

Southampton City Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

As a long-standing resident, I wish to object to the division of the Bassett Green Estate between two wards. Since it was designed and built, mainly in the 1930s, by the architect Herbert Collins, I understand it has always been in one ward. It has a very strong identity, both visually and socially. The houses were designed following Garden City principles, with with a low density and either set back behind grass verges or grouped around communal greens. The houses were sold leasehold with restrictions that any alterations were to be agreed by the freeholder. The houses have therefore escaped the disfiguring alterations seen elsewhere in the city's suburbs and in recognition of this the Estate was made a Conservation Area in September 1988. The importance of the architectural details of the houses on the Estate was further recognised in July 1992 when the Secretary of State for the Environment confirmed Directions under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1988, one of the first two granted in the city. The Estate is run by a freehold company owned and managed by the residents. There is an active Resident Association which organises regular social events including an annual summer party, Christmas carols, litter picking and subgroups for tree planting and maintenance of the unadopted roads within the Estate. I note that the statutory criteria governing electoral reviews as set out by the LGBCE include: 'Ward patterns should, as far as possible, reflect community interests and identities and boundaries should be identifiable'. The division of the Bassett Green Estate, comprising Ethelburt Avenue, Field Close, Leaside Way, Summerfield Gardens, Stoneham Lane and Bassett Green Road into two wards is contrary to this criteria. There are clearly demonstrable community interests and identities which would be severed by the split. Another criteria is: 'Electoral arrangements should promote effective and convenient local government' . Division of the Estate in two would involve duplication of consideration of planning applications and other issues involving the Conservation Area between two wards instead of one, and could lead to inconsistencies, with one part of the Estate treated differently to the other. It would be simpler and more efficient to keep this distinctive area within one ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded