

Solihull

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Comment text:

Related subject: Olton Ward - Proposed Changes

The proposed changes appear to create the new north boundary of the ward using the canal.

I do not see the logic of using the canal as a boundary, given the canal goes through the heart of Olton and is certainly not a boundary of Olton - historic records will show this.

To the south side of the canal, a matter of less than 5 minutes walk, the heart of Olton exists - with Olton Station, Olton Library and the historic St Margarets Church.

I reside on Richmond Road, which is most definitely in Olton and short walk from the heart of Olton, and this is confirmed by a road sign clearly indicating where Olton begins on Richmond Road.

The south boundary of the ward is a considerably further distance from the heart of Olton and would not be within the geography of Olton - so if anything there is a case of prioritising the south boundary if needing to make changes, rather than moving parts of Olton out of Olton Ward.

Where is the logic and common sense which suggests it is a good idea to move the ward boundary so as to exclude parts of Olton from Olton Ward - other than 'a local resident' who suggested it? Additionally, St Margarets School (linked with St Margarets Church) serves as polling station for Olton Ward, and covers streets such as Ulverley Green Road and others - it would seem most ironic if the residents of Richmond

Road, Scott Road, Fernhill Road and Badesley Road are moved out of the current Olton Ward and polling station, when these streets are in the geography of Olton.

I've been a resident of Olton for a long number of years, and to be honest feel quite strongly about this, especially given there are no proposed changes in the number of wards in Solihull or the number of councillors - it would be a sorry state of affairs to see the ward boundary is moved on the basis of a local resident suggesting a change because they think the canal makes a good boundary, with no other overriding or compelling need for change - surely it wouldn't be politically motivated!

Furthermore, exercises like this are presumably paid from public funds, and therefore from UK taxes, and with this in mind I don't easily reconcile that seeking to make this change is a good use of tax payers money.

Attached Documents:

None attached