

Coventry

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Comment text:

Related subject: Entire Council Area

I have attached a complete plan drawn up on behalf of Coventry Green Party, including myself (Cllr Stephen Gray) and my group colleague (Cllr Esther Reeves)

Attached Documents:

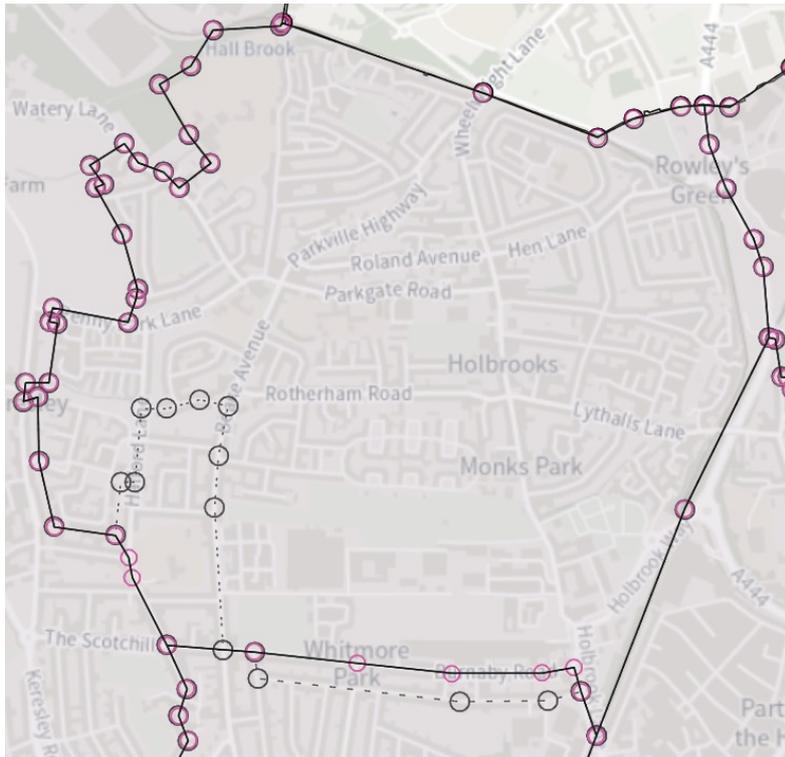
- Green Party Submission.pdf

WESTERN COVENTRY

The western half of Coventry requires substantial changes in order to create wards that are within the tolerances, since the existing Bablake ward is 31% over and the existing Wainbody ward is 20% under.

Holbrooks

Electorate: 14,871



Whilst the existing ward is called Holbrook, the Holbrooks area is universally known as Holbrooks, and there have even been instances of council officers using the plural form in documents which refer to the ward. We therefore propose that the new ward covering this area use the plural form of the name.

The A444 and Nuneaton railway line form a strong barrier on the eastern side of the current ward and there is only one bridge across them. We propose that this strong barrier remains.

The natural boundary between the Holbrooks/Whitmore Park area and Radford to the south is Burnaby Road, which is a major through-road and difficult to cross during the daytime. Historically Burnaby Road has been somewhat isolated from the rest of Holbrooks, due to a large industrial area immediately to its north. This is significantly less true now, since much of that area has recently been replaced with a new housing estate. We are proposing moving the south side of Burnaby Road, and the half-streets to its south, into Radford ward. Rollason Road in particular identifies with Radford, being a very short walk to Jubilee Crescent – the shopping area that is the heart of the Radford community.

On the eastern side of Holbrooks, Beake Avenue is a major road, but not a barrier between communities. Most of the Whitmore Park primary school

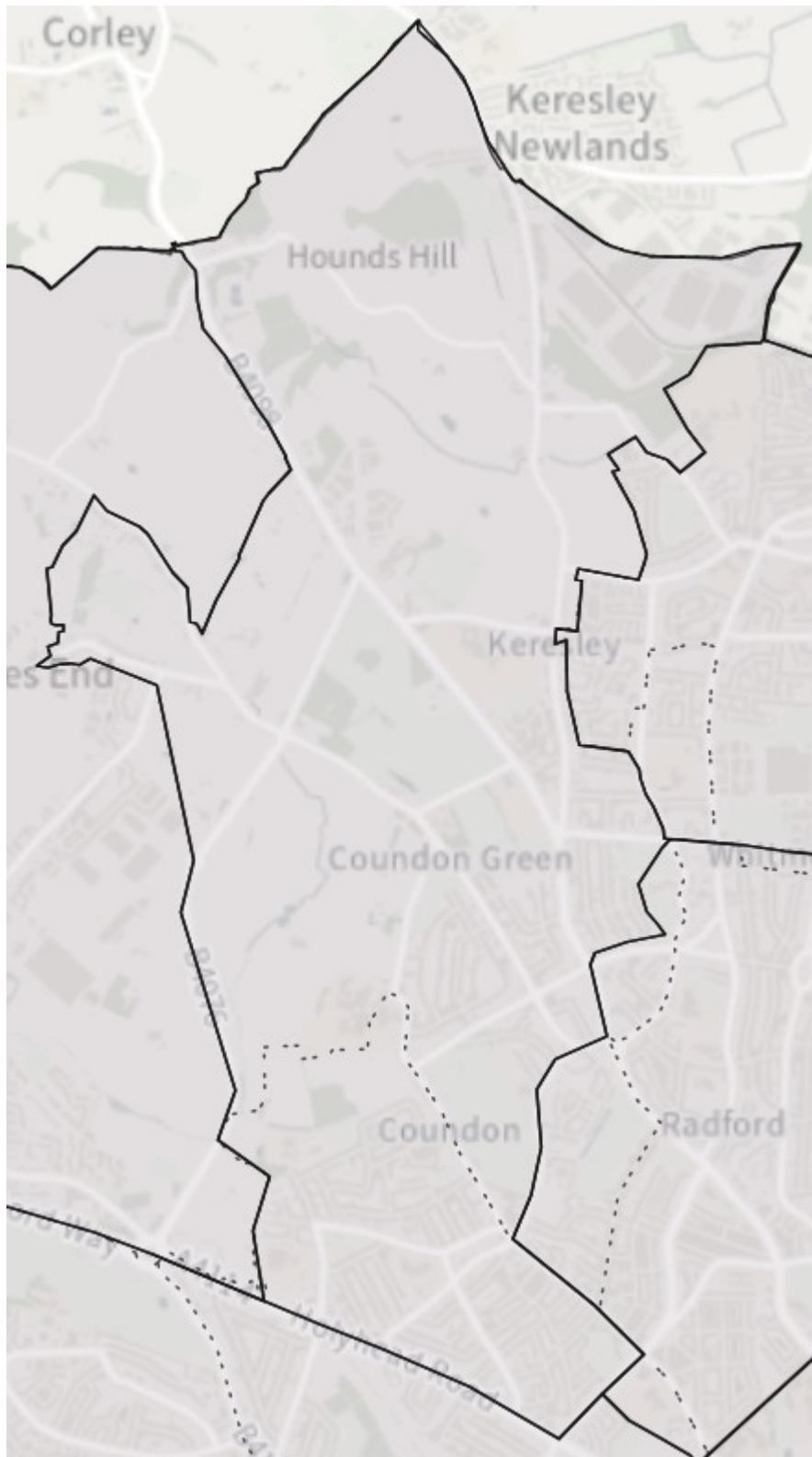
catchment area is in the Holbrooks ward, and so it makes sense to add most of the current AG polling district, which contains the school, into Holbrooks, placing the new boundary along Sadler Road and The Scotchill.

The area around Penny Park Lane and Watery Lane also has a very strong reason to remain in Holbrooks, given that the currently developments in Keresley Parish include a link road that will cut off vehicle access along Watery Lane. If this review were allowed to include minor amendments to parish boundaries, we would have proposed the addition of the brand new road of Jubilee Green. This is in Keresley Parish, but separated from the rest of it by Jubilee Wood and on the non-Keresley side of the proposed boundary road.

Polling district GI is very much of a piece with Penny Park Lane, and our proposed addition to the ward on this side will actually make this polling district more integrated with the rest of the ward.

Keresley and Coundon

Electorate: 14,982

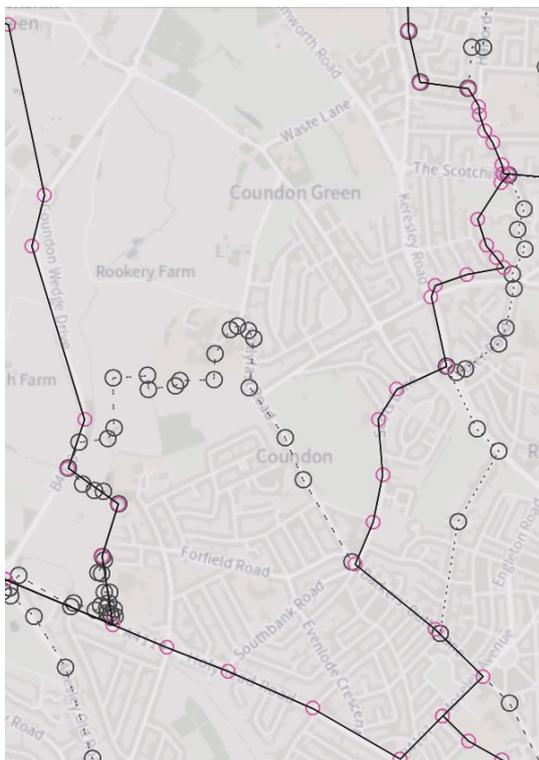


Since the existing ward of Bablake is expected to be 30% over quota it effectively needs to be split in half. We have, therefore, proposed combining Keresley Parish with the area of Coundon.

The western boundary starts by following the parish boundary between Allesley and Keresley until it gets to Hawks Mill Road. It then cuts through fields between the junction with Browns Lane and the roundabout on Coundon Wedge Drive. It then roughly follows the current ward boundary between Bablake and Sherbourne, before taking in everything north of Holyhead Road all the way down to Moseley Avenue.

From there, the boundary goes along Barker Butts Lane, Scots Lane, and Keresley Road up until the roundabout with Wallace Road. It then takes everything north of Wallace Road, through the allotments, and then up Sadler Road from the junction with The Scotchill until it hits the current Bablake/Holbrook boundary.

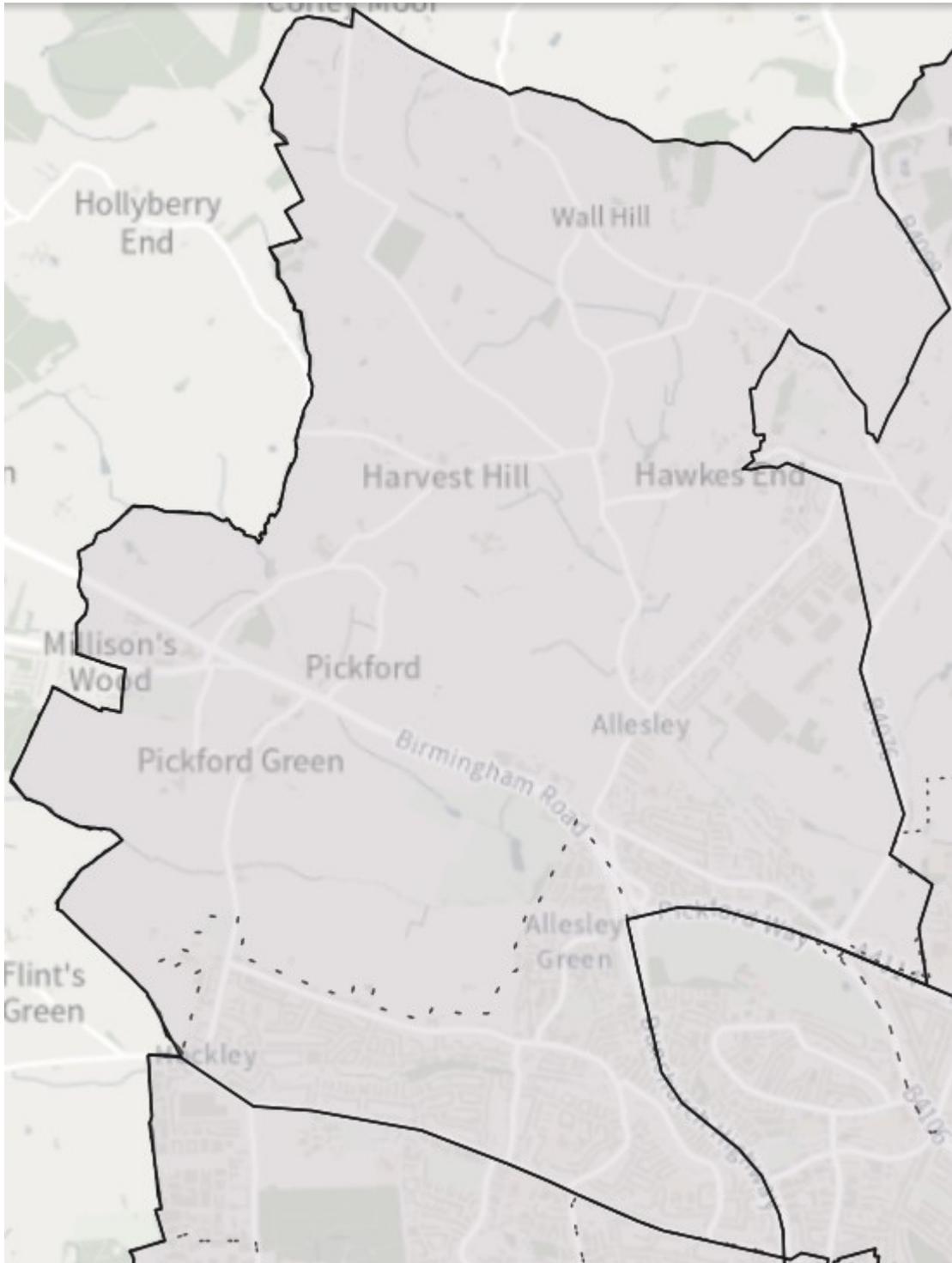
Whilst our proposal does leave a few parts of Coundon in Radford ward, these parts are somewhat ambiguous as to which of the two areas they really belong to. And this is a significant improvement on the current boundaries, where this area is split between Bablake, Sherbourne, and Radford wards.



The southern end of Keresley and Coundon

Allesley and Eastern Green

Electorate: 15,081

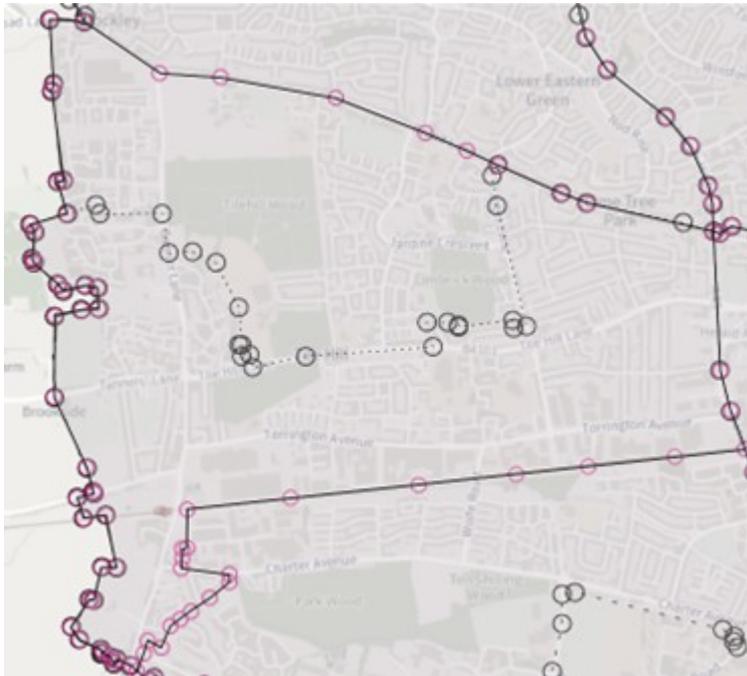


We are proposing to combine the parish of Allesley, including some residential streets which are immediately adjacent to the parish, with Eastern Green – currently in Woodlands. The new Eastern Green development is in Allesley parish, but when it is built it is very likely to have much stronger community ties to the existing Eastern Green area than it does to the rest of Allesley parish. This proposal would seem to be the only viable option to keep Allesley parish in a

single ward and avoid forcing the parish to adopt wards. The natural boundary for Eastern Green is along the A45 (a very hard barrier between this area and the rest of the city) and Broad Lane, and we propose this boundary for the new ward, with the rest of the boundary following that already described in our proposal for Keresley and Coundon.

Tile Hill

Electorate: 13,368

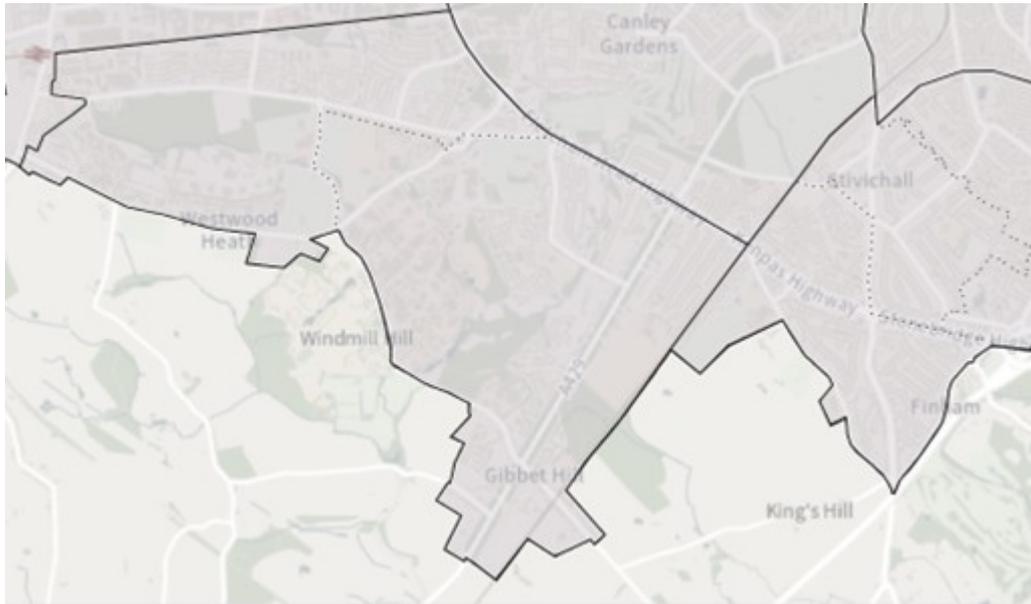


We are proposing combining much of the current Westwood and Woodlands wards into a new Tile Hill ward. Tile Hill South and Tile Hill North are very clearly two halves of the same community, with the shopping area in Jardine Crescent being the heart of this community. The identity of Tile Hill does go all the way from Tile Hill station to the obvious barrier of the A45.

The railway line creates a very clear and unambiguous boundary between Tile Hill to the north and Canley to the south, with only a single crossing point between the A45 and the station itself. Unfortunately the numbers do not quite add up to create a ward that consists solely of Tile Hill, so we are proposing adding the area off Station Avenue, which is the part of Canley that is the most associated with Tile Hill due to its proximity to Tile Hill railway station.

Wainbody

Electorate: 13,371

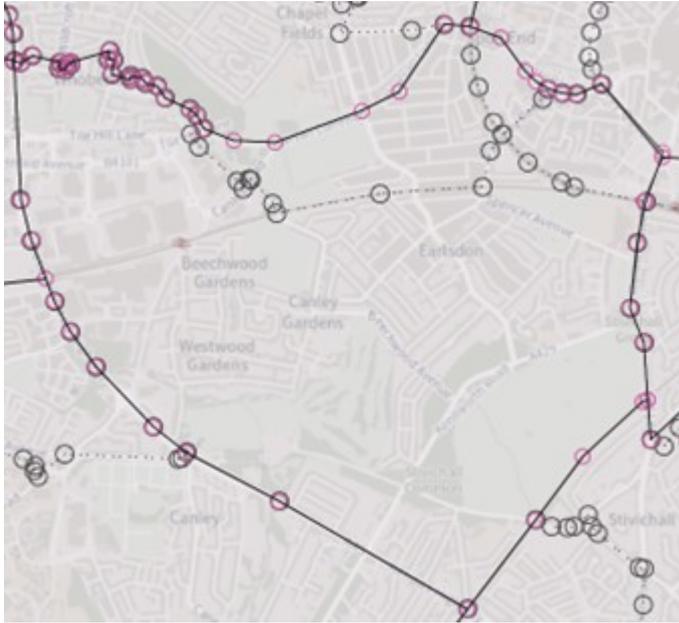


We are proposing that the current Wainbody ward be extended to include the whole of Canley (it currently only includes part of the area) apart from the area around Tile Hill station. As mentioned under Tile Hill, the railway line is a natural boundary between Canley and Tile Hill. We are also proposing that Wainbody loses the PA polling district, which is north of the obvious barrier of the A45 to create a more coherent boundary.

We are also proposing moving polling districts PB and PC (the Finham and Green Lane areas) into our proposed Finham and South Cheylesmore ward. These two areas are a distinct community from the rest of the current Wainbody ward, and the railway line is a clear barrier here.

Earlsdon

Electorate: 13,149

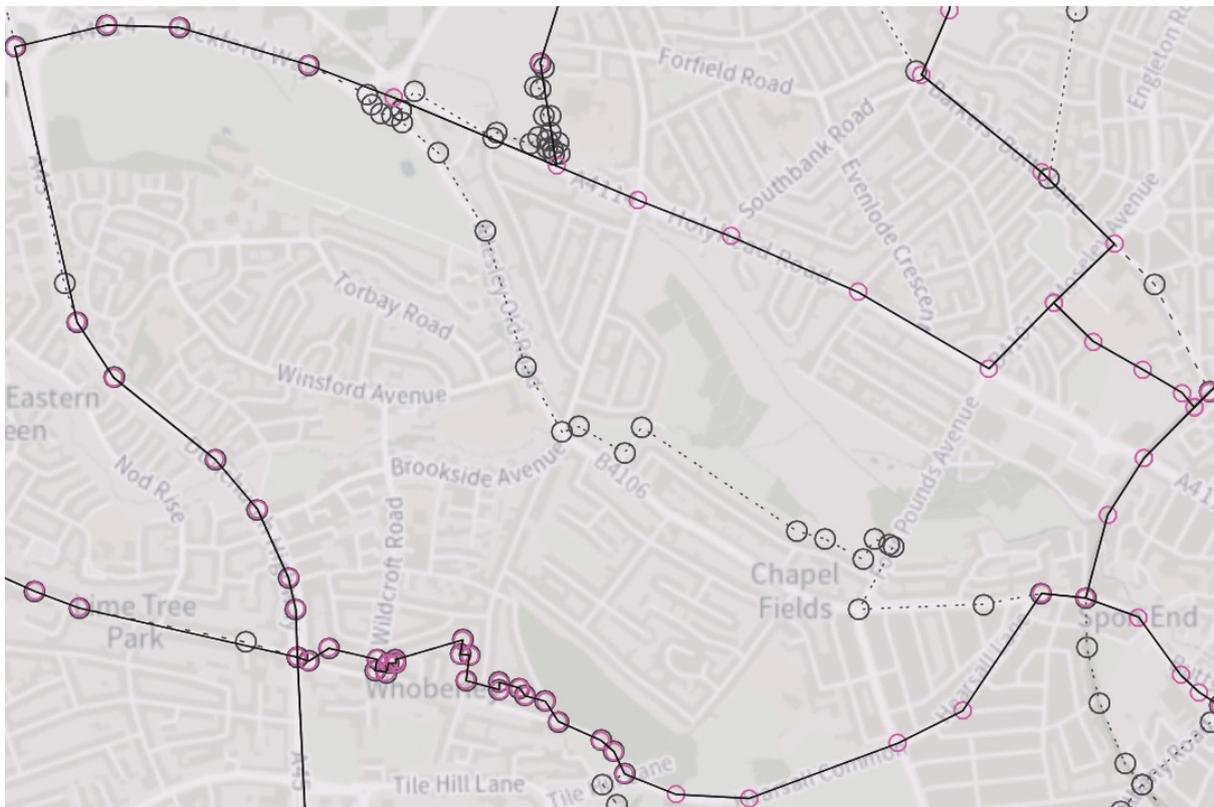


At the moment the area of Earlsdon is split between four different wards (Cheylesmore, Earlsdon, St Michaels, and Whoberley). We propose to unite the whole of the Earlsdon area into a single ward, which matches the areas covered by the North Earlsdon Residents Association and the South Earlsdon Residents Association. This means losing the DD polling district to Finham and North Cheylesmore and gaining the RA and LI polling districts from Whoberley & St Michaels, as well as moving Earlsdon Park Village from polling district ME.

The new boundary runs along the A45, up the railway line until hitting Leamington Road. It then goes along Leamington Road, Warwick Road, the Coventry Ring Road, and the Butts. It then goes up Hearsall Lane, through Hearsall Common, and up Tile Hill Lane, where it meets the A45.

Whoberley

Electorate: 12,708

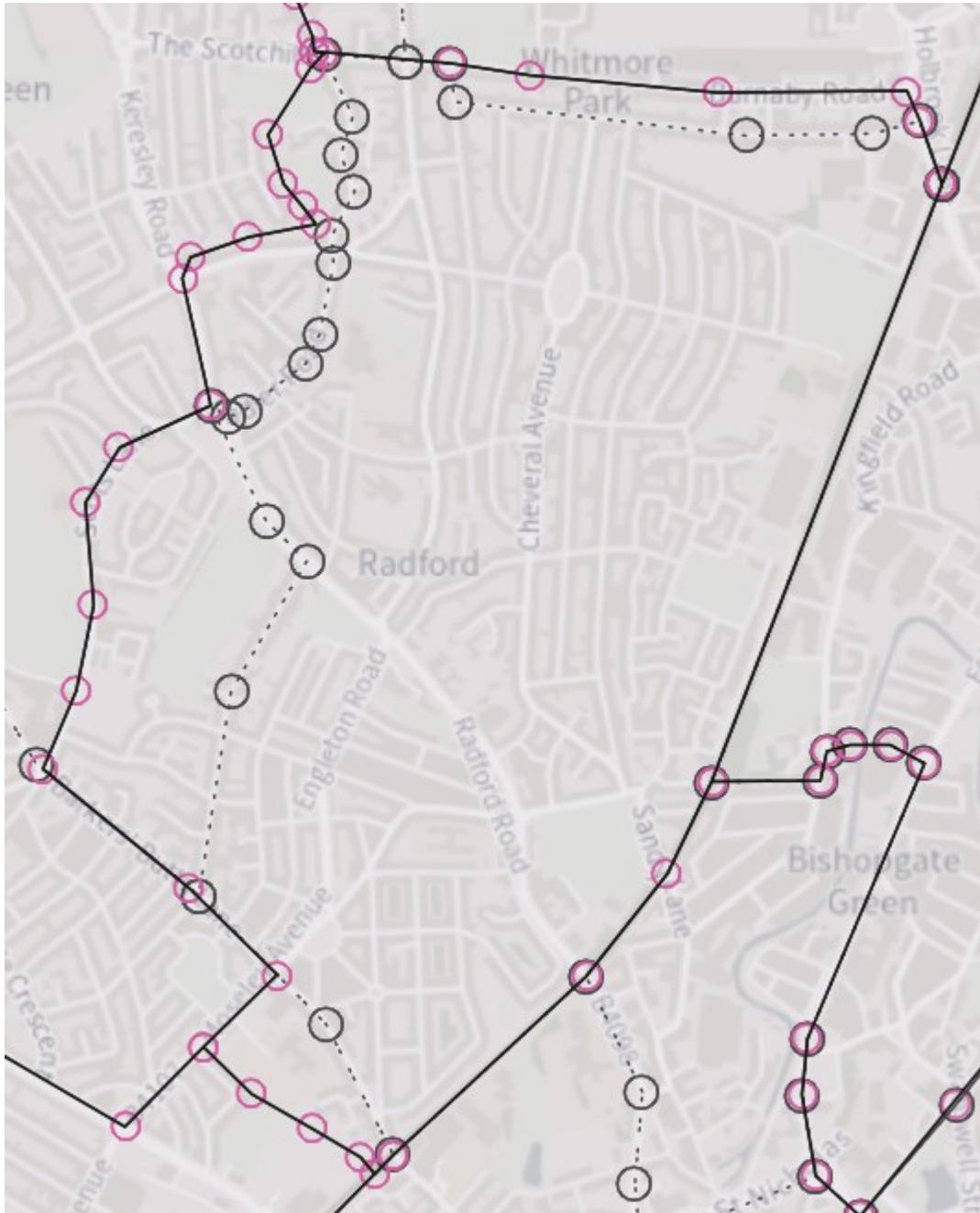


We are proposing that Whoberley Ward loses the areas that are part of the Earlsdon area, and gain much of the current Sherbourne ward, having a boundary that extends to Holyhead Road, plus a small area on the other side which is necessary for electoral equality. This enables almost all of Coundon to fit into the new Keresley and Coundon ward, and unites all of Whoberley and Chapelfields in the new Whoberley ward.

The eastern boundary would remain the A45, with the northern boundary going along Pickford Way, Holyhead Road, and Moseley Avenue up until Paston Road. At that point, it cuts round the back of the houses to join up with the railway line, which it follows until it reaches the Butts. At that point the boundary follows Hearsall Lane, Hearsall Common, and Tile Hill Lane, where it follows the current Earlsdon/Whoberley boundary until it hits the A45.

Radford

Electorate: 13,932



Our new Radford ward gains a small area from Holbrooks, reflecting the fact that the natural boundary between these two areas of the city is obviously Burnaby Road. It also extends east to take in a small area of the current Bablake ward, bringing the boundary across to Barker Butts, Lane, Scots Lane, and Wallace Road. The areas affected it gains are somewhat ambiguous as to whether they count as Radford or Coundon. We have also extended the boundary to take in both halves of Barker Butts Lane between Moseley Avenue and the railway line.

We have removed the areas of the current Radford ward which are south of the railway line. This is an obvious natural boundary between Radford proper and the canal basin area, which has its own distinct character.

St Michaels

Electorate: 13,059



St Michaels ward is not currently that coherent, consisting of several areas whose only common feature is that they are in, or next to, the city centre. We are, therefore, proposing a number of changes to this ward. Our new St Michaels ward retains the city centre (which is clearly bounded by the Coventry Ring-Road), and the area of Hillfields, but loses the rest of its current polling districts. This is compensated for by the addition of the Canal Basin area from Radford and Spon End from the current Sherbourne ward. Both of these areas are very much defined by their proximity to the city centre, and so despite the obvious barrier created by the Coventry Ring Road fit at least as well with the rest of St Michaels as anything else would

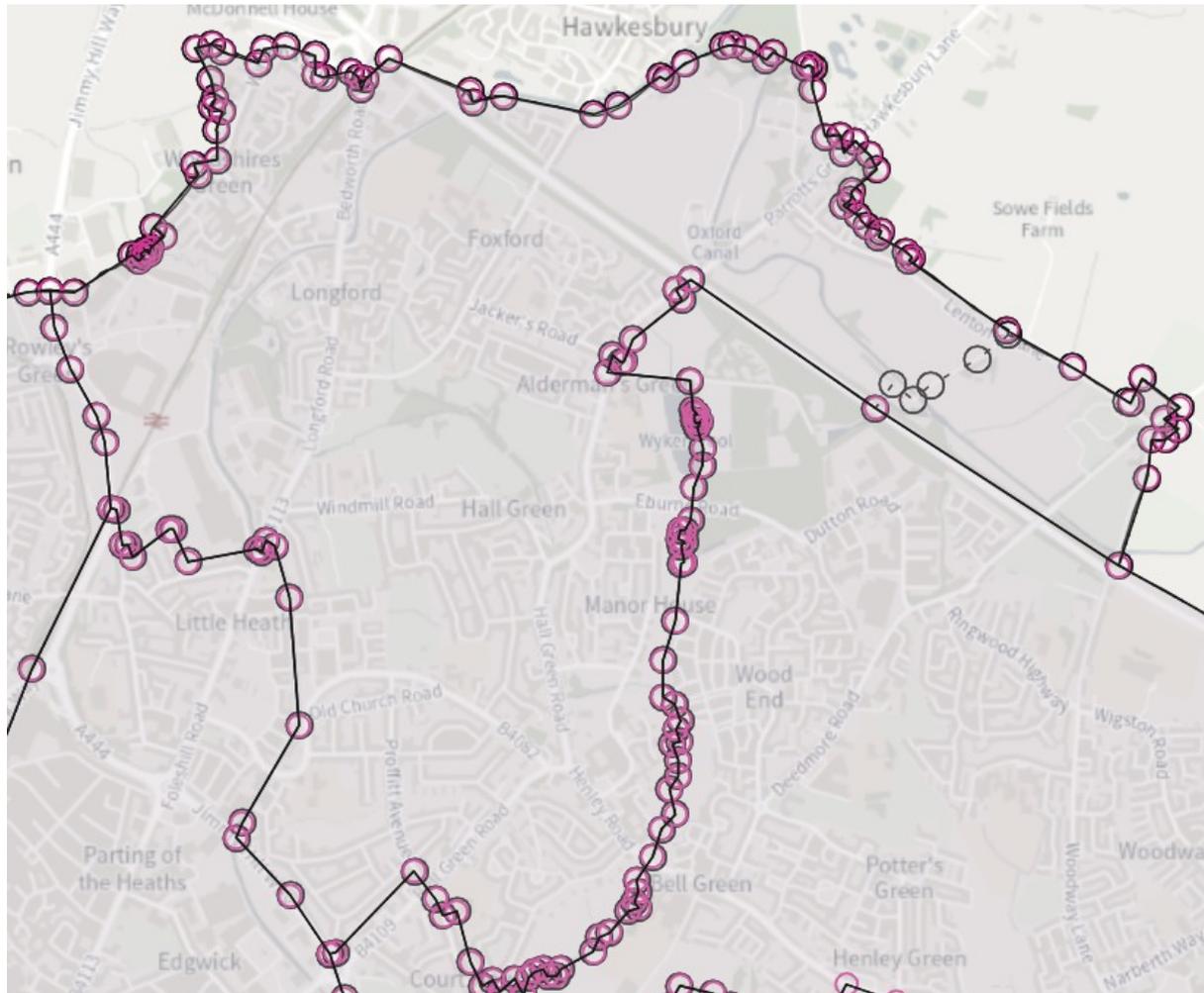
The new boundary for those areas runs along the Butts (a major arterial road, which is a very big barrier) up until the railway bridge, at which point it follows the railway line up until the current boundary with Foleshill.

EASTERN COVENTRY

The current boundaries on the eastern side of Coventry are, for the most part, well-drawn with respect to community boundaries. And the wards on this side of the city are all either within the tolerances or close to them. We are, therefore, proposing only minor changes on this side of the city.

Longford

Electorate: 14,700



The current Longford ward is bounded to the north by the council boundary. Most of its western boundary tracks parts of the A444 and the Coventry canal, which also provide very clear boundaries between communities. Most of its eastern boundary tracks the clear dividing line of the River Sowe, leaving only the boundaries with Foleshill and Upper Stoke where there could be substantial boundary changes. We are, therefore, proposing merely the addition of the parts of the current Henley ward that are north of the M6 - which serves as a very clear barrier between this small number of electors and the rest of the city.

Foleshill

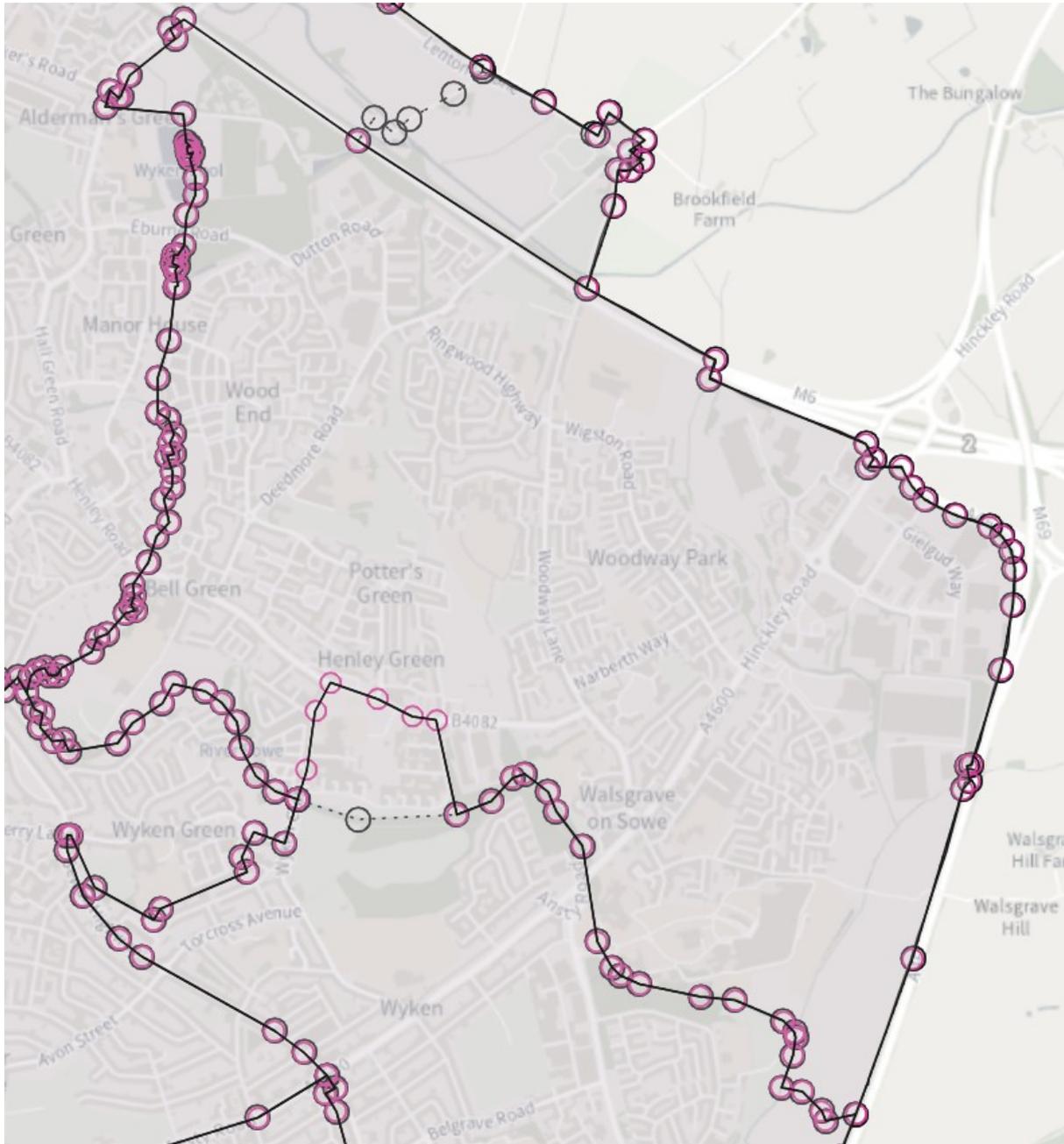
Electorate: 14,076



We are proposing to leave the current Foleshill ward completely unchanged. It is currently within quota, its boundaries are a fairly good reflection of natural communities, and changing it would have unhelpful effects on the surrounding wards.

Henley

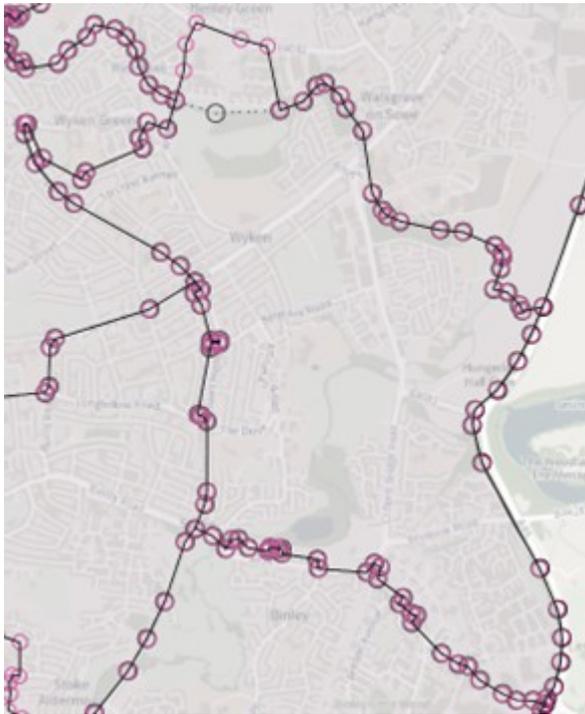
Electorate: 14,697



The current Henley ward contains a number of different communities, all with their own clear identities. Since it is currently too large, we are proposing only two minor changes. One is removing the electors who live on Lentons Lane, north of the M6, into Longford (since the M6 serves as a natural barrier between this road and the rest of Henley). The other is moving the estate around Henley Green Primary School into Wyken, achieving electoral equality for both wards.

Wyken

Electorate: 13,365



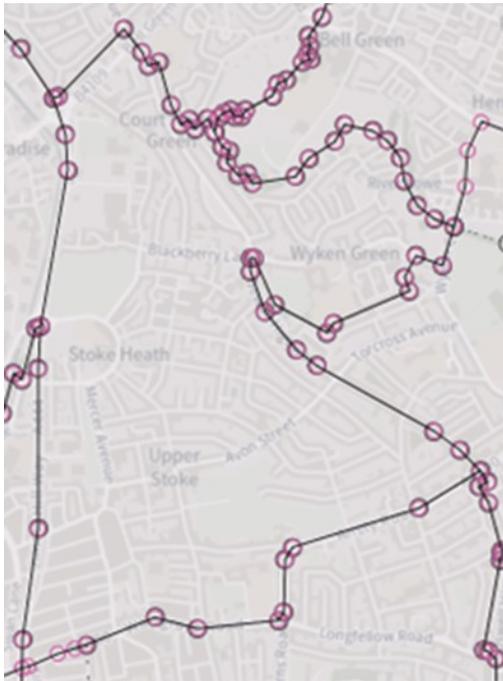
The current Wyken ward is fairly coherent, with reasonably strong boundaries. Whilst we considered amending the slightly strange-shaped boundary with Upper Stoke, this created a number of unhelpful knock-on effects. We are, therefore, proposing a new Wyken ward which simply adds the estate around Henley Green Primary School to ensure that Henley Ward comes within tolerances.



The area to be added to Wyken

Upper Stoke

Electorate: 12,849



The western boundary of the current Upper Stoke ward follows the natural barrier of the A444 and as noted in other sections, there is no particular benefit to changing its northern and western boundaries.

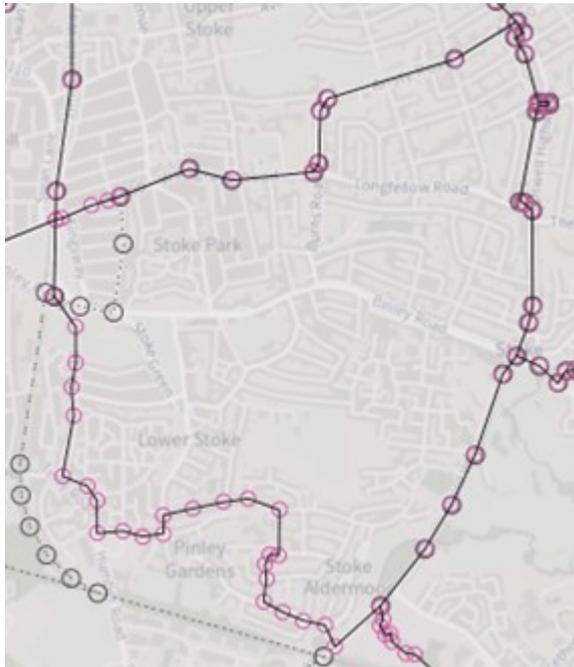
We are, however, proposing a minor change to the southern boundary. The natural boundary between Upper and Lower Stoke is Walsgrave Road, and polling district NA crosses this boundary. Residents to the south of Walsgrave Road generally belong to the Humber Road Residents' Association, whilst residents to the north do not. Residents in this area often receive election literature for both wards, and we have heard reports of councillors mistaking which of the two wards residents asking them for help are in. We are, therefore, proposing that the southern boundary run along the entire length of Walsgrave Road, solving this problem.



The area to be removed from Upper Stoke

Lower Stoke

Electorate: 14,745

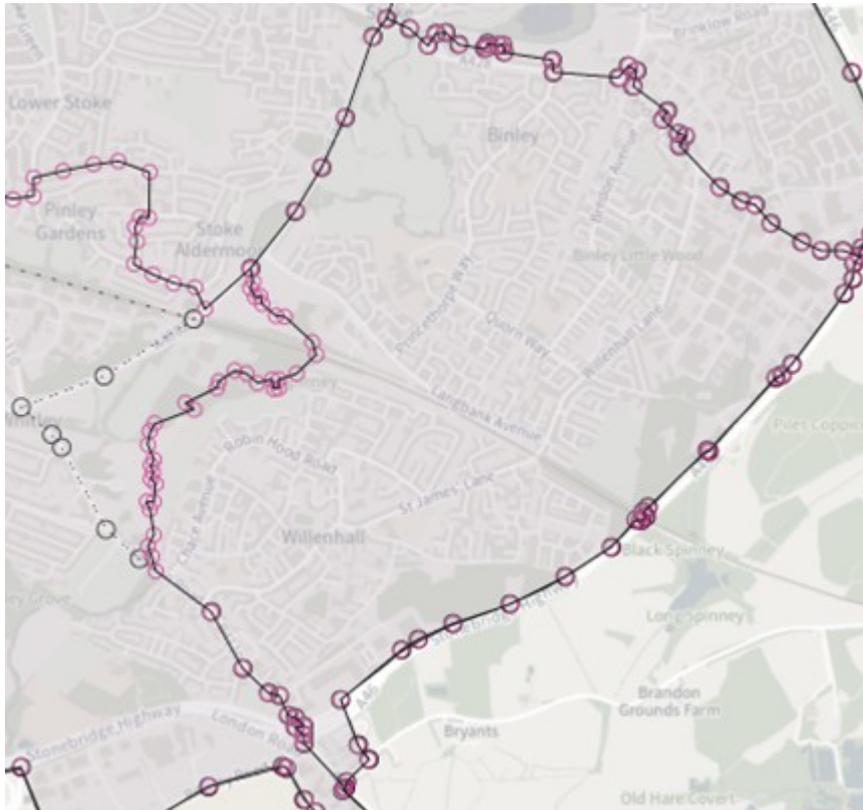


The current Lower Stoke ward is significantly oversized and, as noted under the section for Upper Stoke, we are proposing to add half of the current polling district NA to it, since even councillors seem to get confused over which ward this area is in. We have, therefore, proposed to remove the area of Pinley Gardens and part of the area that is sometimes called Charterhouse, but more often considered part of Stoke, into our new Whitley and North Cheylesmore ward. The new boundary follows Humber Road, Terry Road, Sunbeam Avenue, part of Aldermoor Lane, Siddeley Avenue, part of Whitworth Avenue, Acorn Street, part of The Barley Lea, and The Moorfield, before joining up with the existing boundary on Allard Way.

Unfortunately fitting all of the areas that naturally belong in Lower Stoke would mean a ward that is much too large, and we believe this new boundary to be the best solution for this part of the city.

Binley and Willenhall

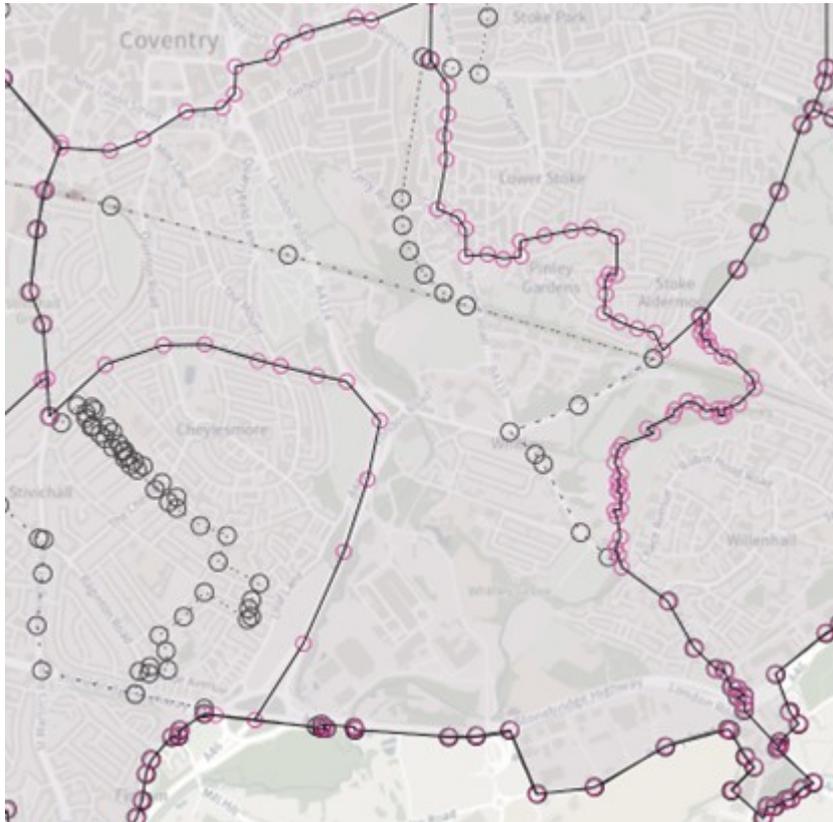
Electorate: 13,296



The two areas of Binley and Willenhall are fairly well-defined, and the existing ward is within tolerances. We are, therefore, proposing only a very minor change here. We are suggesting that part of the boundary go along the river Sowe rather than Allard Way and London Road. Whilst this does not appear to affect any existing electors our mapping software tells us that this change is necessary to bring our proposed Whitley and North Cheylesmore ward within tolerances.

Whitley and North Cheylesmore

Electorate: 12,531



We are proposing a new ward to be named Whitley and North Cheylesmore. This ward takes in most of the current Cheylesmore ward, as well as the Pinley Gardens and Charterhouse areas we have removed from Lower Stoke ward, the Charterhouse/Stoke area of St Michael's, and the area around Coventry Railway Station which naturally belongs with Cheylesmore. The south of the Cheylesmore area will be placed into the new Finham and South Cheylesmore ward.

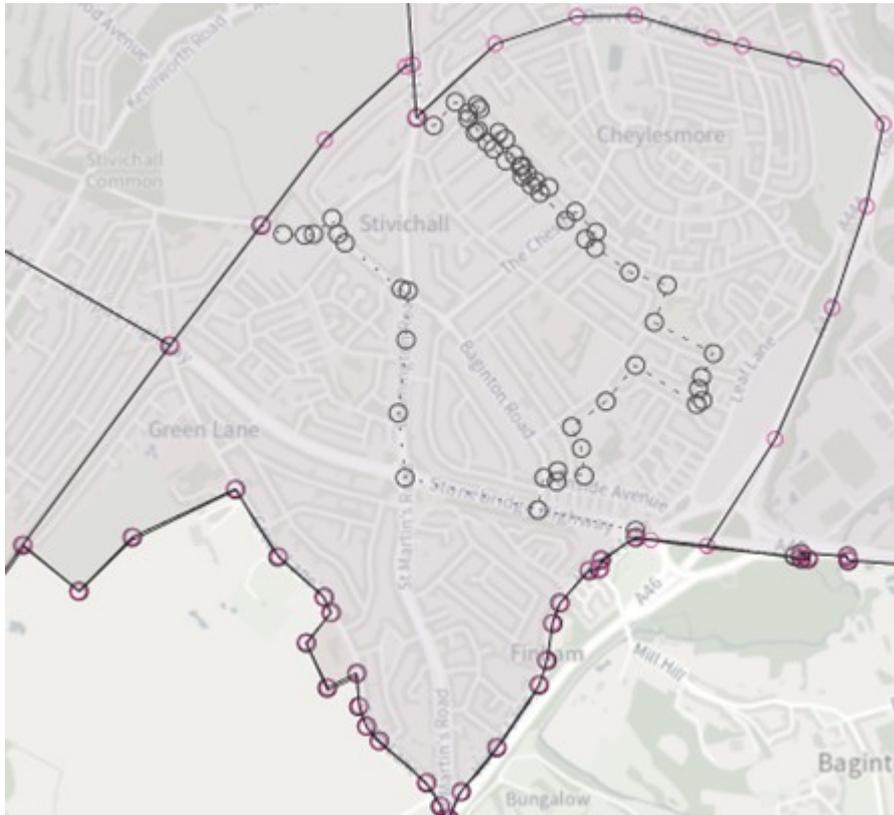
The boundary with St Michael's follows the natural dividing lines of the Coventry Ring Road, Sky Blue Way, and the bottom of Walsgrave Road.

The boundary with Earlsdon follows the natural dividing line along Warwick Road and Leamington Road.

The boundary with Finham and South Cheylesmore follows Daventry Road. Whilst this main shopping street is the heart of Cheylesmore, it is the natural dividing line between the northern and southern halves of the area. Whilst we would have preferred to keep Cheylesmore in one piece we believe that the knock-on effects of doing so would have far too many negative knock-on effects to the rest of the city.

Finham and South Cheylesmore

Electorate: 14,478



We are proposing to create a new Finham and South Cheylesmore ward consisting of the Finham/Green Lane area, Stivichall, and the parts of Cheylesmore south of Daventry Road. This ward is largely a consequence of redrawing Earlsdon ward to coincide with the actual Earlsdon area and Wainbody ward to include all of Canley. But it is also a very coherent area.

The boundaries for this new ward take the railway line down to Leamington Road, follow Leamington Road up to Daventry Road, follow Daventry Road across to London Road, and then follow the A444 out to the city boundary.

This new ward reunites the area of Stivichall, which was previously split between Earlsdon and Cheylesmore wards and is clearly distinct from both. However, we have opted not to include Stivichall in the new ward name because the area has at least three different spellings. Choosing one of these spellings to use would invite unnecessary controversy. Whilst the Finham/Green Lane area is separated from the rest of this new ward by the A5, it is of a similar character to both Cheylesmore and Stivichall, and so this new ward is extremely coherent.