

Sandwell

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Tividale and Rowley Regis

I support the proposals for new ward patterns for the Tividale and Rowley wards. These new boundaries are far better reflective of local ties and are much easier to understand for residents. They will also ensure that elected members can better represent communities, as they will be able to concentrate on whole distinctive communities, as opposed to having small exclaves as is currently the case.

It is an honour to represent the proud community of Tividale on Sandwell Council. Since being elected, it has become clearer to me that Tividale is currently split between two wards simply because our community extends both sides of a main road.

The current ward patterns put important community facilities for the people of Tividale in Oldbury ward, such as Tividale Community Primary School and Tividale Park. Not to mention that, when viewing the area on a map, the label Tividale sits north of the A4123, whereas Tividale Hall sits on the southern side. This means Tividale is currently divided right down the middle, confusing residents and forcing locally elected members to explain this anomaly when residents of Tividale have to contact the Oldbury Councillors as opposed to those elected to serve Tividale itself.

Your proposals resolve all these issues by including the areas of Tividale north of the A4123 in the new Tividale ward. Compensating for this increase in numbers by re-allocating the residential area around the Portway Leisure Centre to Rowley ward is a far better way of respecting local community ties, because they are detached completely from the rest of Tividale by Bury Hill Park.

Your new boundary proposals are so much better than the existing situation. It will allow the elected representatives of Tividale to represent all of Tividale, and make it much easier for local residents to associate with their elected representatives now that they actually cover all of Tividale, not just half of it.

The changes you've made elsewhere to make this possible, such as the new pattern for Rowley and Blackheath ward, are all very sensible changes and respect the fact that Rowley Regis itself is formed of many different housing estates without one true 'town centre'. Maintaining the

communities that sit on the southern side of Rowley Hill and placing them with those that are beyond the catchment of Blackheath Town Centre is a sensible way to unlock a better ward pattern in distinct communities like my own in Tividale and in places like Old Hill, that are both now united after being separated at the last boundary review.

I hope that the commission will adopt these new boundaries in full. Thank you for considering my views.

Attached Documents:

None attached