

Rushcliffe Borough Council

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Comment text:

Please see attached file as response to the consultation, specifically on the Lady Bay ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

31st October 2021

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing as the two ward councillors representing the current Lady Bay ward in West Bridgford.

We both live in the ward and have done for many years and have had the privilege of representing it as borough councillors since 2003 and 2007.

Lady Bay is an area with a strong sense of local identity despite being a part of West Bridgford. The name Lady Bay is widely known in and beyond West Bridgford with people readily understanding where it is in relation to the rest of West Bridgford.

The area is bounded by the Grantham Canal and Radcliffe Road to the south, from the junction of the A6011 Radcliffe Road Trent Boulevard junction at the west to the end of the housing on Trent Boulevard to the east where Trent Boulevard becomes Adbolton Lane. To the north is an open area alongside the River Trent called The Hook, a reference to the fact that the Trent used to run in a hook shape south of its current course with boats lying up in a relatively sheltered bay area, hence Lady Bay.

The boundaries outlined above act to physically separate it from surrounding parts of the suburban area. There are only three points of vehicular access to the area: the eastern end from the countryside where Adbolton Lane becomes Trent Boulevard; the western end of Trent Boulevard at the junction with Radcliffe Road where the A6011 splits off to form the approach to Lady Bay bridge; a crossing over the canal to the south about halfway along Rutland Road. The three entry points are marked by distinctive steel sculptures of herons.

The three entry points also have distinctive "Lady Bay Home Zone" signs and there is a 20 mph limit throughout, as the whole area was some 30 years ahead of the game in traffic calming measures driven by the very active Lady Bay Community Association.

The area is served by the NCT 11 bus which operates a route "Lady Bay to Nottingham via Meadows" <https://www.nctx.co.uk/services/NCT/11> with buses to the area displaying "Lady Bay" on the front.

Many local businesses and services use the name of Lady Bay and have done for many years, including:

Lady Bay Primary School <https://www.ladybay.notts.sch.uk/>

All Hallows Church, Lady Bay <https://www.ladybaychurch.org/>

1st Lady Bay Scouts <https://ladybayscouts.org.uk/>

2nd Lady Bay Brownies

Lady Bay pub <https://www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/nottinghamshire/lady-bay/>

Lady Bay Fish & Chips

Lady Bay Pharmacy

Lady Bay Art Glass <https://www.ladybayartglass.co.uk/index.shtm>

Lady Bay Pop Up Café <https://www.facebook.com/LadyBayPopUpCafe>

Ladybay Homestay Bed and Breakfast <http://www.bedandbreakfastsguide.com/locations/central-england/nottinghamshire/nottingham/ladybay-homestay-bed-and-breakfast-45489/>

Lady Bay Ballet <http://www.ladybayballet.com/>

Lady Bay Tennis & Sports Club <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LadyBayTennisandSportsClub>

There are many and varied community groups operating in the area that also strongly identify as Lady Bay. Many of these can be found on the local website: <https://www.ladybay.co.uk/>

The foremost is the Lady Bay Community Association which produces a newsletter delivered to all households in the area, holds public meetings twice a year, is involved with and fosters the growth of many other community groups. It operates the Lady Bay Community Fund which helps to seed fund groups and to assist individuals with community projects.

The Lady Bay Arts Trail is held annually <https://www.ladybayarts.org.uk/> , as is the Open Gardens event <https://www.facebook.com/ladybayopengardens/> .

Friends of the Hook run the Hook nature reserve in cooperation with the borough council and the Wildlife Trust. <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofthehook>

The arm of the Grantham Canal running alongside the area is maintained by the Friends of Lady Bay Canal in cooperation with the Canals & Rivers Trust and the Friends of Grantham Canal (based primarily in Grantham). <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofladybaycanal>

There is a very active online community group, Lady Bay Local: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/934697826541392>

Other local groups include

Lady Bay Community Choir <https://www.facebook.com/LBCChoir>

Lady Bay Cuts Carbon <https://www.facebook.com/groups/445183886006543>

The list goes on but I think you get the idea! Lady Bay is a distinctive area that operates as and has the feel of a village community with a school, post office, local church, two pubs, numerous community and social events that all identify strongly as being of Lady Bay. This is even to the point where I have seriously been asked if I'm the MP for Lady Bay. Ken Clarke, former MP for Rushcliffe referred to it as "The People's Republic of Lady Bay!".

Although the current ward boundaries extend beyond the acknowledged Lady Bay area we know the whole ward well and work with the Central West Bridgford Community Association that covers that area and beyond. This area is separated from the centre of West Bridgford by Bridgford Park & Bridge Field.

The ward boundaries as currently set are a cohesive and natural community and we feel the loss of the "Lady Bay" name would be detrimental to the much valued sense of community we find across the whole ward.

To our minds an alternative option would have been to increase the number of councillors in Rushcliffe by two, one to cover the soon to be built Fairham Pastures extension to Clifton that is included in the proposed Barton in Fabis ward, and possibly one to cover the extensive growth elsewhere in the borough. This could have resulted in fewer changes being necessary across the borough as a whole.

Given that the commission is not minded to do this though, we would suggest the current two member Lady Bay ward be retained as closely as possible within the existing boundary, and a single member Trent Bridge ward be created for the area surrounding Nottingham Forest Football Ground, Trent Bridge cricket ground and extending along the River Trent and back along Loughborough, Bridgford and Radcliffe Roads. With a sporting heart this is a distinctive area in its own right and faces a unique set of challenges that a single dedicated councillor may well be best placed to serve.

If the existing Lady Bay ward has to grow, then a possible alternative would be to extend it to the east, taking in the housing and static caravan park of Greenacres, with the A52 as a southern boundary and the new eastern boundary being the Radcliffe on Trent ward. The residents of Greenacres and the housing along Adbolton Lane have always received the Lady Bay Community Association newsletter and regard themselves as being part of Lady Bay. The 11 bus service runs there and out to the National Water Sports Centre (currently only at weekends due to budget restrictions). The area to the east has similar concerns despite being much more of a rural character and people there already frequently contact us regarding local issues. The parish is All Hallows Lady Bay with St Edmunds, Holme Pierrepont, with St Edmunds being located in the small village of Holme Pierrepont.

At the very least the name of Lady Bay should not be lost and we note that prior to the 1999 boundary review the two West Bridgford wards covering broadly the same area were named Abbey and Lady Bay; the review created a new Trent Bridge ward. The Lady Bay name extends back beyond the building of housing in the area in the late 19th century and we would not wish to see it lost.

Thank you for the opportunity to feed back on the proposals.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Richard Mallender & Councillor Sue Mallender