

# Gloucestershire

## Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Pittville & Prestbury, Swindon Village and St Paul's

I am a Council Tax payer, I live in Cheltenham and have done for 48 years.

I'm writing to oppose the proposal to create a new set of divisions Prestbury & Swindon Village and St Pauls & Pittville. I know the area very well as a resident and played in the local football leagues for decades and I think these proposals will cause major damage not only to the local fabric of the communities there but will also make local government worse for residents.

The original divisions Pittville & Prestbury and Swindon Village & St Pauls are well established communities. They have closely knit highways networks, transport links, local groups and amenities. Severing these wards would cause major disruption to local communities.

The new proposed divisions are badly matched. As an example, the new proposed Swindon Village & Prestbury division has wards that are in completely different geographic parts of the town, with separate population centres separated by several miles, with different political interests. I used to play football for Swindon Village - how could you create a Swindon Village & Prestbury Team? Where would they play, socialise and build camaraderie??

Anyone local to Cheltenham knows the biggest issue in the area is the Cheltenham Racecourse and managing race week. The proposals will

create a division line between the racecourse and the centre of town, making the management of the event politically harder, with mixed representation and muddled responsibility to hold councillors to account for the decisions they make.

There is widespread anger at the suggestion of a Cheltenham “Outer Division”. The current arrangements keep people in Prestbury and Swindon Village more in touch with Cheltenham politics and don’t feel part of the town's discussions. Removing them into an “Outer Division” will alienate them even further.

There are better ways of dealing with electoral equality between the 2 current divisions by moving certain residential areas around Tommy Taylors Lane and Swindon Lane.

I implore the Boundary Commision to take a step back and stop this proposal, it would do massive damage to the area, destroy a well-established set of divisions and give local residents worse representation and government as well as diluting local bonding between residents - how do you hold street parties or local village fetes and the like?

Please stop and think about local residents and the pride they have in their local areas.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*