

Brighton and Hove City Council

Personal Details:

Name:

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

As a resident of Goldstone Crescent in the Hove Park ward I write in relation to the further draft recommendations for the northern Brighton and Hove region of your boundary review and to put forward this, my proposal for a 'Goldstone and Withdean' ward. To begin with, I want to make the boundary commission aware that Goldstone Valley has its own identity in Brighton & Hove which the residents in this area are very proud of. We have a highly active residents group that is involved with council affairs and stands up for Goldstone Valley at meetings and informs residents on all council matters affecting the area. Goldstone Valley carries a lot of meaning and is part and parcel of the urban landscape appearing in road names and retail areas. The Goldstone Ground hosted Brighton & Hove Albion fixtures between 1902 and 1997 and the site is now known as the Goldstone Retail Park (off Old Shoreham Road directly south of Hove Park). I include here a link to an Argus online article (the local newspaper here) which contains a map showing the geographic position of Goldstone Valley in relation to the broader Brighton and Hove area which may interest you. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/20023979.brighton-hove-housing-plan-opposed-toads-hole-valley/>. My first point in responding to your review therefore is that you need to be aware of the location of Goldstone Valley and its identity as an area in Brighton and Hove. The Goldstone Valley name and identity has just as much significance as the Hove Park name and perhaps more history. I now move onto your proposed wards. You ask in your advertisement for the response of residents in this area to the question whether there should be a ward of Hove Park or instead a ward of the Hove Park and Westdene with these areas combined. My view is that for the most effective representation at the council level there should be a combined ward and that Goldstone Valley needs to be recognised within the framework of its immediate neighbourhood as part of such a combined ward area. Thus I hereby propose the following: A single ward encompassing Goldstone Valley, Hove Park, Westdene and Withdean. I would call it 'The Goldstone and Withdean Ward' for simplicity which would mark out the western and eastern boundaries of this ward which would be the King George VI Avenue in the west and the train line below Withdean Stadium in the east. This ward would be a similar area to the Hove Park and Westdene ward, extending up to Waterhall above Westdene and south to the railway line, but the name would carry more significance and historical meaning than the alternative 'Westdene and Hove Park' name. Goldstone and Withdean as a name would provide 'a nod' to the history of the city as well as being relevant to the future. A nice touch of this name would be that it would recognise the past stadiums of Brighton & Hove Albion, for as well as playing at the Goldstone Ground, Brighton and Hove Albion also played at Withdean Stadium between 1999 and 2011. If you were to agree to this proposal, you would find that it would provide the benefit of giving equal weight to four interconnected communities that make up this part of the city of Brighton & Hove: Goldstone Valley, Westdene, Withdean and Hove Park. These communities have an natural interest with each other in the services and facilities that they use and also over council issues that affect them. All residents in this area for example would use shopping facilities in the Goldstone Valley area, the recreation facilities in Withdean and Hove Park and the downlands above Westdene. Shared issues for this ward's councillors to resolve would include Toads Hole Valley and the parking situation across the area which is a hot topic and needs to be restructured, influenced heavily by the Park/ride station at Mill Road. Bringing these four areas together in a ward would provide a united voice to shared issues while allowing recognition of the individual interconnected communities that would make it up. There would also be a good natural basis to this ward through the geography of the land and the common green spaces. As a dog owner I use the Withdean woods area south of the stadium most typically but from Goldstone Crescent you can also walk right up into the downs through Westdene and beyond to Waterhall, Devil's Dyke etc. The neighbourhood enclosed within this ward would also share its transportation through its local road and bus services which intersect and would even extend right up to Waterhall

in the north and Devil's Dyke. It would be a fitting ward for this city with a fitting name that would be very fitting for Brighton & Hove and its history. I submit this proposal for your consideration.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded