

Coventry

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Organisation Name: Member of Parliament Coventry North East (Member of Parliament)

Comment text:

Related subject: Coventry

I am writing in support of the boundary proposal submitted by Coventry City Council and Coventry Labour Party. I have been the Member of Parliament for Coventry North East since 2015, prior to that I was a councillor for both Wyken and Upper Stoke ward and have spent most of my life active in local politics in Coventry. I believe that this proposal is a balanced and sensible solution to issues of electoral equality across the city.

I appreciate that this proposal minimises change to well established ward patterns across Coventry. Where changes have been proposed I appreciate that these seek to reflect older boundaries and links.

I believe that the proposal reflects feelings of residents and how they themselves view their neighbourhoods and communities. I believe from correspondence and casework that these proposals reflect both strong links in wards and also historic ties which were altered by the previous boundary changes.

I offer the following comments regarding the wards which currently make up Coventry North East.

Foleshill, Longford and Upper Stoke: These wards do not change under the proposal, I believe this is a fair reflection of the well-established communities which make up the wards. Furthermore, I would say that geographically all three wards are well defined.

Henley: By 2029 the electorate in this ward will have increased to 14% above the average needed for electoral equality. Henley is surrounded by

wards that are either near average or above with the exception of Wyken who will be below the quota. Therefore it makes sense to find a solution which adjusts both wards. There have been historic boundary changes between Henley and Wyken with box FF moving from Wyken to Henley in 2004. It is proposed this move is reversed moving a part of box FF from Henley back into Wyken. This will bring the north side of Wyken Croft where it meets Henley Rd back into Wyken. Henley Rd will now serve as a boundary to the north.

Although the Manor Farm Estate and New Green Park are on the edge of Henley Rd, people living in this area identify with Wyken more than Henley, maybe due to the historic arrangements but also with Wyken Croft running between these estates, and the Sowe being a feature within Wyken. This change based on history and community ties results in electoral equality in both wards and also provides effective and convenient local government arrangements in the area

Wyken: As mentioned above I support the change to bring most of Polling district FF into Wyken Ward. Having been a councillor for this ward prior to the boundary change in 2004 this is a logical solution which reflects the way residents see themselves.

Lower Stoke: Lower Stoke is projected to be 14% above the average number of electors by 2029. Therefore there needs to be a change which meets this growth without disrupting electoral equality in surrounding wards. The expansion has been driven by the development of the former GEC and Humber sites being developed into housing estates. For me it would be logical to place the houses built on what was the Humber in St. Michael's ward. The former Stoke plant on Humber Rd was once a car factory providing 1000's job with many living in the surrounding streets in Stoke and Charterhouse and some of these links still exist. The communities of Charterhouse in St Michael's and in box JA share a number of similar characteristics. Both have a young population, tend to be more transient but also connect with the offer of the city centre and modern living. Residents in this area also have strong links with Gosford Park School in St Michael's and this can be seen by the foot traffic between the two areas through the entryway on Humber Ave to Gosford Park School. The two areas are also connected with the extension of Terry Road, leading to Blue Coat School. The proposals recognise the community identity to Stoke Green in Lower Stoke, particularly within the three roads leading to Stoke Green, Bolingbroke, Hollis and Hugh Rd. This is evidenced with the residents' group that live in the surrounding roads to Stoke Green. It is proposed that box JA moves into St Michael's in part, with Stoke Green, Bolingbroke, Hollis and Hugh Rd remaining in Lower Stoke to recognise the community identity in this area. Humber Road will be used as an identifiable boundary with St Michael's taking in the new Humber estate.

Attached Documents:

None attached