[redacted]

From: Tim - Reform Derby <tim.prosser@reformderby.uk>
Sent: 23 June 2022 20:13
To: reviews
Subject: Derby Boundary Review
Attachments: Reform Derby Boundary Commission Response.pdf

[redacted] [redacted]

Please find attached the Reform Derby response to the boundary review proposals for Derby City.

--

Regards
Tim Prosser
Boulton Ward Councillor
Reform Derby Treasurer
[redacted]

For a Better Derby

Reform Derby

Reform Derby Response to the Local Government Boundary Review For Derby

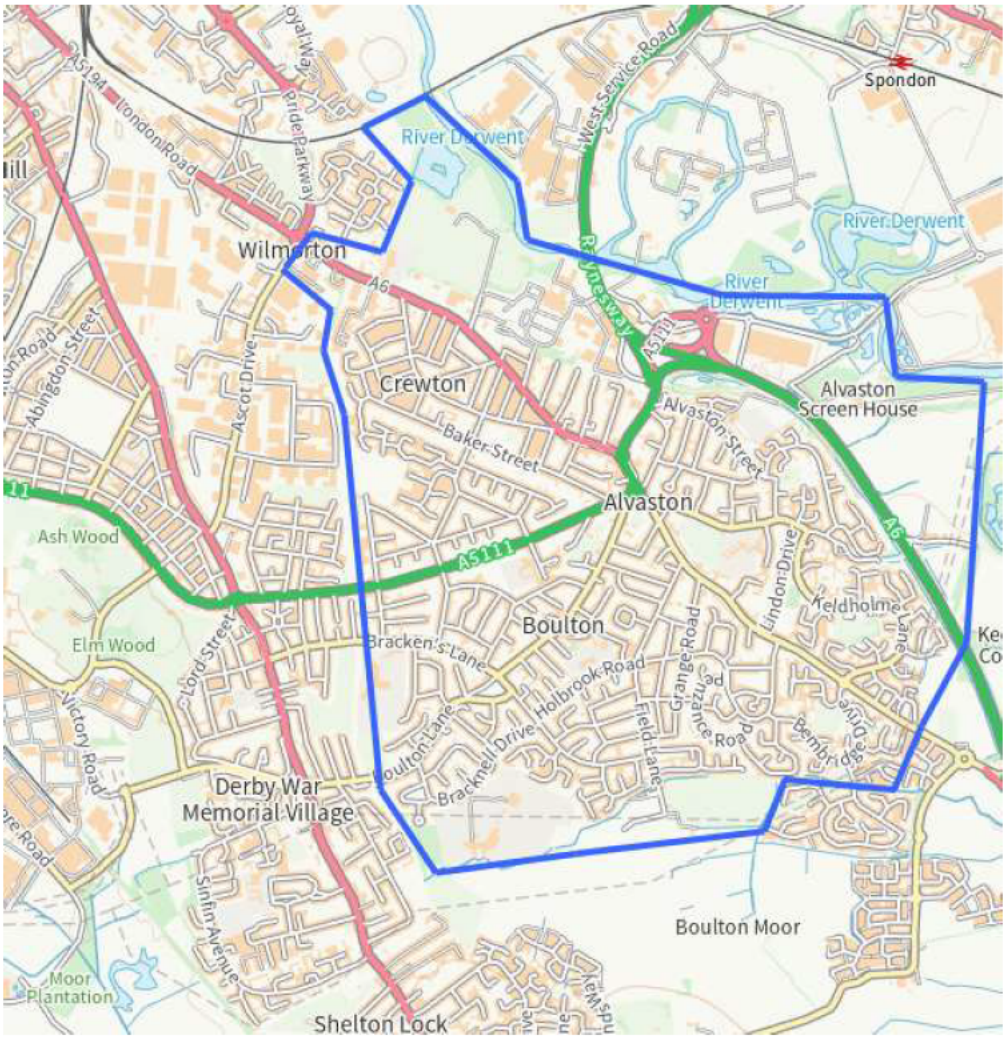
We note the Boundary Commissions recommendation for ward boundary changes. Unfortunately we see these changes as harmful to the city landscape, providing a considerable political advantage to the Labour Party across the city with no benefits to community identity. The Councils considered proposal was much more acceptable and the current ward pattern a good starting point for future boundaries. Whilst we would agree that the city wards are not perfect and that finding a solution is not easy, a major change like this should be done with much greater justification and clearer benefits.

Current Proposal:

South Of The City

The current ward pattern of Alvaston, Boulton, Chellaston and Sinfin fails to identify several major areas within the wards, but this is not unusual. Zooming around maps of the area it is quite clear that the historic titles of areas and current titles are often poorly positioned and badly defined. This leads to confusion in these reviews as local knowledge is indeed key. The proposal to split the Alvaston and Sinfin wards as proposed, may suit a pure map driven exercise, but does not reflect the residences of the city. Below is a map showing the boundary within which the residents would write Alvaston as their address.

MAP OF ALVASTON AS IDENTIFIED BY RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS ADDRESSES



Furnished with the above map It would therefore be very odd for Alvaston to have such a tiny single councillor ward within the city.

Boulton as a place exists only as a parish and in historic records. This is clearly demonstrated by Noel Baker School, bottom left grey area on the map, which lists it's address as Alvaston. It does however work as a ward as the Alvaston area is too large to be covered by any single ward. Alvaston South is how the locals see Boulton and the Boulton name has historic relevance making it well suited.

[redacted]

Similarly, Crewton residents would almost unanimously use Alvaston in their address, Including the Conference Centre on London Road and the very name of Alvaston Park at the very top of the marked zone. Crewton survives as a historic title but is now inseparable from Alvaston as an identity. The suggestion of Crewton, Wilmorton and Osmaston as a ward of it's own is therefore odd.

Osmaston is historically described as a settlement on London Road, centred around St Osmunds and it's parish. It also later included Osmaston Park and Hall. Osmaston Park and Hall, Along with St James Church were at the location of the Ascot Drive Industrial Estate today. Osmaston also described the railway works site which stretched from Osmaston Road right across to the river over Pride Park. With the development of Wilmorton, the residential area originally known As Osmaston effectively disappeared. The area known as the Osmaston triangle which Included the historic Nightingale Road Rolls Royce Works does not generally identify as Osmaston in it's address and is named after the roads that surround it. The populations of Crewton and Osmaston Triangle have also historically been very separate as the canal ran through the middle. The Osmaston Triangle focused on Rolls Royce where Crewton residents were more Railway orientated.

Wilmorton is a small development that will always be paired with something to suit the residential numbers.

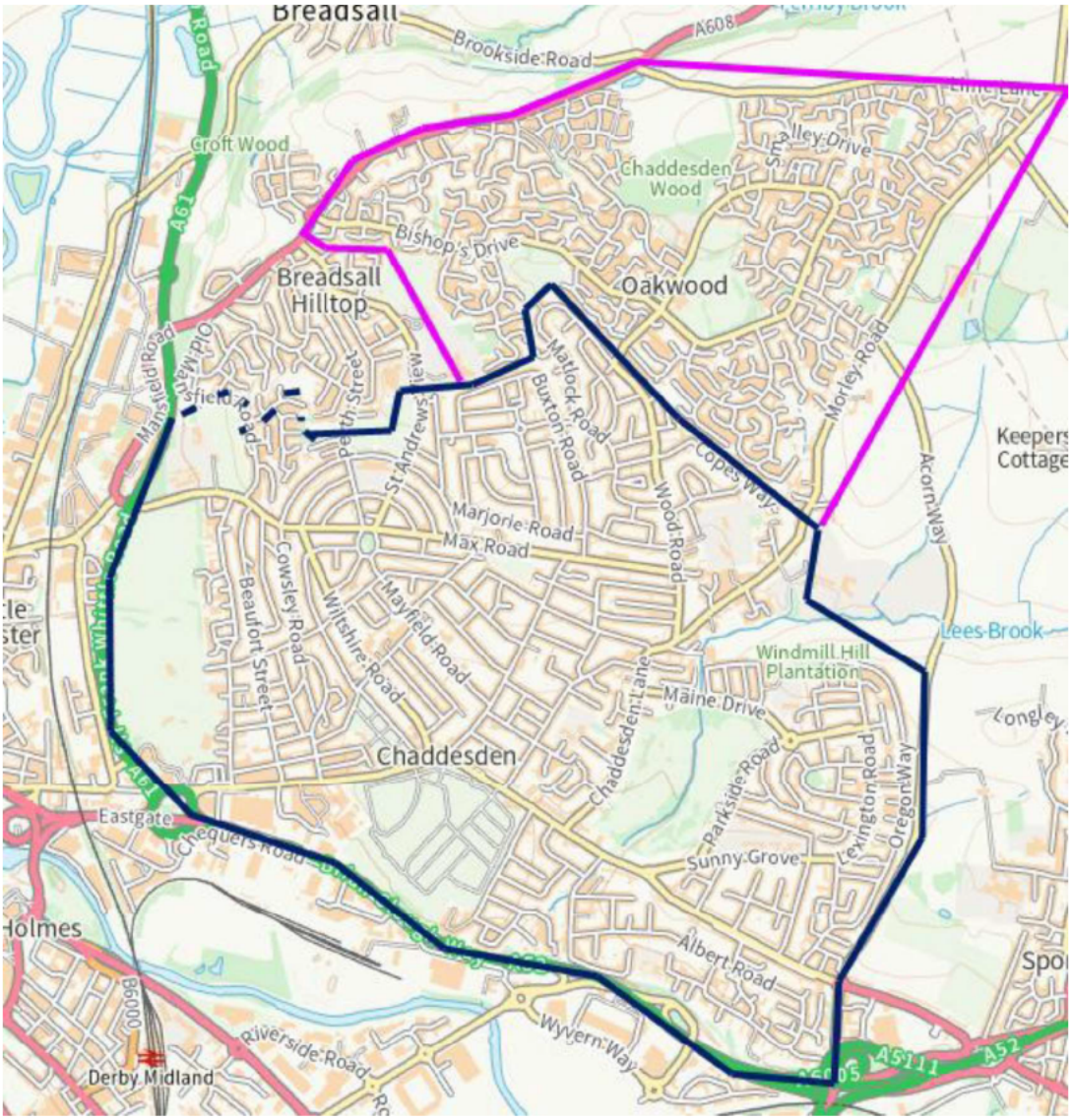
With the current Proposal, 60% of the residents of Crewton, Wilmorton and Osmaston ward would identify as living in Alvaston and virtually nobody would identify as living in Osmaston.

The current arrangement and councils proposal which splits Alvaston along historic divisions is a good compromise for providing the correct representation and residents per councillor ratio. The current Alvaston Ward also includes large areas of industrial and commercial property including the Litchurch Lane / Osmaston railway works, Ascot Drive and Pride Park which significantly add to its physical size but currently have no bearing on residential numbers or have any relevance to the name Alvaston.

North Of The City

We have an identical problem. The following map shows everyone that identifies as living in Chaddesden and Oakwood.

MAP OF CHADDESDEN AND OAKWOOD AS IDENTIFIED BY RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS ADDRESSES



Currently the Chaddesden area is split into Chaddesden and Derwent Wards. While the Derwent name has little specific justification it easily separates the identity of the two wards. The proposal to create a Breadsall Hilltop ward seems unnecessary and it appears that the majority of residents, perhaps even 70%, in the new ward would actually live in Chaddesden. A more accurate name would be 'North Chaddesden and Breadsall Hilltop'. As Breadsall hilltop is deemed locally as undesirable this proposal will cause problems for local residents.

The councils proposal is more workable and reflects the local population better.

The Rest Of The City

With the changing developments and rising populations a balance needs to be struck. We note the other proposals and have little complaint. They seem sensible enough.

[redacted]

Conclusion

The current proposal does not represent the people better than the councils proposal which every councillor was part of. The proposal also provides a large advantage to The Labour Party by cherry picking areas and dividing wards along political boundaries and for spurious reasons. Had the election this year been done along the proposed boundary lines the Labour Party would likely have gained at least 4 seats while the Conservatives would have lost two. This is a big swing in such a closely fought political arena. We hope that you will reconsider your proposal to reflect more closely the councils submission.

Reform Derby