

Derby City Council

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Comment text:

Alvaston Ward Councillors have submitted a report on the Local Government Boundary Commission draft map proposal. Please see attached file.

Uploaded Documents:

Download ([https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1659727942 Alvaston+Councillors+response FINAL.pdf](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1659727942%20Alvaston+Councillors+response%20FINAL.pdf))

Alvaston Ward Councillors response to Local Government Boundary Commission's draft recommendations for Derby City Council

About: This report will compare in detail the existing ward with the draft recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC). This report has been collaborated and agreed by the three Councillors of Alvaston ward in consultation with residents and groups.

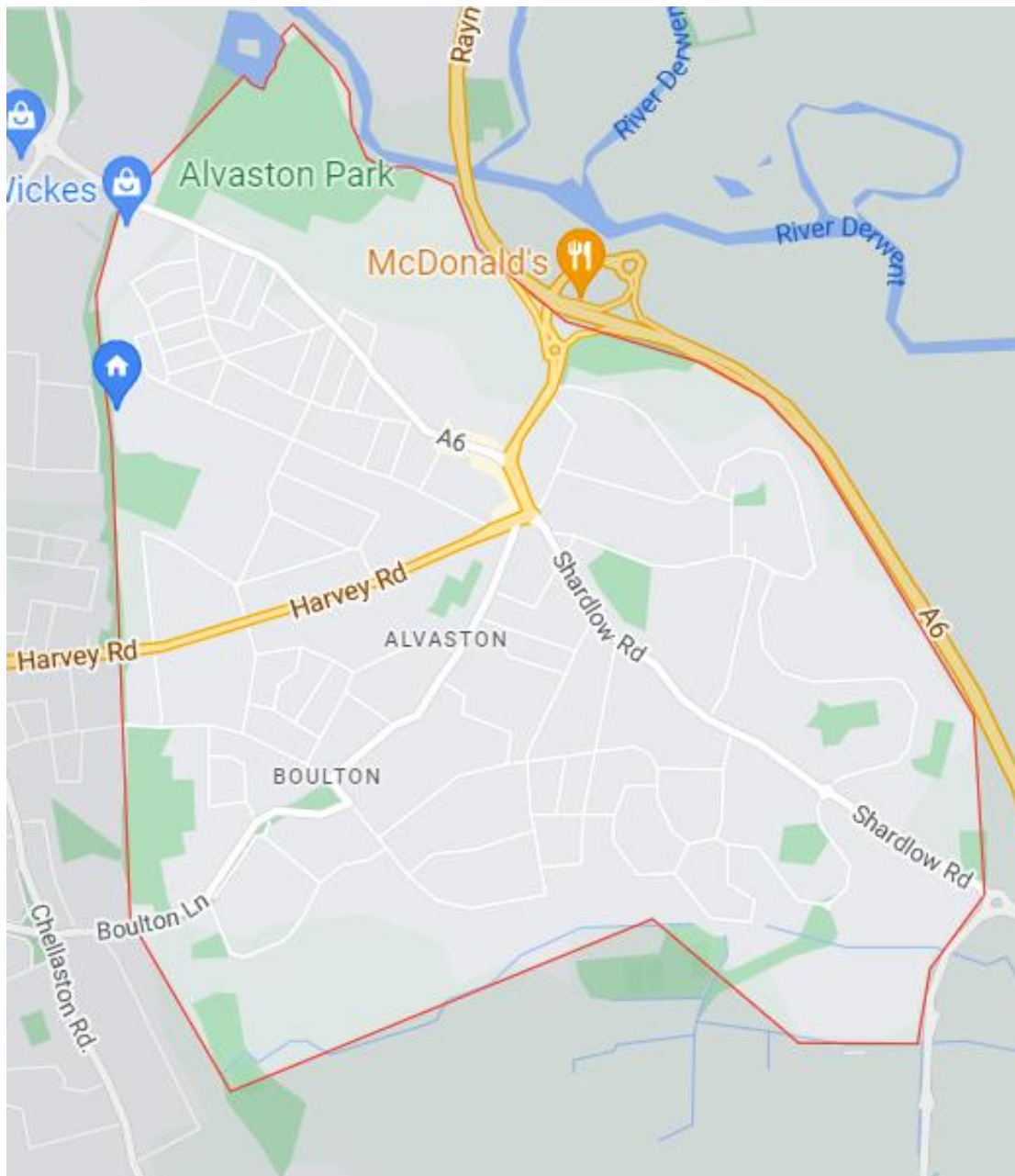
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Geographical and communities

The current draft proposal by LGBC will divide the Alvaston community into artificial segments that have no common grouping. This will have a negative effect on the community as the current ward identity will be lost, splitting up areas and not bringing the community together.

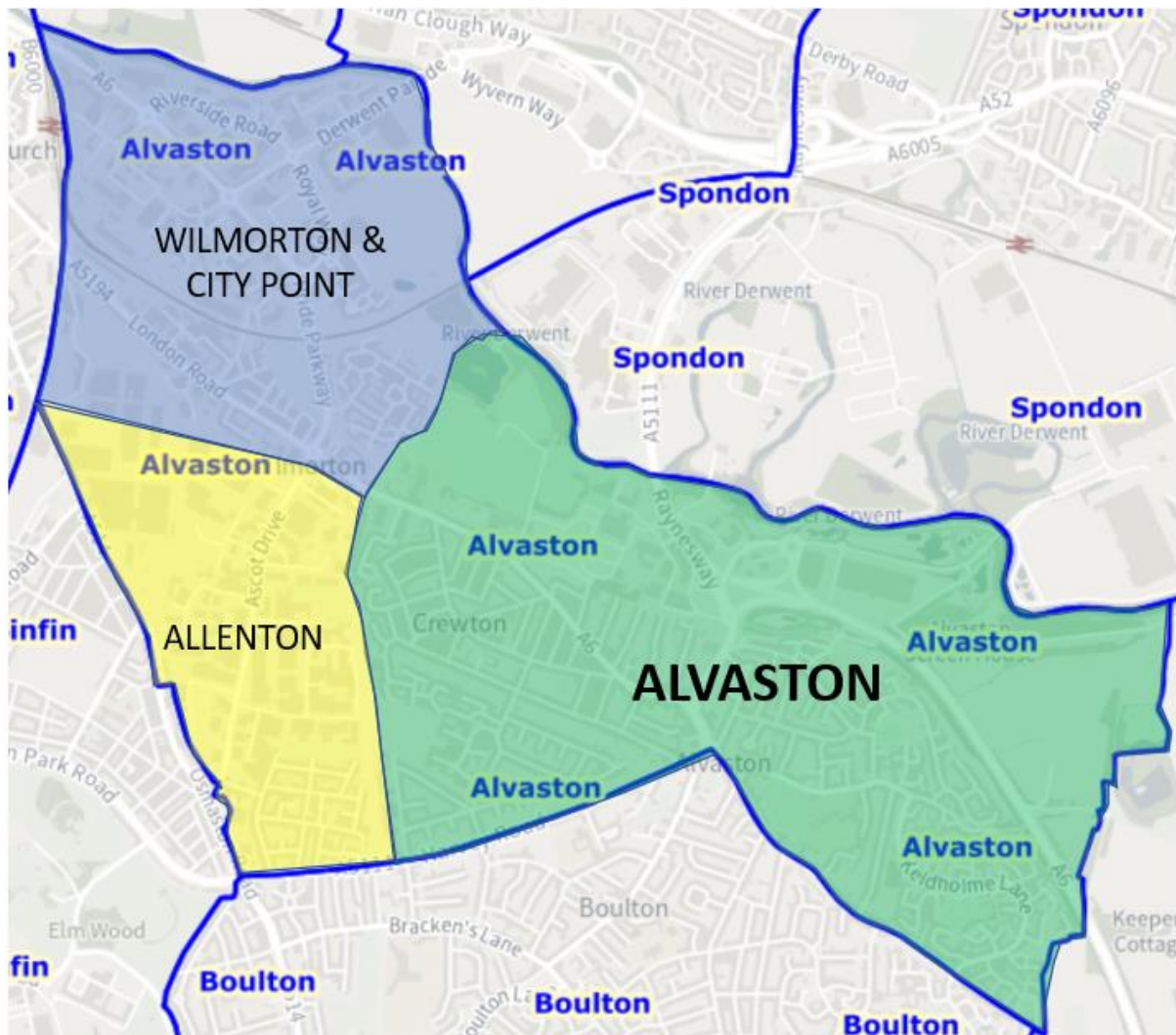
Alvaston Suburb area



The above image is Alvaston community which can be found by searching Alvaston into Google Maps. In terms of political ward, the majority of Alvaston is covered by Alvaston ward with some of the area in Boulton ward (mainly the areas around Boulton Lane).

Current Alvaston Ward

The current ward is called Alvaston due to most of the area and population resides in Alvaston.



According to the electoral roll for Alvaston Ward, the percentage of residents currently live in the following areas:

Wilmorton & City Point: **14%**

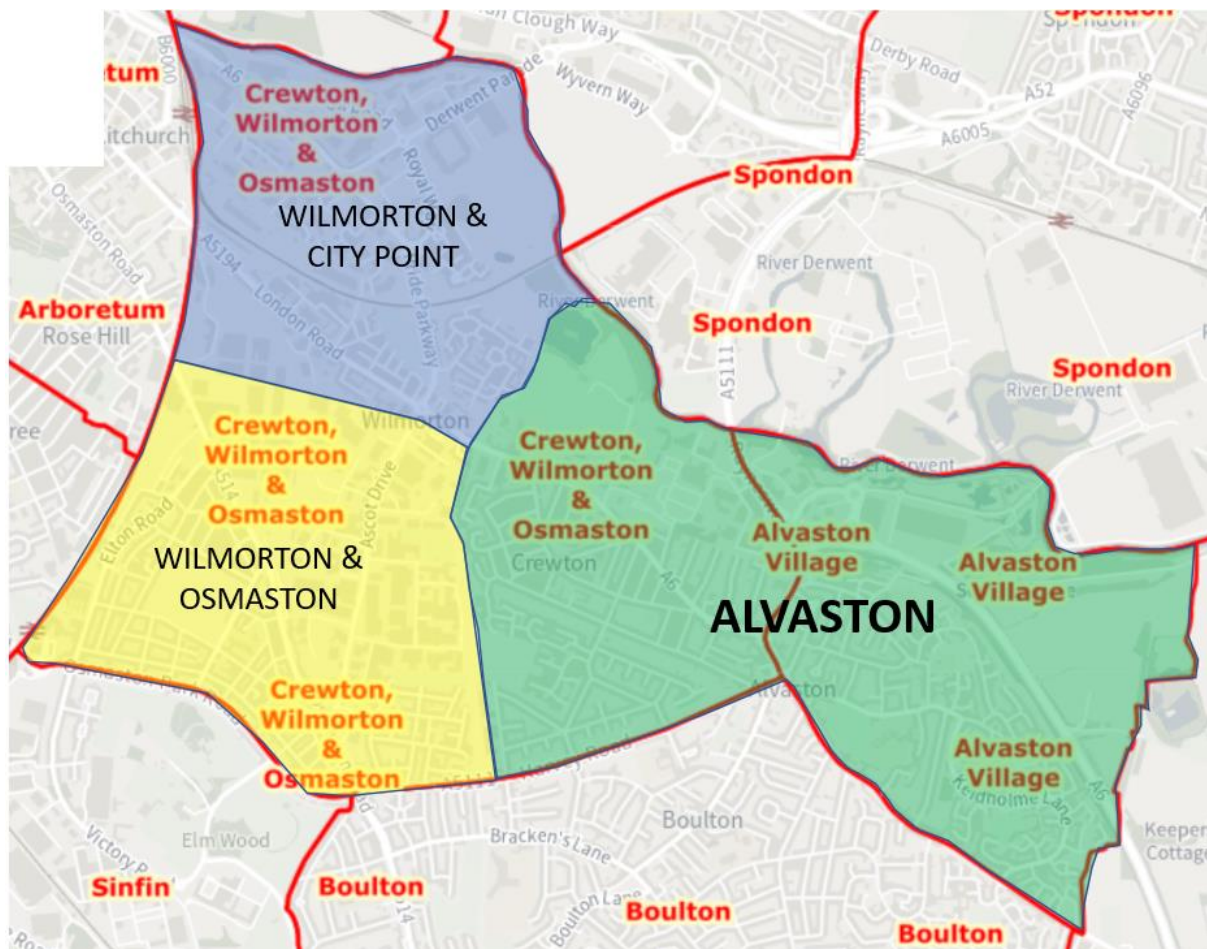
Allenton: **8%**

Alvaston: **78%**

As nearly 4 in 5 people live in Alvaston the name and boundary of the ward is suitable for the community and creates easy understanding when contacting their local Councillors.

LGBC draft proposal

As shown below the LGBC draft proposal splits the current ward into two with adding Osmaston onto the bigger ward.



Alvaston Village Ward (1 Councillor):

According to the electoral roll for the new Alvaston Village Ward the percentage of residents currently live in the following areas:

Alvaston: **100%**

Despite no one using Alvaston Village on their postal address according to electoral roll the name of Alvaston Village is easily identifiable for the local residents of the new ward.

Crewton, Wilmorton & Osmaston Ward (3 Councillors):

According to the electoral roll for the new Crewton, Wilmorton and Osmaston Ward the percentage of residents currently live in the following areas:

Wilmorton & City Point: **15%**

Allenton & Osmaston: **39%**

Alvaston: **46%**

The majority of residents addresses are Alvaston in a proposed ward that does not have Alvaston in the name! This will lead to confusion, division and residents

contacting a sole Councillor who is representing Alvaston Village ward. Swamping the sole Councillor in communication and extra work compared to other ward Councillors.

Osmaston was never part of Alvaston or Wilmorton, and is separated by Ascot Drive industrial estate which is nearly a mile long there is no communal connection between these areas, to include this is to try and join completely separate areas. Furthermore, Labour's submission point 6.14, is misleading as it says Alvaston stretches to the city centre, whereas residentially Alvaston ward stops at Deadmans Lane.

Conclusion

The splitting of Alvaston straight through the middle is unhelpful, unnecessary and cause misunderstanding. There is no benefit to the community by dividing the Alvaston neighbourhood. No benefit can be found from any LGBC public documentation. The only benefit that can be concluded by breaking up of the community is for Labour to gain more Councillors via gerrymandering.

Residents

Councillor John Evans who grew up in Alvaston and lives in Alvaston has said that "I first lived in Alvaston as a child around 1968. In the vicinity of Brighton Road and grew up there. It was, and still is, known as 'ALVASTON' and not 'CREWTON'. The only reference to Crewton is on old maps. Therefore, for at least 60-70 years this area has definitely been known as Alvaston not Crewton."

Councillor Kirk Kus who lives in Alvaston has said "I live in Alvaston and represent Alvaston Ward. With the current plans, the part of Alvaston I live in will be segregated into an artificial area which doesn't identify with the community where I live. It is ludicrous that the LGBC's draft map will make Alvaston Park, Alvaston Library, Alvaston Mobile Home Park and Alvaston shopping district no longer in Alvaston ward."

The Three Councillors of Alvaston have consulted local residents by canvassing and holding meetings. The residents of Alvaston ward are not happy with the proposed changes. They cannot see the reason for splitting the community and wish to keep the community together. residents have expressed that the changes will undo a lot of current relationships between the current Councillors, residents, and local groups.

Jean Russell a resident from Metcalfe Close. Jean campaigned with the Alvaston community against a planning application to build an 8 story flats in the area. The campaign showed people from across Alvaston came together from proposed wards, thus showing the Alvaston community working together. Jean has said "This got people working together with a real passion for the whole of Alvaston community" followed by "This shows that Alvaston community has a lot in common and works together for its neighbourhood. I cannot support the attempt to split the Alvaston ward and its community up".

Here are some snippets of what some of the local residents have said to the Councillors:

“For the last 8 years Reform has worked hard to create a cohesive community and we, the residents, will suffer if they are split up.” Mr Hanson

“Alvaston is a large area and is already split in two because of the number of people in it. To split more will only be harmful to our community” Anne Peake

“We are served well by our councillors, much more so then when Labour were here 8 years ago, I hope the Boundary Commission don’t take you away from us” Ms Wesson.

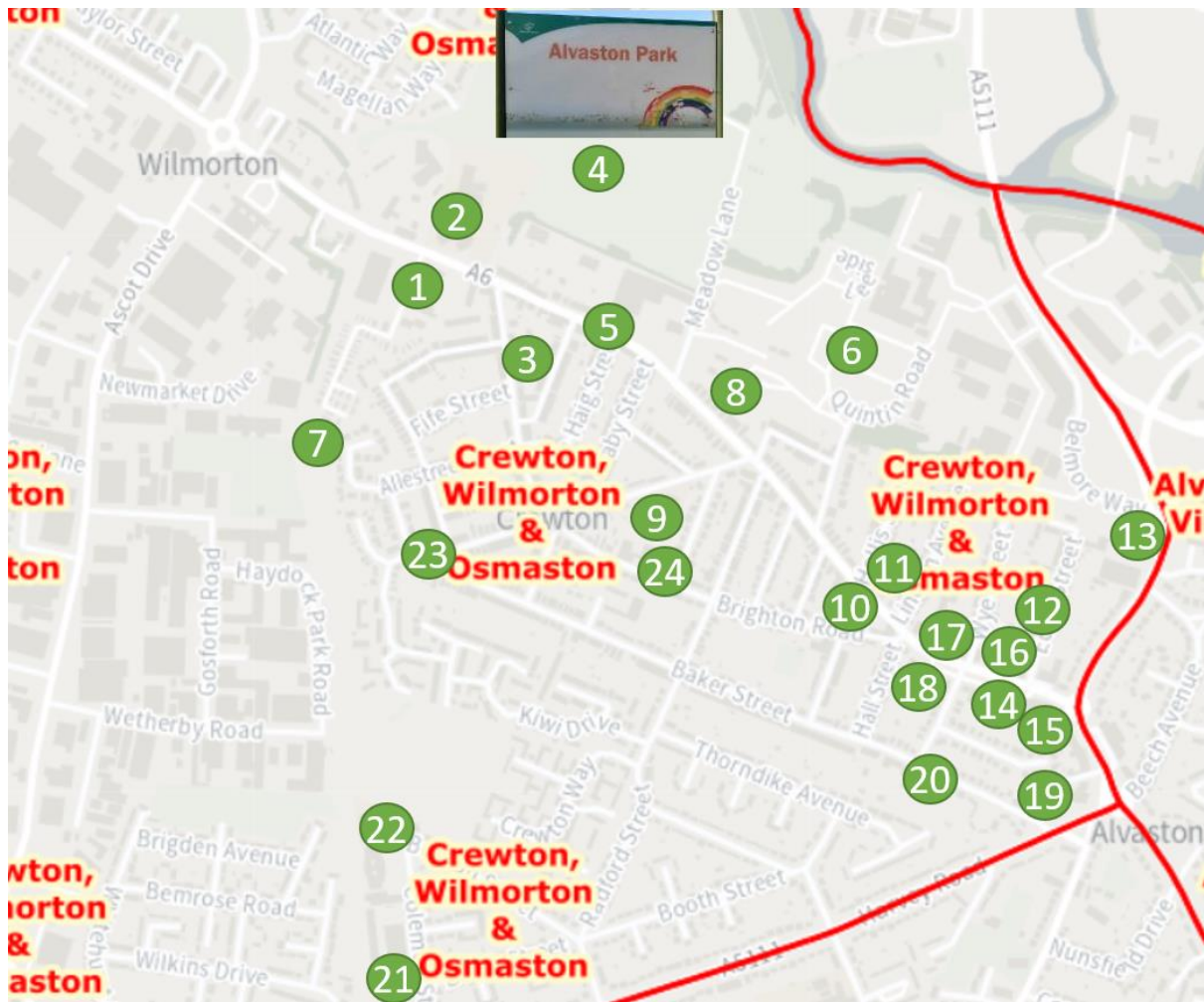
“I live in Wilmorton and I know the ward being Alvaston doesn’t quite fit, but the last time they changed the boundary we moved from Arboretum ward to Alvaston ward. The councillors in Arboretum ward never contacted us but now we have very active councillors. We will be let down if that changes.” Mr Harman

“We know who our current councillors are and they are brilliant, we only see the other parties during the election time. The Labour party are clearly trying to manipulate for the own ends. I think it is disgusting.” Mr & Mrs Blaney

Businesses, Communities and Schools

This section will examine local businesses, community centres, educational institutions, and other points of interest within Alvaston. There are problems with the new proposed ward as it does not identify with many businesses, faith groups, community building’s names and addresses. Below is a two-page spread of a map and a diverse example of businesses, community groups/buildings, educational institutions etc. that identify as being in Alvaston in their name and/or address which would reside in the new ward called ‘Crewton, Wilmorton & Osmaston’:

Map:



1. **Business Name:** Pets & Friends Derby **Alvaston**
Business Address: 810 London Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8WA
2. **School Name:** Lakeside Primary Academy
School Address: 877 London Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8UZ
Day Care Centre Name: **Alvaston** Children's Centre
Day Care Centre Address: 875 London Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8UZ
3. **Church Name:** New Testament Church of God Derby
Church Address: 93 Brighton Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8SZ
*Churches Website identifies itself in **Alvaston** too.*
4. **Park Name:** **Alvaston** Park
Park Address: Meadow Ln, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8QQ.
5. **Business Name:** Hawk Cycles Derby
Business Address: 960 London Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8PY
6. **Homes Park Name:** **Alvaston** Mobile Homes Park
Homes Park Address: **Alvaston** Mobile Home Park, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8RE
7. **Homes Park Name:** Navigation Homes Park
Homes Park Address: Navigation Homes Park, **Alvaston**, Derby, DE24 8WB
8. **Business Name:** Maryland Hotel Derby
Business Address: 1083 London Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8PZ
9. **School Name:** The Kingsmead School
School Address: Wisgreaves Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8RQ
10. **Church Name:** **Alvaston** Methodist Church
Church Address: Brighton Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8TG
11. **Church Name:** English Martyrs Catholic Church
Church Address: 16 Hollis St, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8QU
12. **Business Name:** **Alvaston** Building & Roofing
Business Address: 89 Eden St, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8RD
13. **Business Name:** Lidl
Business Address: Raynesway, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 0DW
14. **Community Name:** **Alvaston** Library and Learning Centre
Community Address: Raynesway, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 0DW
Business Name: **Alvaston** Pound Plus
Business Address: 1240 London Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8QP
15. **Business Name:** **Alvaston** Kebabs
Business Address: 1286 London Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8QP
Business Name: **Alvaston** Balti
Business Address: 2 Shardlow Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 0JH
16. **Business Name:** **Alvaston** MOT & Service Centre
Business Address: 1231 London Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8QH
17. **Business Name:** YMCA
Business Address: 1219-1221 London Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8QH
18. **Business Name:** **Alvaston** Cars Derby
Business Address: 1226 London Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8QP
19. **Community Name:** **Alvaston** and Boulton O.P's Welfare club
Community Address: 90 Baker St, Harvey Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8SB
Church Name: **Alvaston** Methodist Church
Church Address: Baker St, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8SD
20. **Business Name:** **Alvaston** thai massage
Business Address: Baker St, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8SD
21. **Business Name:** Aldi
Business Address: Coleman St, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8NH
22. **Care Home Name:** Kiwi House Care Home
Care Home Address: Coleman St, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8NL
23. **Business Name:** The Coronation Hotel
Business Address: Baker St, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8SL
24. **School Name:** Southgate Education Centre
School Address 206 Brighton Rd, **Alvaston**, Derby DE24 8TD

*Business names taken from shop sign or Google Maps**

There are many more buildings and businesses that could have been added in the map; however, it would fill this report with just buildings names and addresses.

Conclusion

The divide of Alvaston ward will result in confusion as many businesses, schools, churches, and community groups that identify as being in Alvaston will not be in Alvaston Ward. It will also mean that Alvaston Park, Alvaston Library, community groups and Home Parks will no longer be in Alvaston ward. This will cause residents contacting the sole Alvaston Village ward Councillor as they identify living in Alvaston.

Alvaston Park Friends is a group created to facilitate the involvement of the local community, and thus make the park a better place for all of its visitors. This group has a good relationship with the Alvaston Councillors. However, this will mean again, Alvaston Park Friends will not be in a ward that it identifies with.

Recent Court Case

In a recent court case the current ward boundaries has a common identity with the community. *Banwait v Bettany* (23rd Nov 2018) where the former Labour Leader who resides in Wilmorton area of Alvaston ward said that he does live in Alvaston. The judge said the following “it is important, I think, to say loud and clear that I am wholly satisfied that, in saying that he [Mr. Banwait] resided in Alvaston”.

Additional problems

Here are additional problems we have identified:

Single Alvaston Councillor

As Alvaston Councillors we already know we have Alvaston residents from Boulton ward contacting us as they identify as being in Alvaston. Many residents look at ward names and pick the one that they most identify with. Even Derby City Council staff have sent case work to us from people who live in Alvaston but reside in Boulton ward. This problem will be exacerbated for a single Alvaston Village Ward Councillor as the person will represent 3,790 voters however, 16,780 voters addresses identify as being in Alvaston. As a large amount of people could believe this Councillor represents them, it would have a great negative effect if the single Councillor is away or unavailable. Currently as there are three Councillors for Alvaston ward this helps when one of them is not available or unable to attend a meeting as the residents are still being represented.

Gerrymandering

The Boundary Commission’s Ward map proposal for Alvaston is similar to Labour’s boundary map proposal which described by the leader of the Council on the 28th February 2022 as “Shameless, undemocratic, political motivated gerrymandering” and that it is “completely designed to cramp other parties down to their own wards” the leader of the Council also goes on to say the Labour proposal map was shown to the Conservatives as they thought “we’d like it as they [would] be able to do down the Liberal Democrats and the Reform Party into their own wards.” “Absolutely unashamed request for us to be take a part in their gerrymandering.”

Speech can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkVnfXsRvhY&ab_channel=DerbyCityCouncil

As mentioned above in the document there are no benefits for the community in the division of the wards. No benefits can be found in the LGBC documentation on 'divvying' up Alvaston in favour of Labour gaining more Councillors via Gerrymandering. This cannot and should not be allowed to the detriment of Alvaston residents.

Solution

We have proposed solutions which will benefit Alvaston Community:

Option one:

Keep the Boundary of Alvaston and Sinfin as it is. This meets all 3 statutory criteria set out by the LGBC. This keeps Alvaston community in current Alvaston ward together.



Proposed Alvaston & Wilmorton Ward (3 Councillors):

Current electorate: 11,668

Forecast Electorate: 11,671

☑ This is within 10% of the average number electorate per Councillor.

Proposed Sinfin & Osmaston Ward (3 Councillors):

Current electorate: 10,551

Forecast Electorate: 11,176

☑ This is within 10% of the average number electorate per Councillor.

Option Two:

Add Alvaston Village to the LGBC proposed Crewton, Wilmorton & Osmaston Ward. This keeps Alvaston community in current Alvaston ward together. This also meets all 3 statutory criteria set out by the LGBC.



Proposed Alvaston, Osmaston & Wilmorton Ward (4 Councillors):

Current electorate: 15,226

Forecast Electorate: 15,589

☑ This is within 10% of the average number electorate per Councillor.

Proposed Sinfin Ward (2 Councillors):

Current electorate: 6,993

Forecast Electorate: 7,346

☑ This is within 10% of the average number electorate per Councillor.

This solution also solves the problem of having one councillor for a ward. As having a single Councillor for a ward will cause additional problems if the Councillor is away or unavailable. Having more than one Councillor per ward will help when a Councillor is absent for residents to contact their local representative with issues or concerns.

This solution will mean that a ward will have four Councillors. They are other authorities that have wards with 4 Councillors. This is not unheard of; we have highlighted a few places that have 4 Councillor wards representing their communities:

- St Mary's Ward of Swanley Town Council
- Paisley Northwest of Renfrewshire Council (Unitary Authority)
- Poundbury of Dorchester Council (Town Council)

More 4 ward Councillors areas can be found online.

Option Three:

Alvaston and Wilmorton ward as a single ward. This keeps Alvaston community in current Alvaston ward together. Osmaston to be a single ward. Sinfin to be a two Councillor ward as suggested by LGBC. This also meets all 3 statutory criteria set out by the LGBC.



Proposed Alvaston & Wilmorton Ward (3 Councillors):

Current electorate: 11,668

Forecast Electorate: 11,671

✓ This is within 10% of the average number electorate per Councillor.

Proposed Osmaston Ward (1 Councillors):

Current electorate: 3,558

Forecast Electorate: 3,830

✓ This is within 10% of the average number electorate per Councillor.

Proposed Sinfen Ward (2 Councillors):

Current electorate: 6,993

Forecast Electorate: 7,346

✓ This is within 10% of the average number electorate per Councillor.

This solution avoids a 4 Councillor ward if this is not favourable by LGBC. Instead, this will keep most of the Alvaston residents together in a single ward which will benefit the community. Osmaston will have its own Councillor representing the area and this will not result in breaking up Osmaston community, unlike the LGBC draft plan which planned to break up the Alvaston community.

Conclusion

If the LGBC wish to alter the current wards of Alvaston and Sinfen then we have provided alternative options. Although option one is our preferred option, option two and three are beneficial for the community rather than the draft proposed by LGBC.

Summary

The LGBC's draft proposal for Alvaston does not Reflect community interests, identities, or community links as it divides up Alvaston. Alvaston community is different to Osmaston community, and they deserve separate representation. This should be addressed for the next map review. The only gain from the draft review is political and thus should not be allowed.

We kindly Invite LGBC to meet us and residents before deciding on dividing the Alvaston community. We and the community feel strongly about this.

Signed and dated by all three Alvaston Ward Councillors:

Cllr. John Evans

Cllr. Alan Graves

Cllr. Kirk Kus

A large black rectangular box redacting the signatures of the three councillors.

5th August 2022