

Southampton City Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:



Comment text:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on boundary changes. I live in Bitterne & would like to vote in the BITTERNE ward but the BITTERNE ward does not include most Bitterne residents. We find ourselves in the PEARTREE ward which is confusing & geographically inaccurate. I understand the requirement to reshape boundaries due to population changes & that it is not always possible to follow strict geographical areas therefore may I suggest forgetting the geographical connection & look instead at local historical names? The criterion for famous people would be no longer alive but still remembered many years later. Advantages are that names would be non contentious & boundaries can be redrawn in the future without the usual bickering over precisely where one lives or votes. It would be ideal if the chosen name fits the area, i.e. Woolston could become MITCHELL or SPITFIRE ward & Thornhill become HINKLER but it is not essential. If ISAAC WATTS was chosen, does it really matter which ward was named thus? I think not. I would only keep the BARGATE & BEVOIS names from the current sixteen wards. I believe that my suggestion would encourage more residents to take an interest in their area, in what affects them & would certainly stop the "I live in X therefore why should I vote or take an interest in Y " syndrome. It would also demonstrate that we are a stand out City & not afraid to do something different which may also help in our bid to become the City of Culture. There are examples in our neighbouring Cities. Portsmouth has a Charles Dickens ward & five City wards in Winchester are named after Saints. Southampton SPITFIRE ward would be impressive & Southampton CANBERRA ward would be evocative. Possible names. ISAAC WATTS, KING CANUTE, R.J. MITCHELL, SPITFIRE, HINKLER, BARGATE, HAMWIC, CLAUSENTUM, MAYFLOWER, CANBERRA, THE DELL, JACK MANTLE VC, GORDON (of Khartoum), HOLY ROOD, St MARY'S, BEVOIS, HAWTHORNS, TED BATES. There will be many more. City schools could be invited to suggest names but to avoid silly or inappropriate names, a short list drawn up & final selection to be determined by the Council. ■

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded