

# Sandwell

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## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Cradley Heath and Old Hill

Having viewed the proposals I find they have little merit other than in equalising numbers. The proposed boundaries appear to ignore the geographical, social and community identities that exist and serve to divide Old Hill from its natural neighbour of Cradley Heath.

From Old Hill Cross it is possible to easily walk or catch a choice of buses to Cradley Heath. We frequently make this journey for our major shopping as well as for the other amenities available. This is the practice of many of our neighbours and friends.

The journey to Blackheath is much longer, involves a very steep climb and by public transport is much less convenient and takes significantly longer. Nobody that we know travels to Blackheath on any regular basis.

We understand that reviews of this nature are necessary but it is clear that this proposal ignores more natural boundaries that would achieve similar objectives.

The inclusion of the Waterfall lane area in the Cradley Hill Ward seems very contrived; this sits on the Hill overlooking Old Hill but geographically and socially is very much part of Blackheath.

By retaining that area in the Blackheath ward and by using Station Road and the A459 (Old Hill by-pass) as the new boundary I would suggest that the numerical equality required would largely be achieved. These boundaries would also be much more identifiable and reflect the community interests and identities of electors far more than the proposal made.

I would also point out that Holy Trinity church in Old Hill has long been used as a polling station. The proposed changes would divide the active congregation and community of this vital social hub in a very artificial way.

## Attached Documents:

*None attached*