constituency, ensuring straightforward representation by the same Member of Parliament. The proposed changes would complicate this arrangement and cause confusion for residents when contacting their representative in Westminster.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed changes. These areas form a cohesive community with shared interests and a strong sense of identity. Dividing them would not serve the best interests of the residents.

The boundary proposed by the Council is preferable – running along the A459 Halesowen Road, then up the A4100 to Heathfield Way, and along Station Road to the border with Dudley.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am available to discuss any of the points raised in this letter further if needed.

Yours faithfully,



Alex Ballinger MP  
Member of Parliament for Halesowen