

Solihull

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

Related subject: Olton

I am objecting to the boundary changes proposed to remove the Richmond Road area, north of the Grand Union canal, from the Olton Ward to the Lyndon Ward. As an Olton resident for the last 23 years, living on Richmond Road all that time, we have always relished in the fact that our Victorian property is historically part of Olton. Richmond Road, formally Richmond Park Road is part of the original 1900's historical fabric of the Olton area. For this reason, it should remain in the Olton Ward.

The area was developed from the 1870's onwards as part of the early original Olton area benefitting from the connections by railway and canal. It is far more part of Olton than much of the area south of Grange Road, which is also included in the Olton area. The redrafting of the boundaries to remove this area from Olton is wrong, in terms of historical boundaries, and so any changes would be more appropriate in the south of the ward which is far more removed from the historic centre of the area.

A motion to amend the proposals was overruled by a Conservative council majority, citing a topographic inconsistency, that is incorrect in terms of history but also topography. The houses on this stretch of Richmond Road have been here since the late 1870's and the Lodge building, even earlier. The statement raised at the meeting by the Conservative councillors that the area is 'like entering a different county let alone a different part of Solihull' shows contempt and ignorance and fails to understand Olton as an area in its own right. Any further fragmentation by ward boundary changes are not in the interests of the public who live here or for the historic continuity of the area. The councillors have failed to understand the historical co-development of the differing housing typologies in the mid to late 1900's on either side of the Warwick Road as part of a whole community of differing 'working classes' and that Olton is not just the larger suburban Victorian Villas on the south of the Warwick Road. This shows an ignorant view of the community as a whole both historically and currently, who wish to remain having an Olton representation at the local council. To have St Margaret's church in one ward and St Margaret's school in another does not make sense and

would sever links for the local community. Olton is our community not Lyndon, my children went to St Margaret's school in Olton, they went to brownies, beavers, scouts in Olton and to change this now feels like a personal attack on our wonderful homes that have been part of Olton history for 150 years. This is not right!!!!

Attached Documents:

None attached