

Coventry

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Comment text:

Related subject: All

Response of Coventry Conservative Federation to the Draft Recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England
a. This document is in response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) initial recommendation for the local government boundaries for Coventry City Council's new electoral roll arrangements.

b. We are grateful to the LGBCE for the work that they have done and to listening to the residents and communities in the city of Coventry.

c. We agree with Coventry City Council's Response(CCCR) dated 16th January 2024 and the approach made by Coventry City Council save and accept the following exceptions:

d. Tile Hill, Canley and Wainbody (5.4 to 5.9 in the Council's response)

e. Wyken and Henley

Westwood and Wainbody

We submit that the name should remain Westwood and not be changed to Tile Hill and Canley. In addition to retention of the name Westwood we would keep Westwood Heath (Polling district Qg) in Westwood Ward. The residents have built up a strong relationship with the rest of Westwood and furthermore consider they have nothing in common with the areas in Wainbody being Finham, Cannon Park and Styvechale Grange.

Regarding Wainbody we support the CCCR (5.2) response in that residents living in Styvechale Grange identify with Finham and use a number of facilities on the other side of the A45 including Finham Park School and Green Lane Medical Centre.

We also agree with CCCR (5.3) there is a substantial difference in the A45 (Kenpas Highway) between Wainbody and Earlsdon as opposed to Bablake and Woodlands (Dunchurch Highway/Birmingham Road) for all the reasons stated including the reduced speed limit (60 to 40 mph) and the various and frequent crossing points across the road and note that a lot of school children cross from Styvechale Grange into Finham to attend Finham Park School.

Further, in order to balance up the numbers, we recommend placing Qe (Lower Canley and Prior Deram Walk) into Wainbody Ward as people in Qe use the Cannon Park Shopping area. Furthermore, there are no crossings into Tile Hill and also the large student population in Qe attend the University of Warwick which is in Wainbody Ward.

Wyken and Henley

In its draft recommendations, the Boundary Commission dismissed the use of the Hinckley Road to form part of the boundary between Henley and Wyken wards, ensuring electoral equality in the north east of the city by including polling district Fa in Wyken.

We argued this is evidenced by the school catchment area for Walsgrave Primary School which does not cross this boundary. In its dismissal the Boundary Commission noted the representation that, "the River Sowe is a stronger boundary in the area than the A4600." However, the Boundary Commission contradicts itself by saying that the Manor Farm Estate has more in common with Wyken, which is south of the River Sowe. It is not apparent why the Boundary Commission considers the River Sowe as a boundary in one area and not another.

We believe that transferring polling district Fa (Walsgrave) from Henley to Wyken is a more optimal move than transferring part of the Manor Farm Estate and New Green Park.

Firstly, the Manor Farm Estate contains both Henley Green Primary School and Henley Green Medical Centre, both used by people in the wider Henley community. Instead, in Wyken Croft which is immediately south of the River Sowe, people use services in Wyken, such as Wyken Croft Primary School, St John Fisher School and The Forum Medical Centre.

These services use the River Sowe as their boundary. Secondly, there is only one vehicular access between Wyken Croft and the Manor Farm Estate/New Green Park estate. Whereas, the latter two estates are adjacent to Henley Road, which serves as the spine road for the entire Henley community. By retaining these estates in Henley ward, the Boundary Commission can maintain the community connections established in Henley. We note in its full report that the Boundary Commission is seeking additional information from residents on this boundary. We hope in that spirit this counterproposal adds useful context, and that the Boundary Commission adjust its recommendations according to the views of local people.

Conclusion

We are pleased we are able to agree with the CCCR (with the above exceptions) response and hope the LGBCE will take note of the strong support of Westwood residents to remain aligned to Westwood and the wish of residents of Styvechale Grange, supported by the Styvechale Grange Residents Association to remain in Wainbody. We also hope they reconsider the position between Wyken and Henley for the reasons as stated above.

Attached Documents:

None attached