

# Sandwell

## Personal Details:

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

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** cradley heath and old hill

I register my strong objection to the proposed ward boundary changes for Cradley Heath and Old Hill, specifically the separation of Old Hill and its inclusion in a new Blackheath and Old Hill ward. This proposal disregards the Sandwell Council's elected mandate and appears to be unduly influenced by the unelected Halesowen Conservative Association, a group based in Dudley, outside of Sandwell. The suggestion that these changes address confusion over representation, as stated in your decision making, is unsubstantiated and appears to exploit voter apathy in a cynical attempt to gain a political advantage.

The proposed changes contradict your own established guidelines for ward boundaries, which emphasize community interests, clear boundaries, and accessibility of local services. Old Hill and Cradley Heath share strong community ties, evidenced by their close proximity and shared use of local amenities, including shops, medical facilities, and schools. In contrast, Blackheath is geographically and socially distinct, separated by a big hill and a canal which form a clear boundary. The proposed division would disrupt established community groups, such as the Sidaway and Claremont Community Group, and sever existing connections. Therefore, I urge the rejection of this proposal, which represents an unacceptable interference in Sandwell's local democracy.

## Attached Documents:

*None attached*