

The Boundary Commission

28.01.2021

Dear Team

I write in respect to the boundary review, specifically in relation to a minor boundary anomaly regarding the Blakenhall Ward of Wolverhampton. Together with my colleague Councillor Jas Dehar, we are both ward councillors representing the Ward of Blakenhall, and sit on the City council and we are concerned at the proposals put by the Labour Group, as to how our ward would be affected by changes, they propose.

Presently the population of Blakenhall is -6% below the City average and is predicted to remain with a -6% variance by 2026.

Compared to the neighbouring ward of Penn which is presently +9% and predicted by 2026 to grow to a variance of +10%.

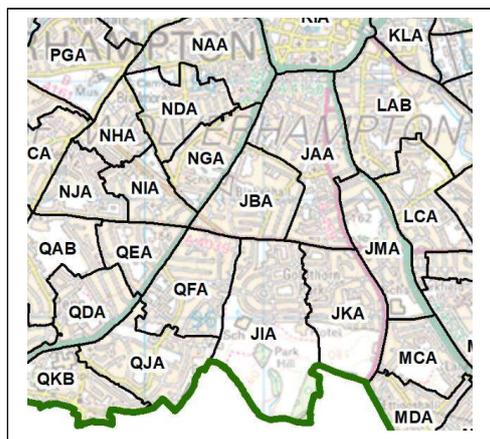
We are writing to ask that the Commission considers transferring the following streets in **Penn (QFA)** to Blakenhall ward: 1. **WAVERLEY CRESCENT**, 2. **MARLBROOK DRIVE**, 3. **COTON ROAD** (one-half is already part of Blakenhall), 4. **GOLDTHORN AVENUE**, 5. **ALEXANDRA ROAD**, 6. **WITTON ROAD**, 7. **SHERVALE CLOSE**, 8. **GOLDTHORN CRESCENT**, 9. **THE PADDOCK (no houses)**, 10. **Penn Road (less than 20 houses)**.

For your convenience there is a table below taken from the data shared by Wolverhampton City Council and a map showing the location of the above streets:

Our proposal is to merge above mentioned streets **from QFA** (Penn's largest ward – pop 2294) **to JBA** (Blakenhall second smallest ward – pop 1277).

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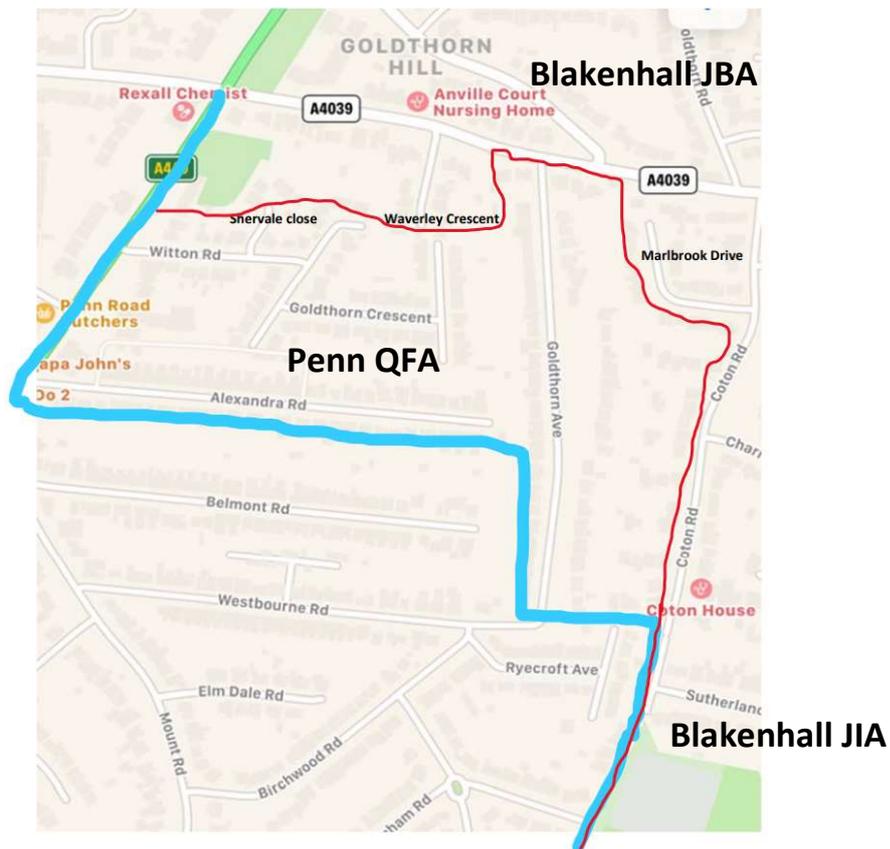
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QKB	Penn	927	966

In the Labour group submission to the commission, they argue that the following proposed streets should transfer from Penn to Blakenhall.

- **WAVERLEY CRESCENT**
- **MARLBROOK DRIVE**
- **COTON ROAD** (one-half is already part of Blakenhall)

We agree with their submission in this respect. However, we would also like to see the following added to the above:

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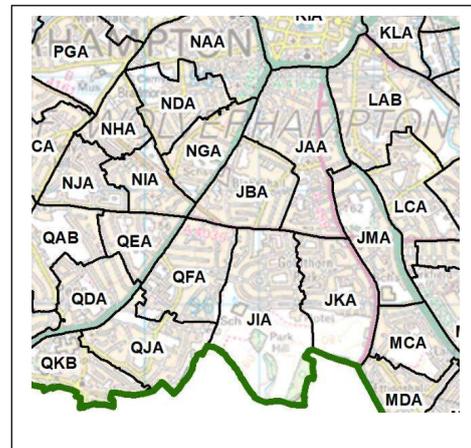
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Goldthorn hill – A4039 is the main artillery road in Blakenhall. All the roads that stem from it are in Blakenhall, with the exception of **WAVERLEY CRESCENT, MARLBROOK DRIVE, COTON ROAD** (one-half is already part of Blakenhall), **GOLDTHORN AVENUE, THE PADDOCK** (no houses).

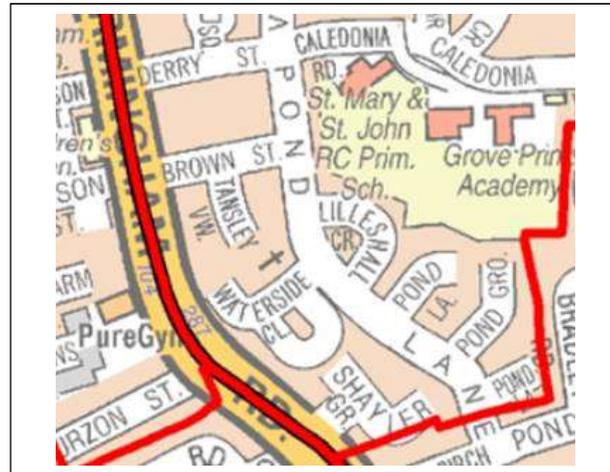
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The Labour group proposal is to move properties from LAB in Ettingshall (the largest element of the ward pop 2718) to Blakenhall JAA (–which is Blakenhall largest area pop 2007).

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We believe transferring homes from the proposed streets in Ettingshall (Shayler Grove / Waterside Close / Thomson Avenue) would not benefit Ettingshall or Blakenhall.



The Wolverhampton Labour group are proposing the merger of some homes in Ettingshall into Blakenhall

The proposals fail Blakenhall at several levels. First the proposed area to be moved falls within a few meters of 1). the Roman Catholic school St Mary & St Johns Primary school, 2) Grove Lane academy school, and 3) Pond Lane Mission (Church of England). Pond Lane Mission is indicated on the map with a Cross, but despite the proximity would not be part of the ward transfer. Each of these schools and Church represent the close community of Thompson Avenue / Pond Lane From which Shayler and Waterside stem.

Transferring Waterside Close and Shayler Grove into Blakenhall would not be to the benefit of the natural community forming around the church and schools. It would literally rip them from the heart of their community.

Both the Penn Road and Birmingham New Road A4039 (Thomson Avenue) are natural demarcation lines, separating our community in the ward of Blakenhall from the four neighbouring wards of Graiseley, Penn, Ettingshall and Springvale. They are “dual carriageways” in part, but even where they are single file traffic, they are very busy A roads and they act to delineate the wards.

The Labour Group proposal to include homes on the “other side” of Birmingham New Road (also known as Thompson Avenue at the relevant point) – goes too far in our view. In the bid to balance the percentages and increase Blakenhall (which has too few homes) and decrease Ettingshall (which has too many homes +17%), we say the proposal goes too far and takes no account of either communities or the main A roads separating the wards. Also, the Labour group argues Ettingshall is too large and yet seeks to transfer homes from Springvale. It just doesn’t make sense.

If Ettingshall is already too large, why increase it even more by adding housing from Springvale? To then argue that Ettingshall can transfer homes to Blakenhall is a *zero-sum game*.

Birmingham road (Thompson Avenue) represents a cordon sanitaire naturally separating Blakenhall from both Springvale and Ettingshall, and so we do not welcome the transfer of homes from Ettingshall to Blakenhall on the basis that the Birmingham New Road (Thompson Avenue) is that natural demarcation line, and one that should remain in-tact.

This submission is on behalf of councillors Jas Dehar and Paul Birch, and we recommend them to be accepted by the Boundary Commission. Regrettably the third councillor for our ward Councillor John Rowley is incapacitated due to dementia. Therefore, we are the elected representatives of the ward. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully

Dr Paul John Birch J.P

Councillor Jas Dehar

Councillors for Blakenhall

City of Wolverhampton

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Meredeen, Ben

From: Councillor Paul Birch <Paul.Birch@wolverhampton.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 January 2021 08:42
To: reviews
Cc: Councillor Jas Dehar
Subject: Submission on behalf of Blakenhall Wolverhampton
Attachments: Boundary commission submission for Blakenhall - Wolverhampton.pdf
Categories: Submissions

Sensitivity: PROTECT

Dear Team,

Please see attached submission in respect to minor ward boundary changes, for Blakenhall, Wolverhampton.

Kind regards

Paul Birch

Councillor Dr. Paul John Birch J.P
Member Of The Council


e-mail: Paul.Birch@wolverhampton.gov.uk
City of Wolverhampton Council

**Labour & Co-operative
Blakenhall**

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Effect of moving properties from Penn Ward to Blakenhall Ward (Wolverhampton)

Name of ward	Electorate 2020	Variance 2020	Electorate 2026	Variance 2026
Blakenhall	8,609	-6%	8,991	-6%
Penn	9,993	9%	10,452	10%

Requested properties from Penn

<u>Street requested</u>	<u>No of properties</u>	<u>No of electors</u>
Waverley crescent	8 properties,	17 electors
Marlbrook drive	21 properties,	38 electors
Cotton Road (The Penn side of the street) –	33 properties,	76 electors
Goldthorn Avenue	76 properties,	178 electors
Alexandra road	88 properties,	184 electors
Witton Drive	10 properties,	20 electors
Shervale close	4 properties,	6 electors
Goldthorn crescent	59 properties,	143 electors
Total	359	662

Blakenhall present size 8609 = 7.7% increase	Blakenhall future size of 8991 = 7.4% increase
Penn present size 9993 = 6.7% decrease	Penn future size 10452 = 6.4% decrease

If Boundary Commission agree to above changes, how does this affect ward size in 2026

Name of Ward	Electorate 2020	Variance 2020	Electorate 2026	Variance 2026
Blakenhall			9653	>1%
Penn			9790	>1%

Additional document supplied to submission

By Councillors Jas Dehar & Paul Birch

For Blakenhall, Wolverhampton

Paul.Birch@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Meredeen, Ben

From: Councillor Paul Birch <Paul.Birch@wolverhampton.gov.uk>
Sent: 29 January 2021 17:31
To: reviews
Cc: Councillor Jas Dehar
Subject: Submission on behalf of Blakenhall Wolverhampton
Attachments: Boundary commission submission for Blakenhall - Wolverhampton.pdf; Boundary commission submission for Blakenhall - Wolverhampton electoral variance document.pdf

Categories: Submissions

Sensitivity: PROTECT

Dear Team

Further to our submission of 28th January (yesterday), I am attaching a second document quantifying the changes requested.

Kind regards

Paul Birch

Councillor Dr. Paul John Birch J.P
Member Of The Council



e-mail: Paul.Birch@wolverhampton.gov.uk

City of Wolverhampton Council

**Labour & Co-operative
Blakenhall**

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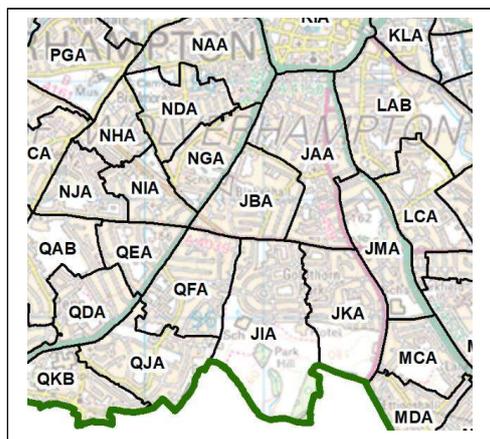
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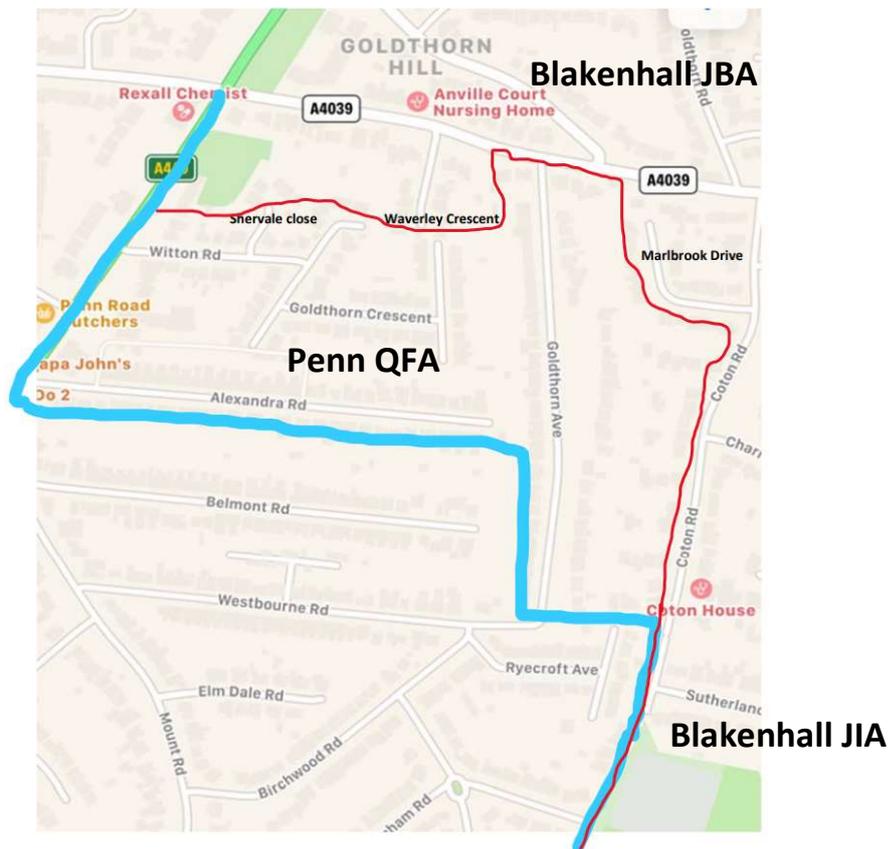
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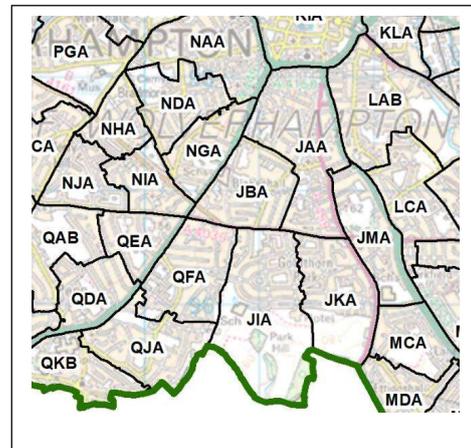
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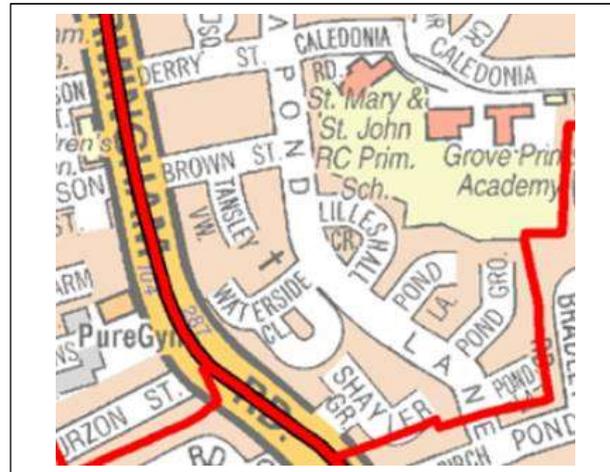
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Yours faithfully

Dr Paul John Birch J.P

Councillor Jas Dehar

Councillors for Blakenhall

City of Wolverhampton

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