

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 July 2022 20:18
To: reviews
Subject: Boundary Review - Derby City Council
Attachments: Boundary Commission Derby City Council - Boundary Review comments.docx

Good afternoon, please find below and attached comments on the Boundary Review proposals.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

1) The Boundary Review proposal to include residents living on Victory Road, Oaktree Avenue, Elmtree Avenue, Ashtree Avenue, the southern side of Osmaston Park Road and Moor Lane in the new Sinfin ward should be changed, and the area (based on the current SF1 and SF2 polling districts) should be included in full into the proposed “Crewton, Wilmorton and Osmaston” ward*.

The Council’s submission to the Review states:

“the Osmaston area in the north of Sinfin ward is separated from the community in Sinfin itself by the Rolls Royce works and the areas share limited community identity.” (from Derby City Council submission, 4.36)

The Labour Party’s own submission to the Review similarly states that the Council:

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The GMB trade union, representing workers in key industries in Derby centred in and around the Osmaston area, made a submission to the review stating that:

“Many of our workers currently live in Osmaston, and Crewton, and a ward that centred around these communities would be a strong voice for Derby’s industrial centre. Currently Osmaston is tied to Sinfin, but the Rolls Royce site and ring road split this area from the southern half of the ward. GMB does not feel like it makes sense to keep these communities tied together when they could have effective and local representation instead. It is a very industrial, inner ring road area which should be reflected in the political geography of Derby City Council.” (from GMB submission, no.74251)

A number of residents’ submissions to the Review have also clearly commented upon the separate communities and well-defined and discrete areas of Sinfin and Osmaston, and the less than optimal nature of the current Sinfin ward, which combines the two areas:

“...the two areas that make up the Sinfin ward - Osmaston and Sinfin - are two completely separate areas that share no similarities other than belonging to the same political ward...(t)here has been many times where people who live in Osmaston tell me during meetings such as Neighbourhood Board meetings that they are the “poor relative” to Sinfin. The way that Osmaston and it’s residents have been included in the Sinfin ward does not make sense in reality. People do not identify as living within that ward, nor is there any communication between the two - the areas are separated by a large amount of industrial land including Rolls Royce.” (from submission 67193)

“Sinfin - This neighbourhood also contains the area known as Osmaston. Those living in Osmaston do not associate with Sinfin at all.” (from submission 67353)

“...Osmaston residents do not live in Sinfin, and are therefore confused as to which ward they do live in.” (from submission 74252)

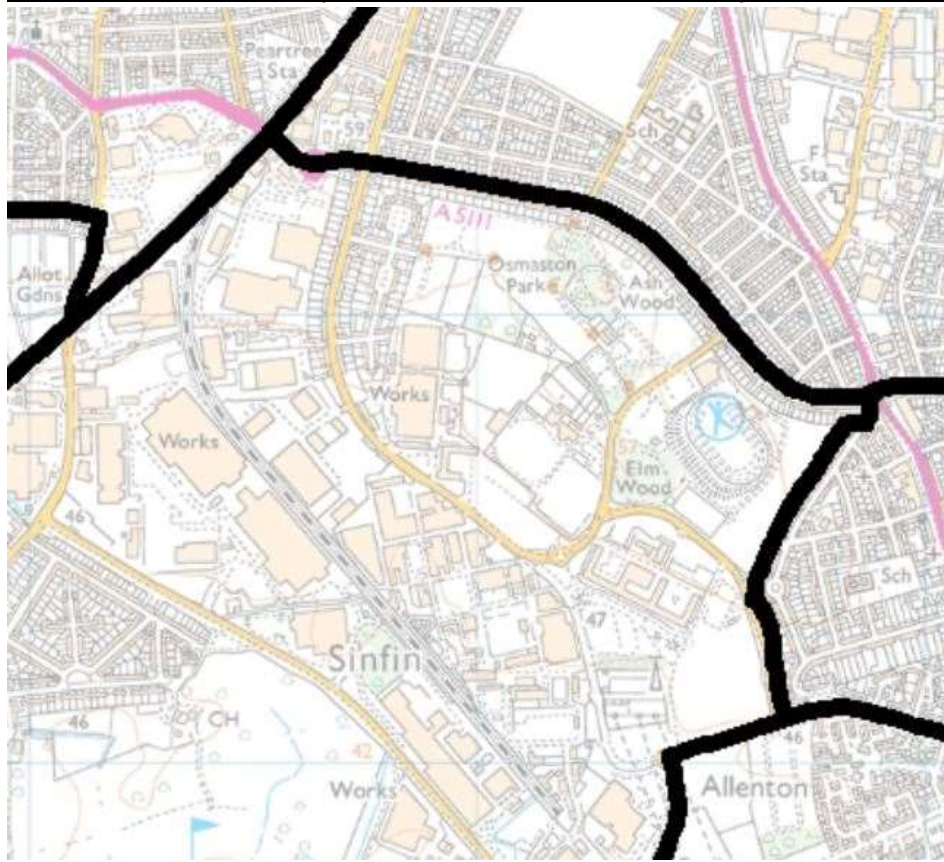
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exclave of a new ward with which the area – as many submissions already acknowledge - shares no geographical proximity or community identity.

This proposal will:

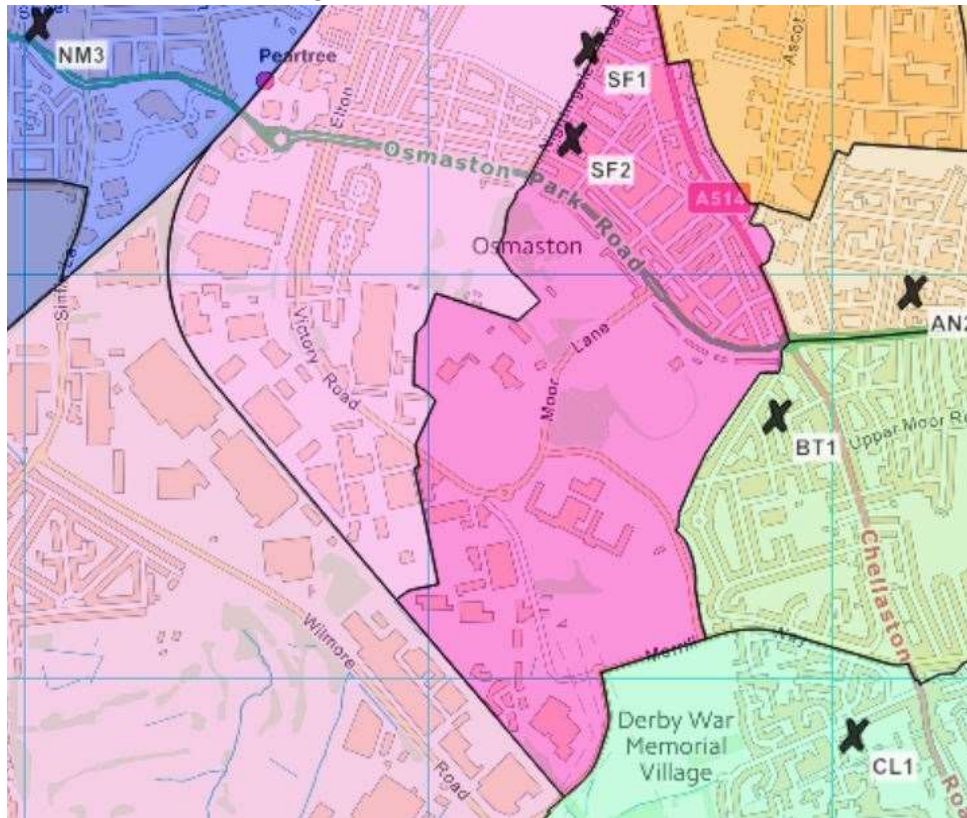
- **Diminish the unity and cohesion of the Osmaston community**
- **Transfer clear focal points for the Osmaston community into a different council ward**
- **Isolate residents in this area from the rest of the new Sinfin ward**
- **Reduce the likelihood of residents in this area voting in elections**

Proposed ward boundary in this area under the Boundary Review proposals:



The division of the current Sinfin ward into polling districts puts the area of Osmaston into polling districts SF1 and SF2, with the boundary of these to the rest of the ward being the railway branch running north-west to south-east off the main line, through the Rolls-Royce works. I propose that this boundary should be retained, and the area south of Osmaston Park Road and north of the railway branch which is within the current boundaries of the SF1 and SF2 polling districts be included in the “Crewton, Wilmorton and Osmaston”* ward.

Current ward and polling district boundaries:



The residents in this area share a real sense of place and cohesion, and are very much part of the Osmaston community. Over recent years a good deal of community work and regeneration has taken place, led variously by the City Council, local councillors and local residents (some of whom undertook excellent work under the auspices of OSCAR – the Osmaston Community Association of Residents) which has tied together and fostered community spirit and worked hard to combat local apathy amongst the whole area of Osmaston – including the streets the Boundary Review proposes to move into the new Sinfin ward. This area is healthier and more vibrant as a community as a result, and dividing the area between two wards, with different councillors representing different parts, would be a retrograde step which could only undermine the good work and contribute to disengagement and a return to apathy – this in an area which already continues to experience comparatively low engagement. The Osmaston area and community should be included in a single council ward, not split between two.

Under the current Boundary Review proposal, the current unity and cohesion of the Osmaston community, so much enhanced in recent years, will be diminished.

The two central points of community togetherness and regeneration in Osmaston over recent years have been the former Rolls-Royce redevelopment and regeneration around Marble Hall, and Osmaston Park (including its community centre, play area, BMX track and the neighbouring Osmaston Park Allotments, all of which are a welcome boon for local residents). These have helped build a strong focus on local residents and their needs; Osmaston Park in particular is well-used by Osmaston residents but very rarely by residents

from Sinfin (i.e. those living south of the Rolls-Royce works, in the SF3, SF4 and SF5 polling districts), who have other parks more locally to them, and would have a comparatively lengthy journey to travel to Osmaston Park. The new boundaries propose to move the park and allotments into the new Sinfin ward, yet it will overwhelmingly be the residents of the Osmaston area - who following these proposals would be living in a different ward - who will be both in closest proximity and using them most frequently. Osmaston Park should be situated in the "Crewton, Wilmorton and Osmaston" ward* to reflect the community which predominantly uses it.

Under the current Boundary Review proposal, clear focal points for the Osmaston community will be transferred into a completely different council ward.

The proposal has no contiguous link between residents in the area and the rest of the new Sinfin ward. To move from this area to the rest of the ward requires travel through either Normanton ward in the west or Boulton and Chellaston & Shelton Lock wards in the east; this is unlikely to be conducive to building a new ward identity, and is likely to further a perception that residents in this area are on the fringe of the ward and isolated from participation and decision-making. There is additionally no direct bus service which links the area to the rest of the new Sinfin ward, leaving a lengthy walk or a car journey for residents. The residents of this area should be part of a council ward which reflects their community, not one which they have to *physically leave the ward* to travel into another part of.

Under the current Boundary Review proposal, residents in this area will be isolated from the rest of the new Sinfin ward.

Additionally, residents in this area are likely to be required to travel further to vote in elections. The current polling stations for the SF1 and SF2 wards are no more than fifteen minutes' walk for residents in this area, whereas adding these areas to the new Sinfin ward is likely to mean a longer distance to the polling station; the closest polling station in Sinfin is currently a five- to ten-minute car journey or 40-minute walk away. Residents in this area are already comparatively disengaged and disinclined to participate in politics – despite positive work in recent years in this regard it is still a part of the city with low turnout in elections – and the additional distance and time proposed would further disincentivise voting. Residents should be able to vote at polling stations within a reasonable distance from their homes, and certainly should not have to travel first outside their ward, then back into another part, in order to cast their ballot.

Under the current Boundary Review proposal, residents in this area will be less likely to participate in elections.

For these reasons, the Boundary Review proposal to include residents living on Victory Road, Oaktree Avenue, Elmtree Avenue, Ashtree Avenue, the southern side of Osmaston Park Road and Moor Lane in the new Sinfin ward should be changed, and the area (based on the current SF1 and SF2 polling districts) should be included in full into the proposed "Crewton, Wilmorton and Osmaston" ward*.

**see point 2 on suggested name for the proposed "Crewton, Wilmorton and Osmaston" ward*

2) The name for the proposed “Crewton, Wilmorton and Osmaston” ward should be changed to “Railway” ward.

The proposed name of this ward is clumsy and unnecessarily lengthy (though no doubt well-intentioned in its attempt to reflect the communities and areas which make up the ward), and should be changed.

The GMB trade union, representing workers in key industries in Derby including the railway sector, suggested in its submission that:

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“...the (ward) names could probably do with changing to be something completely non-geographic to stop issues of communities feeling displaced or lumped in with an area.” (from submission 74252)

In order to constitute this ward, the Boundary Review has proposed bringing together three separate – but contiguous – areas into a single whole. In terms of coherence and forming a workable and practical council ward I believe this is a reasonable plan; there are clear commonalities between the areas and the respective communities and groups of residents, and although the residential parts of the ward are interspersed with large industrial and commercial plots it has the potential to work together successfully as a cohesive whole. However, a different name for the ward would be preferable; a name to focus on the ward as *a whole* rather than to simply list its constituent areas.

Looking a little further back, the 2001 Boundary Review in early draft suggested that the Sinfen ward be named “Royce” ward to reflect the Rolls-Royce works and the firm’s long history in the ward; clearly there is precedent for proposing to name wards in Derby to reflect the city’s proud industrial heritage.

The physical area of the ward will cover a good amount of Derby railway station land, as well as the Derby Roundhouse site and indeed the whole of Pride Park, which was built on former railway yards previously housing the large part of Derby's historical railway manufacturing industry. The ward will be bordered to the west by the Cross Country route and bisected in the northern part by the Midland Main Line. The Litchurch Lane Works continue Derby’s railway manufacturing tradition to the present, producing first-rate, modern rolling stock for the UK and abroad.

This ward will be the railway epicentre of the railway city of Derby, and it is fitting to recognise this – particularly at a time, as now, when the city is working and campaigning to become the home of the headquarters for Great British Railways. The name of the proposed “Crewton, Wilmorton and Osmaston” ward should be changed to “Railway” ward to reflect this.

Derby City Council

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

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Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1656789431_Boundary+Comission+Derby+City+Council+-+Boundary+Review+comments.docx)

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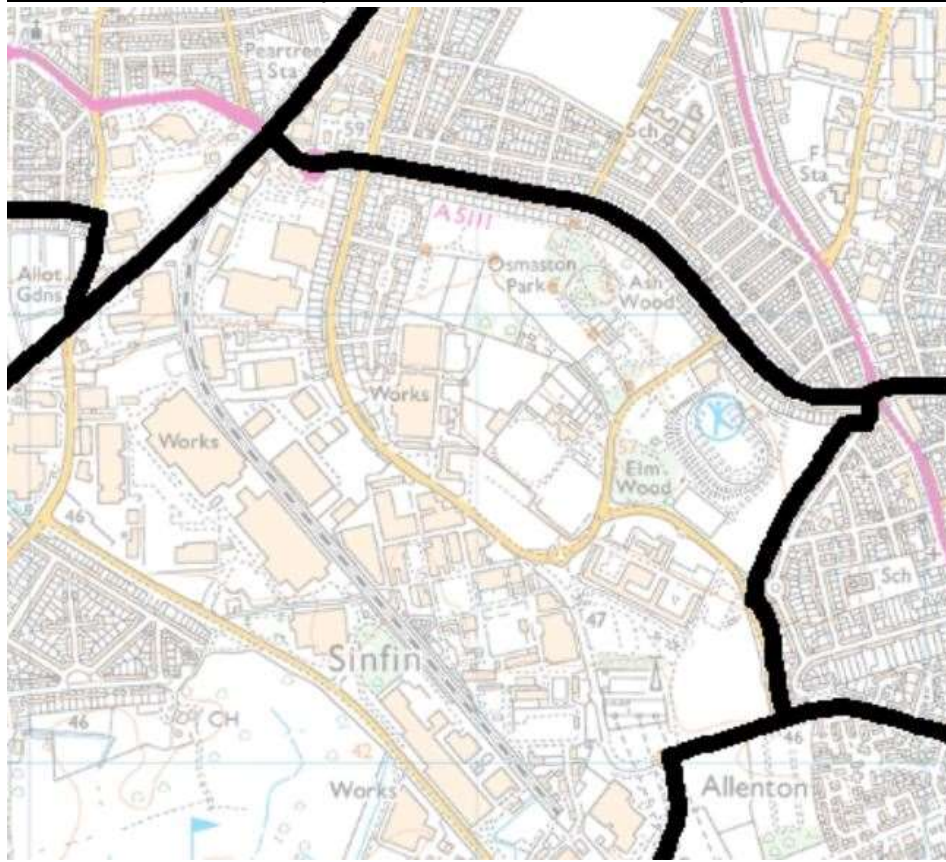
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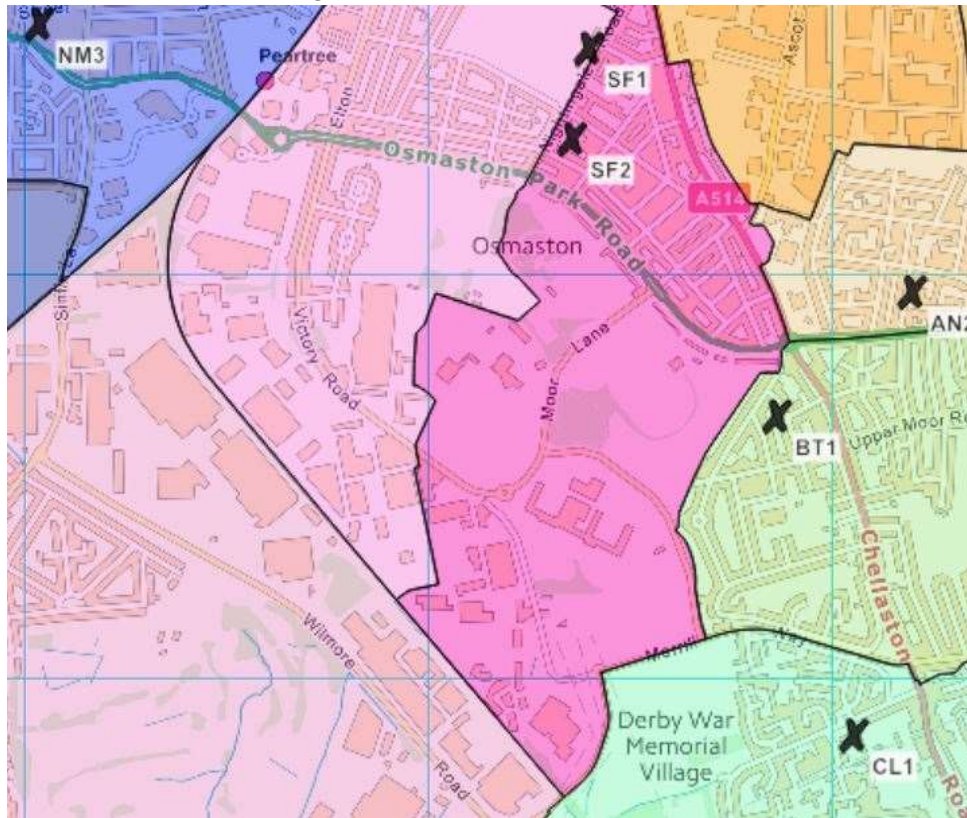
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