

## Southampton City Council

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Organisation Name:

### Comment text:

I am generally satisfied with the new pattern of wards. However there are a few changes I would make. I understand that generally it might be easier to keep things the same, but I would change the boundary of Harefield and Bitterne wards, putting the Bitterne portion of Bath Road, Sanctuary Close, Keynsham Road, Exleigh Close, Nursery Gardens in Harefield, and with Woodland Close and the northern side of the A334 east of Thornhill Baptist Church and Woodland Close into Bitterne. Both these areas are cut off from the rest of their wards and to travel by road from them to the rest of the ward, you are required to drive along the proposed ward boundary. These areas also have only a limited distinction with the areas adjacent to them in what would be a different ward as there are no geographic divides other than the ward boundary. Even though the housing type on one side of Bath Road and Keynsham Road fit in well with Bitterne ward there are similar areas of housing in Harefield ward. In the case of Woodland Close and the A334, residents here use the Thornhill Park shops which residents on the south side of the A334 do and also share the Hoppa 3 bus route. I would also join with others who wish to rename Bitterne ward to Thornhill ward. Thornhill is a known name across the city - two of the city's main bus routes have their final destinations as Thornhill at either end of the ward, as evidence that the name is widely in use. Historically, the Bitterne name referred to the area of Bitterne nearest the riverside currently in Bitterne Park ward, and now it means the shopping area (again, when buses are listed as going to Bitterne this normally means the Bitterne shops). The section of the ward west of the A3024 has increasingly limited transport connections to Bitterne shops and arguably looks towards the city centre just as much. So while the northern end of the ward fits in with the Bitterne name, Thornhill is a better reflection for the whole of the ward. The other wards I would rename are Bargate North and Bargate South. The actual landmark of the Bargate reflects the central nature of Bargate South ward and is also in the geographic centre of that ward. I would rename Bargate South to Bargate. Bargate North ward does not have any link to the landmark and would be much less recognisable as a 'city centre' ward as it contains the southern boundary of Southampton Common, which is not near the Bargate by any reasonable definition, and the Banister Park area which itself looks towards Portswood just as much as the centre. While there is no one neighbourhood name which might reflect every street in the ward I would choose Polygon as a name as it is the more populous half of the ward and is a common reference to the area north of the Parks. Thank you.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded