

[REDACTED]

From: Silvester, Richard (Councillor) <richard.silvester@bolton.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 August 2021 20:56
To: reviews
Subject: Comments and suggestions for the Horwich Town Council Parish Ward boundaries review, as part of the Bolton Borough boundaries review.

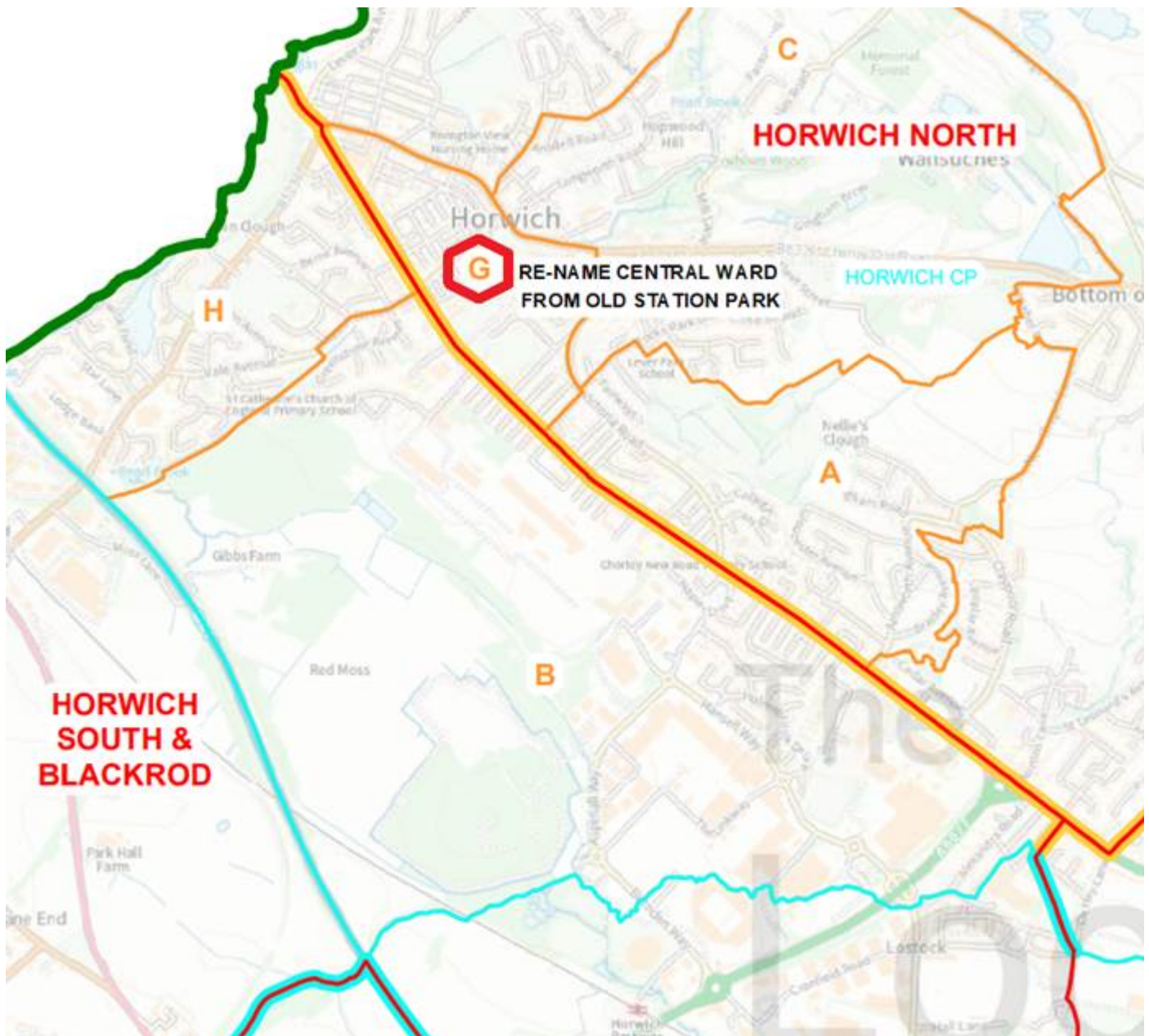
Categories: Submissions, [REDACTED]

Dear Sir / Madam / Review Officer (Bolton),

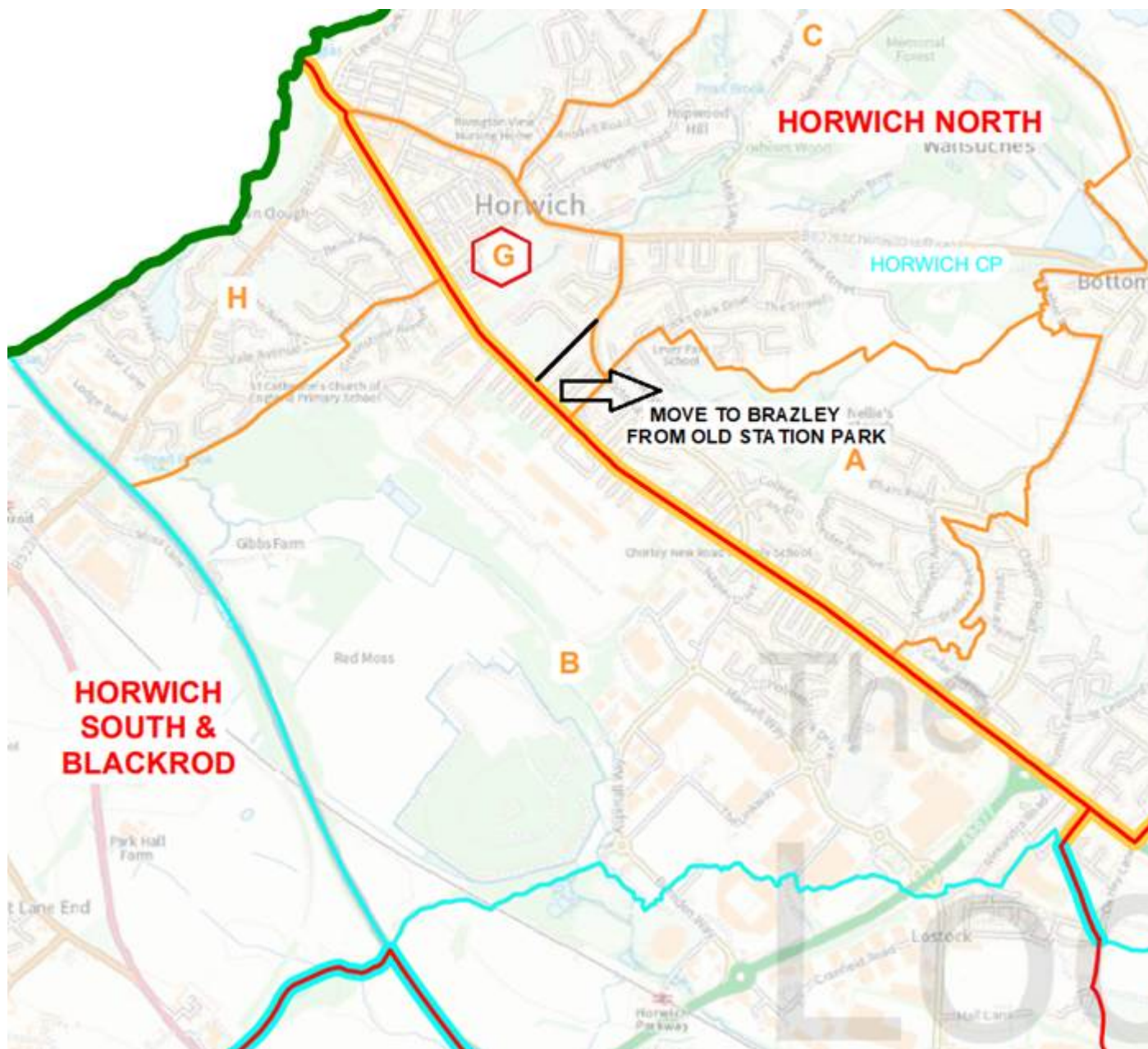
I would like to make comments and suggestions in relation to the Local Government Boundary Commission proposals in relation to the Horwich Town Council proposed Wards as part of the Bolton Borough proposals, in my capacity as an elected representative for Horwich currently representing the Borough Ward of Horwich North East and as a former Town Mayor of Horwich and Horwich Town Councillor.

1) Newly proposed Old Station Park Ward (listed as G on the proposed Ward map).

I would suggest a different name to this newly created Parish Ward to be called **Central Ward** instead of Old Station Park Ward. This is because previous to the 2004 Ward boundary review, this Ward was called Central Ward for many years and the proposed new Ward covers the central part of Horwich covering the town centre, park and leisure centre areas. The residents of Horwich generally know this to be the centre of Horwich and therefore I think a Ward name of **Central** is more appropriate.



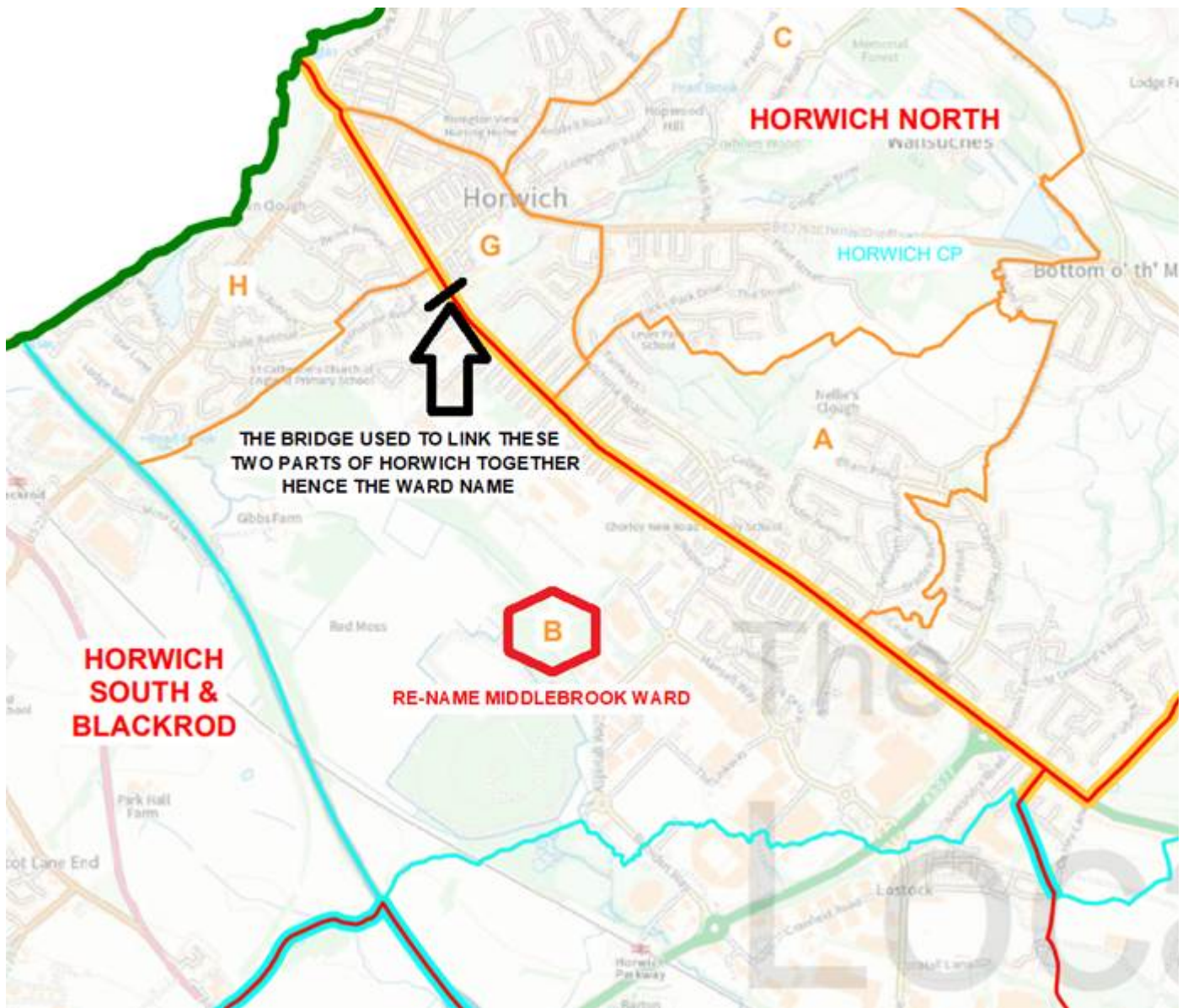
I would also like to propose that the Ward boundary is changed slightly. I would propose that the Ward boundary is amended so that it runs straight along Ramsbottom Road instead of the present Fox Street so that these terraced houses are included in Brazley Ward and can vote at St. John's Methodist Church located on the adjacent Victoria Road which is much closer to these properties than the Spiritualist Church polling station that is much further up Chorley New Road. These properties of terraced streets also associate with the other adjacent terraced streets off Victoria Road which are in Brazley Ward. The Fox Street boundary for the Parish Ward is only used because it is also the boundary between the present Horwich North East Borough Ward and the present Horwich & Blackrod Borough Ward however this boundary will cease to exist under the proposals for the Borough. The Horwich Town Council Ward boundary could therefore be changed to run straight along Ramsbottom Road instead. This would leave the estate houses on the opposite side of Ramsbottom Road being Gresley Avenue and Brooklands to remain in a new **Central Ward**.





2) Newly proposed Bridge Ward (listed as B on the proposed Ward map).

I would suggest a different name to this newly created Parish Ward. Under the proposals, this Parish Ward would retain the name of Bridge Ward; the remains of the former Bridge Ward being reduced in size, however the present Bridge Ward only has this name for a specific reason. This reason is because the present Bridge Ward stretches the whole length of the Parish of Horwich crossing Chorley New Road over the bridge near to the Fire Station. The bridge in effect links the two parts of the present Parish Bridge Ward together, either side of Chorley New Road, hence the name however under the proposals, that link would be ceased. I therefore believe that a new Parish Ward name of **Middlebrook Ward** would be more appropriate, because the size of the Ward would be reduced to the area around what is generally known as the Middlebrook and the Ward contains the Middlebrook retail park and the Middlebrook river running through it.



3) Newly proposed Lostock Park Ward (listed as F on the proposed Ward map).

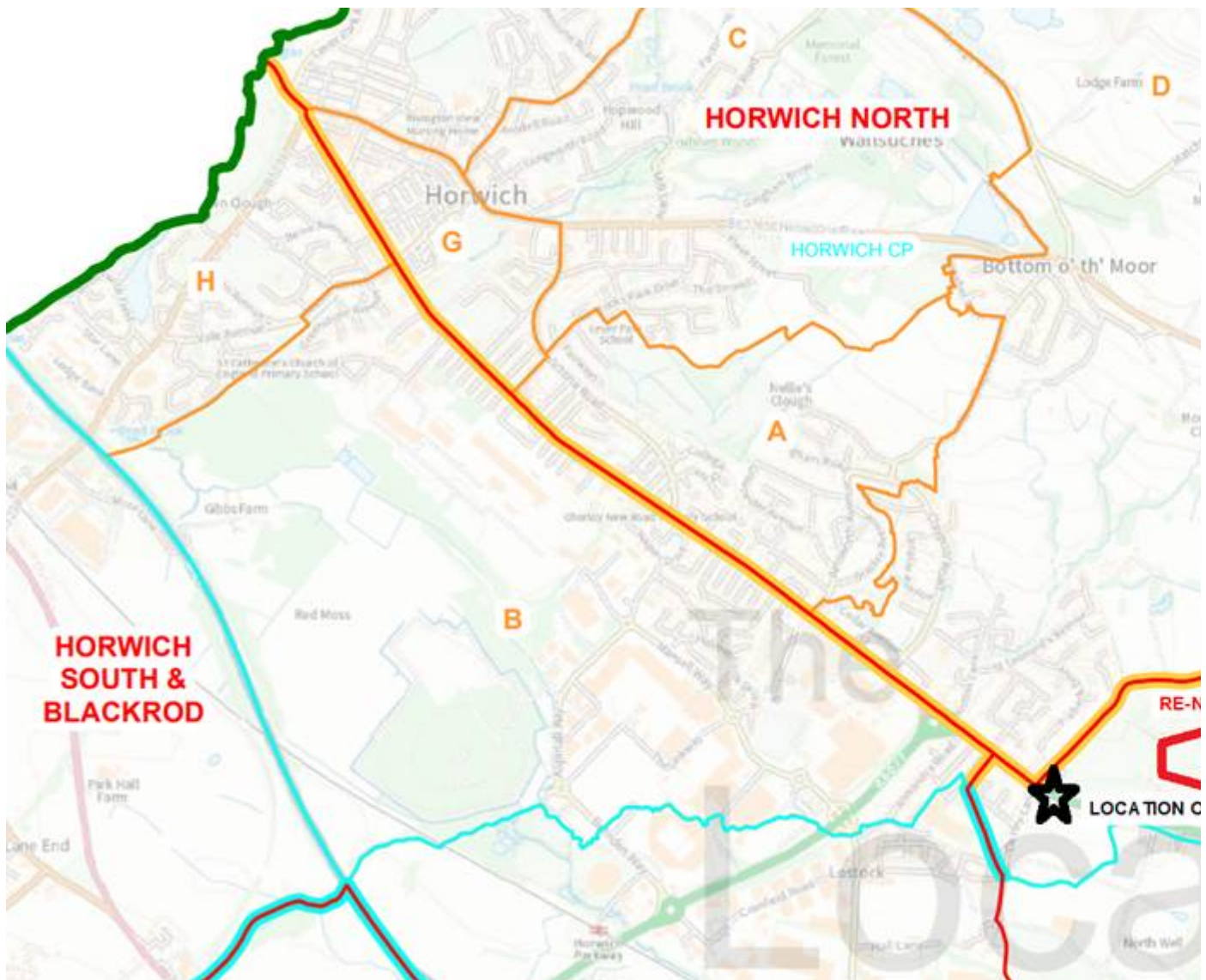
I would suggest a different name to this newly created Parish Ward to be called **Fall Birch Ward** instead of Lostock Park Ward. This is because there is no actual park called Lostock Park and residents would be confused because they would not know of any such park in the area and would be left wondering where this park actually is. The area is indeed known as Lostock however Lostock itself is a much larger area than the small Parish Ward itself. A much better name which I wish to propose for this new Parish Ward would be **Fall Birch Ward**. This is because the area of the newly created Parish Ward is indeed immediately around the smaller area of **Fall Birch** which residents in this smaller Parish area can certainly identify with. From a historical perspective, in 1829 a new section of turnpike was created which is now the present Chorley New Road. At what is now the junction of Ox Hey Lane and Fall Birch Road with Chorley New Road, there was a turnpike toll called the **Fall Birch** toll bar. It had an iron post supporting the gate at the **Fall Birch** toll bar which was in Chorley New Road at the crossroads of Ox Hey Lane (the route to Wigan) and Fall Birch Road (the route to Bolton Le Moors via High Rid and Boot Lane). This location is in the newly created Parish Ward and is why still today, the name of **Fall Birch** is known to local

residents in that area. The original iron post can be viewed in Horwich Heritage Centre along with a photo of the old toll bar building. I believe a Parish name of **Fall Birch Ward** would be fitting for the newly created Parish Ward.





The original iron post of the Fall Birch toll bar and a picture of the Fall Birch toll bar building.



I hope that you will consider my comments and suggestions for each of the three new Parish Wards for Horwich Town Council.

Yours Sincerely,

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