

Boundary Commission proposed alteration to Patcham, Brighton ward 2022

I object to the alterations proposed for this ward. In essence, they amount to “cancelling” Patcham as an area with its own councillors.

Patcham is a very old village, with Saxon and Norman parts of its 12th Century Church, and natural-ish boundaries between it and its two neighbours, Westdene and Hollingbury. Brighton's expansion northwards to engulf Patcham, in the 19th and early 20th century is a relatively late development. Patcham contains the only “ancient monument” in the whole of the Brighton & Hove area.

Patcham is mainly residential, with a very few local shop clusters scattered throughout. It is divided from Westdene by the main London-Brighton railway line (which has only a few crossing points), the A23, the busy north road route out of Brighton, and a hilly wood and fields. There are few interactions between the two zones, per se, social mixing being through joint activity elsewhere. The two areas are dissimilar in many ways.

Hollingbury is steeply hilly, to the east of Carden Avenue, with its major retail centre at Fiveways, and an industrial and retail estate to the east of Carden Avenue.

Patcham's inhabitants have a strong sense of identity. It is the location of the large primary and secondary schools which serves the whole ward, with some pupils from both Westdene and Hollingbury. These act as a nucleus for those with children, together with a Community Centre on the same site. Patcham has many parks, sports facilities and playgrounds. The proposal would split all these up illogically, and leave the proposed new Westdene ward divided by two major transport corridors.