

[REDACTED]

Sent: 10 May 2022 20:17
To: reviews
Subject: Southampton Boundary naming

Categories: Submissions, Nicole

Members of the Commission,

The Southampton Local Government boundary review Draft Recommendations document invited comments and I'd like to make a plea for a name change to distinguish "Bargate South" and "Bargate North" more.

Having more distinctive names would be good for people's understanding of, and ability to remember, which ward they live in (without any of the difficulties balancing electorate sizes, existing communities etc. which I guess will probably have been the main sticking point in your work).

Aside from confusing people, I think you'd look at "Bargate South" & "Bargate North" and think the Bargate was the only bit of history or culture going - we've got bags of history and culture to draw on.

I appreciate that creating a new name will get some flak because it will certainly overlook some part of the ward or weigh one part above another as there is no dominant existing area in the ward to base it on. However, people have got used to wards like "Redbridge", "Coxford" and "Woolston" despite the boundaries not aligning perfectly with those actual areas. We'd never have tolerated Redbridge and Coxford being called "Western Southampton South" and "Western Southampton North"!

Off the top of my head, here are a few names you might consider-

Possible alternatives for Bargate North:

St Anne's - School central to ward, nice name (people still talk about St Luke's)

Ascupart - it's next to Bevois (both the ward and Bevois Mount area) and is a uniquely Southampton-history name

Polygon - There may be some snobbery about this name but it's geographically descriptive

Bannister Park/Bannister - Gives the gist of the geography

Mayflower - Not an existing geographic area but nice history

Stag Gates - Wrong side for the estate but popular lost landmark

Archers - Centre of ward, well-known

Avenue - of all the wards, probably most Avenue-centric

Asylum Green - possibly negative connotations (sadly!) and east-centric

Courts - Fairly descriptive but probably negative connotations

Dell/The Dell - well-known historical resonance

Possible alternatives for Bargate South:

Bargate - this is the ward where the Bargate actually is so can probably stay as just Bargate, if Bargate N changes

City Centre/Central - functional

Queen's Park - nicer name but less descriptive

Chapel/Crosshouse - existing entities

Quays/Docks/Ocean - gets the point across I guess

I don't have any real preference among the above and I think any combination of the above would be positive just by making the wards properly distinct. Ascupart/St Anne's/Dell would all sound "right" for the northern ward.

Best regards,
[REDACTED]

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