

## Brighton and Hove City Council

### Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:

### Comment text:

I have lived in Westdene since 1960. Before 1960 I lived in Kemptown adjacent to Brighton College. I moved to Westdene in 1960 from Kemptown with my mother and this has been my life and place ever since. My husband [REDACTED] moved in with me into this house on [REDACTED] when we got married in 1971. We met at [REDACTED] Both our fathers were injured in the First World War. I was a ward councillor for [REDACTED] representing [REDACTED] and my mother was a councillor in [REDACTED] in the 1960s and 70s before me for one term around about the time when I got married! My husband joined me as [REDACTED] when we both retired. Representing the withdean ward was a great honour and I became [REDACTED] to top it off. It was a very proud moment and the proudest moment of my life. I would like to make some observations on the previous withdean ward which the boundary commission is abolishing. This former ward contained an eclectic mix of communities thrown together in an unusual geographical shape. There was really little community of interest between the Far East of the old ward near Fiveways and the west of the ward at Westdene. There was always that feeling of a gap between the areas either side of the railway line. The Westdene side of railway really was the dominant part of the ward in a way, with other communities tacked on. The fact that the railway line stands proud and high on an embankment through most of the ward really emphasised this divide. The railway line only goes underground at the bottom of Windmill drive. There was little that really connected those areas in the old withdean ward either side of the railway line. People in the Far East end of the old withdean ward for example would walk at hollingbury golf course and use the schools there such as varndean, while Westdene people had their own walking areas. Westdene always had its own issue that were disconnected from the residents on the other side of the railway line in the old withdean ward. An example of this was the the Mill Road park and ride which was controversial at the time. At one point there was a plan to close Mill Road altogether which attracted a local campaign from Westdene residents and was defeated. It is now only used on a part time basis for park and ride events and this has worked pretty well. Looking on back on it, it really was the railway line which was the dividing line and I think it is appropriate that the commission has used this as a ward divider for the new boundaries. [REDACTED] I was a member of the Hove & Portslade horticultural society and I was [REDACTED] We have some local shops in Westdene however our big shops are in Hove. We have a lot of friends in Hove Park who we met through local events who keep in touch. I support the changes proposed by the Boundary Commission and the configuration of the Westdene and Hove Park ward. In summary I think it is an improvement on the past arrangements which were in place for the last 20 years. I think the Withdean woods is a good natural southern boundary. It is on a steep slope overlooking the Withdean stadium. We have walked the woods many times. Because it is so steep it acts as a natural boundary in the landscape. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to tell you some of my family history and say why I think the ward boundary changes would be acceptable.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded