

# Dudley

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mr Cllr Ryan Priest

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**Organisation Name:** Dudley Council / Dudley Stourbridge and Halesowen Liberal Democrtas (District or county councillor)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Cradley and Wollescote Ward

Comments from Cllr Ryan Priest on the Cradley and Wollescote Ward Boundaries

Dear LGBCE,

I am writing regarding the final consultation on the proposed ward boundaries for Dudley Borough, focussing particularly on the Cradley and Wollescote Ward which I represent, and which I know well, having always lived there.

I start by saying that my guiding principle throughout my comments and proposals has been to ensure that community identities are reflected within the proposals and that borders are made simple for residents to understand. It is often difficult for non-locals to appreciate the strength of local community identification and local loyalties in this part of the West Midlands.

Broadly I am supportive of the draft proposals, however there are places where I believe the borders should be tweaked slightly.

### 1. Oldnall Road and Two Gates

a. While I am supportive of moving High Park Road and Barnswood Close into Hayley Green and Cradley South, I believe that the proposal to also move Whynot Street, Foxcote Lane, Lustbridge Close, and one side of Oldnall Road and Two Gates would be disruptive and does not match with local people's impression of local borders nor reflect local identities.

b. While called Cradley South, that bit of the ward is effectively just the Fatherless Barn Estate, which has a very strong local identity. If parts of Cradley and Wollescote are to move into Hayley Green and Cradley South, then it is right that only those with a claim to this identity do so. High Park Road and Barnswood Close can make this claim, with the generally accepted border of the estate being Two Gates and Meres Road.

c. I note that following the Conservative councillors' submissions for Belle Vale the Banners Street border has moved to include both sides of the road in. The identity of Two Gates and Oldnall Road is strong. Both sides of each of these roads should be in the same ward to reflect this identity, and the roads form an obvious border, with the southern properties looking out across the Cradley and Wollescote Ward.

d. If my proposals are accepted, I also suggest that Broadstone Avenue and Havergal Walk are moved into Cradley and Wollescote Ward, this is to avoid there being any enclaves of properties. It is not possible to drive to either road without first leaving Hayley Green and Cradley South.

## 2. Bernard Oakley Memorial Gardens

a. While the park's official main entrance is located on Colman Hill, in Belle Vale Ward, the rear entrance on Highfield Crescent is equally used. The park is a true hidden gem, largely used by people in the immediate local area. It would be beneficial for the park and local people if both Cradley and Wollescote and Belle Vale councillors represented it, and so I propose moving the border to split the park in two.

## 3. Highfield Estate

a. Absolutely the right decision to include all of the Highfield Estate in one ward, and Cradley and Wollescote is the natural choice for that ward.

## 4. Banners Street

a. I share the view of the Belle Vale councillors that Banners Street should all be in Belle Vale Ward, for the same reason I believe that Two Gates and Oldnall Lane should be too.

## 5. Hill Bank, King Street and Pearson Street

a. Wollescote's border with Lye is porous and lacks an agreed definition.

b. In order to mitigate the increase in population of which my proposals in Cradley will cause, I am proposing that a part of the Wollescote side of the ward is moved into Lye and Stourbridge North. My proposal follows the Stourbridge Labour Party proposal to include King Street, Pearson Street and Crabbe Street in Lye and Stourbridge North, although I would go a step further and include Hillbank too.

c. These areas have an identity closer to that of Lye than Wollescote, and while the border here will never be perfect this proposal allows for limited population variance and respects local identity.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*