

Rushcliffe Borough Council

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Comment text:

Ms Sian Trafford [REDACTED] 19 November 2021 Dear Commissioners, I am writing in my capacity as Chair of Lady Bay Community Association, West Bridgford, in response to the proposals to change the boundary of Lady Bay Ward. I have lived in Lady Bay since 1983 and have been a member of Lady Bay Community Association on and off since about 1987. I became Chair in 2016. When I first moved to Lady Bay, I was puzzled and amused that the area was considered such a separate part of West Bridgford, but I soon came to understand the strength of feeling around Lady Bay's sense of community and local identity. Much of this sense of 'separateness' stems from the physical boundaries around Lady Bay – the Grantham Canal, Radcliffe Road and the River Trent. Both the canal and the river, and the associated wildlife, mean a lot to the people of Lady Bay; indeed, there are beautiful heron statues marking the boundaries on Radcliffe Road and near Lady Bay Bridge. And that is another point: landmarks like Lady Bay Bridge, Lady Bay Primary School, and many businesses, bear the name of Lady Bay. Some have been in existence for many years: The Lady Bay pub; Lady Bay Art Glass; Lady Bay Fish and Chips; Lady Bay Pharmacy, and there are many more. Even the No 11 bus which serves the area is identified as "Lady Bay to Nottingham via The Meadows" and displays the destination "Lady Bay". In addition, several groups identify themselves by using the locality name: 2nd Lady Bay Brownies, 1st Lady Bay Scouts; Friends of Lady Bay Canal; Lady Bay Arts Trail; Lady Bay Open Gardens; the Lady Bay Local Facebook group, and, drawing many of these together under its umbrella, Lady Bay Community Association (LBCA). LBCA holds two open meetings a year (we have just held our AGM), and produces a twice-yearly newsletter, which is distributed to all residents of Lady Bay. The newsletter provides updates of the activities of all the groups mentioned above, as well as news about the Lady Bay Community Fund (LBCA), which provides funding for local groups and individuals who run projects to the benefit of the Lady Bay Community. Another group which operates under the LBCA umbrella is Friends of the Hook (Froth), which maintains the Hook nature reserve which runs along the River Trent in Lady Bay. Details of all these groups and activities can be found the Lady Bay website: <https://www.ladybay.co.uk/> This is by no means an exhaustive list but I hope it gives a indication of Lady Bay as a distinct area in its own right, which in turn functions very much as a community with a village feel. In addition to all the community groups and events, it has its church, its school, its post office and two local pubs, which also hold community events. The existing ward boundary follows the natural boundaries of Radcliffe Road, the Grantham Canal and the River Trent and, if the boundary has to be extended at all, it would make much more sense to extend it eastwards to bring Adbolton Lane and Greenacres Caravan Park into Lady Bay Ward. These two areas are served by the aforementioned No 11 Lady Bay bus and are already considered as 'honorary' members of the Lady Bay Community, being included in LBCA newsletter distribution. Lady Bay is well served by its two councillors, Sue and Richard Mallender, who live in the heart of the community and know it, its people and its issues very well. On behalf of the Lady Bay Community Association, I wish to state that losing the Lady Bay name would greatly damage the area's sense of community, and subsuming the area into the Trent Bridge Ward would dilute the Lady Bay identity, an identify that has existed for well over a hundred years and probably much longer than that. Its loss would be keenly felt. Please reconsider abolishing it. Yours faithfully, Sian Trafford, Chair of Lady Bay Community Association

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