

## Derby City Council

### Personal Details:

**Name:** Joanna West  
**E-mail:** Joanna.west@derby.gov.uk  
**Postcode:** [REDACTED]  
**Organisation Name:** Sinfin Ward councillor

### Comment text:

From an Osmaston perspective, the Boundary Commission draft suggests giving Osmaston back its identity and adding it with Wilmorton and Crewton. However a small area of Osmaston has been missed out and included with Sinfin Ward. This would see around 320 houses displaced from their community and added to an area that they are divided from by Rolls Royce, the railway line, the incinerator, a retail park and the golf course. Osmaston does not share community with Sinfin, but instead of keeping it all together and adding it to the area that it shares demographics and industry with (Wilmorton and Crewton), the proposal sees a small part of Osmaston dislocated and added with Sinfin. The entirety of Osmaston (including Osmaston Park and allotments) should be included in the ward bearing its name, not just the majority of it. As a ward councillor for the existing Sinfin Ward. I walk round these streets talking to residents. The people who live in Osmaston will say they live in Osmaston, or Allenton, not Sinfin. When you say it's called Sinfin Ward they ask what they have to do with Sinfin. Previously they were in a Peartree and Osmaston Ward which at least gave relevance. A lot of people from Osmaston move out of their family home and remain in Osmaston. I know families, for example, who live on Marlborough Road and Elmtree Avenue; Victory Road and Witney Close; Ashtree Avenue, Davenport Road and Grosvenor Street; both sides of Osmaston Park Road. This is one community. The people who live here, still after ten years, are coming to grips with a terrible fire that took the lives of a family's six children. It was the Osmaston community that was hit hard that dreadful night in May 2012. The house in Victory Road removed and new housing created, a memorial garden to the children created next to their school on Amber Street; there are natural links across Osmaston. I walk through Osmaston Park when I have meetings locally in Osmaston, either at Ashwood Spencer School on Amber Street, the Connect Derby site on Nightingale Road, or to see developments on the former Rolls Royce site also on Nightingale Road. I know ward lines don't affect areas, but they do change responsibilities. For instance there are two fantastic annual events that take place in Osmaston Park which are supported by the ward councillors. They are events for the local community but a ward boundary alongside the park would see one ward's councillors promote the event to only approximately 320 houses whilst the houses in another ward would perhaps not be made aware of it as those councillors wouldn't be involved in the planning or promotion. I know this area well as it is both the area I have represented since 2015, and the area where I have lived since 2009. It is its own community and has no relationship with Sinfin, it is closer to Alvaston and Boulton (Allenton area of Derby) than it is to Sinfin. Bus links are non-existent between Osmaston and Sinfin, people don't use the other to shop, there are significant natural boundaries of a golf course, Rolls Royce, a waste treatment centre, and a railway line between the two areas. Further, it would be a long walk for the residents of this small section of Osmaston to get to the nearest polling station, reducing the likelihood of residents turning out to vote – something I have worked hard to increase over the last ten years. In terms of increasing voter engagement, If the entirety of Osmaston moves into the new ward (Osmaston, Crewton & Wilmorton) then people who consider themselves living in Osmaston and Allenton would only have to query which of two wards they live in. People living by Spider Island (the roundabout where Osmaston Road, Osmaston Park Road and Harvey Road meet currently are confused as to which ward they live in. They consider they live in Allenton (a designated area of Derby) but actually live in either Sinfin, Alvaston or Boulton ward. Changing that from three wards to two would potentially increase the chance of them contacting their councillors, though calling a ward Osmaston, Allenton, Crewton and Wilmorton is a mouthful as a new ward name! Asking people who live in the small area of Osmaston currently suggested as staying in Sinfin Ward (some of Osmaston Park Road, Victory Road, Ashtree Avenue, Elmtree Avenue, Oaktree Avenue, Moor Lane) to stay in Sinfin Ward and have to vote in Sinfin would probably be a step too far. We have low voter turnout in this area (something I have worked on since elected in 2015) and that is with having polling stations in Osmaston, no more than a 10-15 minute walk away. Being

forced to vote in Sinfin (St Stephen's Church in Sinfin Lane being the closest polling station) would see residents of Oaktree Avenue, for instance, have to walk for 32 minutes to reach it, residents at the Allenton end of Osmaston Park Road around 40-45 minute; there are no direct buses into Sinfin from Osmaston and a large percentage of residents in this area don't have a car. I do hope these comments are looked at favourably, I stood for election initially as I wanted to represent the area I live in, Osmaston. Under new boundaries I would still like to do that, with the area I live in included with all of Osmaston. Therefore I consider the area south of Osmaston Park Road (Victory Road, Oaktree Avenue, Elmtree Avenue, Ashtree Avenue and part of Osmaston Park Road, including Osmaston Park and Osmaston Allotments) should all fall into the Osmaston ward.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded