

Southampton City Council

Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

[REDACTED]

Comment text:

I am concerned that the new boundary between Portswood and Swaythling would split the area in which I live in such a way that it would disrupt the civic structures on which local community groups rely. An obvious example is the volunteer group my wife belongs to, that maintains the garden area of the local recreation ground. The group has been successful at transforming a neglected piece of ground into a splendid flower-filled area, and also at bringing together people from the surrounding streets. If the boundary change goes ahead this group will be divided within the civic structure. There numerous local networks like this, some informal, some like Highfield Residents Association, have legal status. I am also concerned that the breaking apart of the existing political boundaries would destroy local identity. The group of streets that includes Ripstone Gardens, Blenheim Gardens, Sherborne Road, Merton Road, and Hartley Avenue, has long been integral with Welbeck Avenue, Grosvenor Road, and the streets that radiate off Lower Shaftesbury Avenue, as well as Church Lane. People in this area think of themselves as part of Portswood, and orient themselves in the direction of the High Street. At the risk of confusing matters, I would have thought it made more sense to include Granby Grove in Portswood, though if it has long been directed in the other direction to Swaythling that is probably not an option. One other point. The new divisions would split the University campus in half if I am not mistaken. This too seems an odd thing to do, and would surely result in the medium term in a degree of policy friction or stasis. Thank you for organising a consultation. Decisions of this kind often feel as if they are made above our heads without any close attention to consequences on the ground. Most of us are indeed members of the public, but we also have histories of involvement in the area, roles relating to our current or former employment, and many have informal connections to the city management.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded