

Dudley Borough Council

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Please see submission document attached

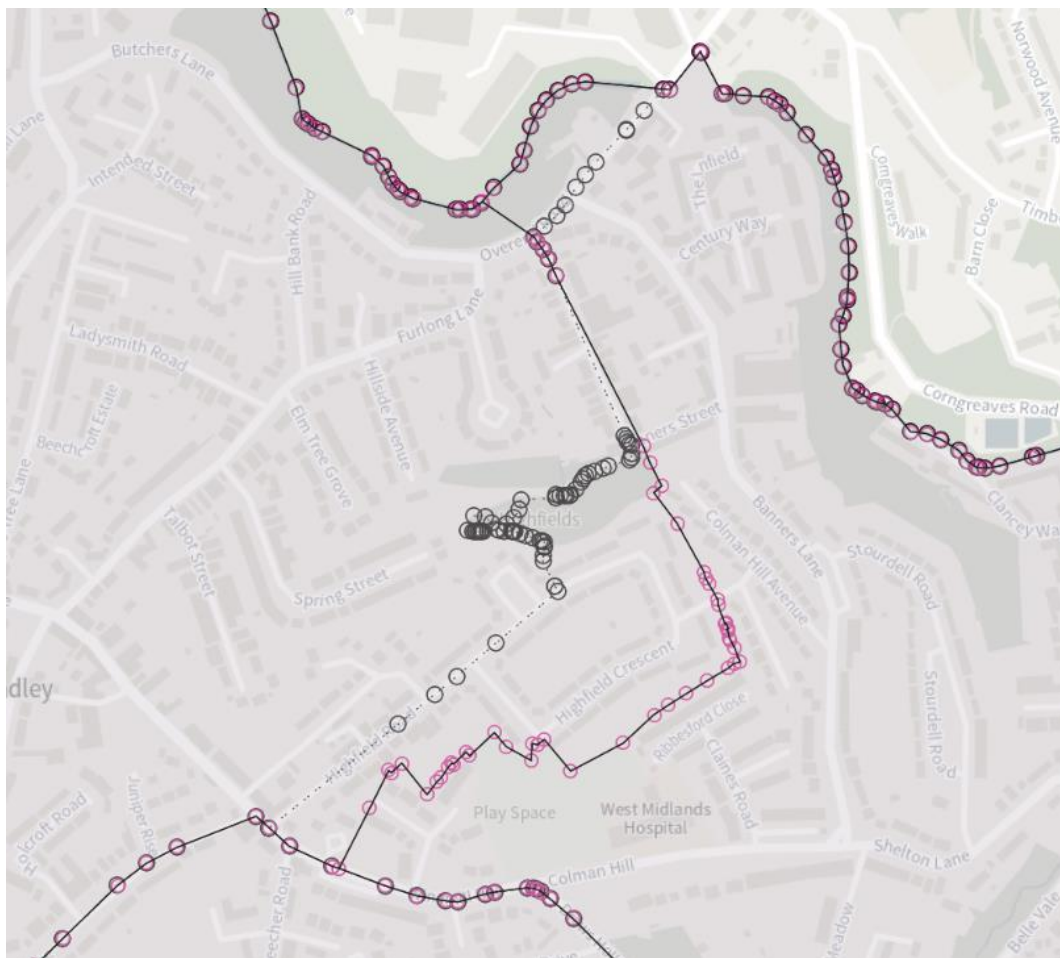
Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1678792262_Belle+Vale+Boundary+Review+Submission.docx)

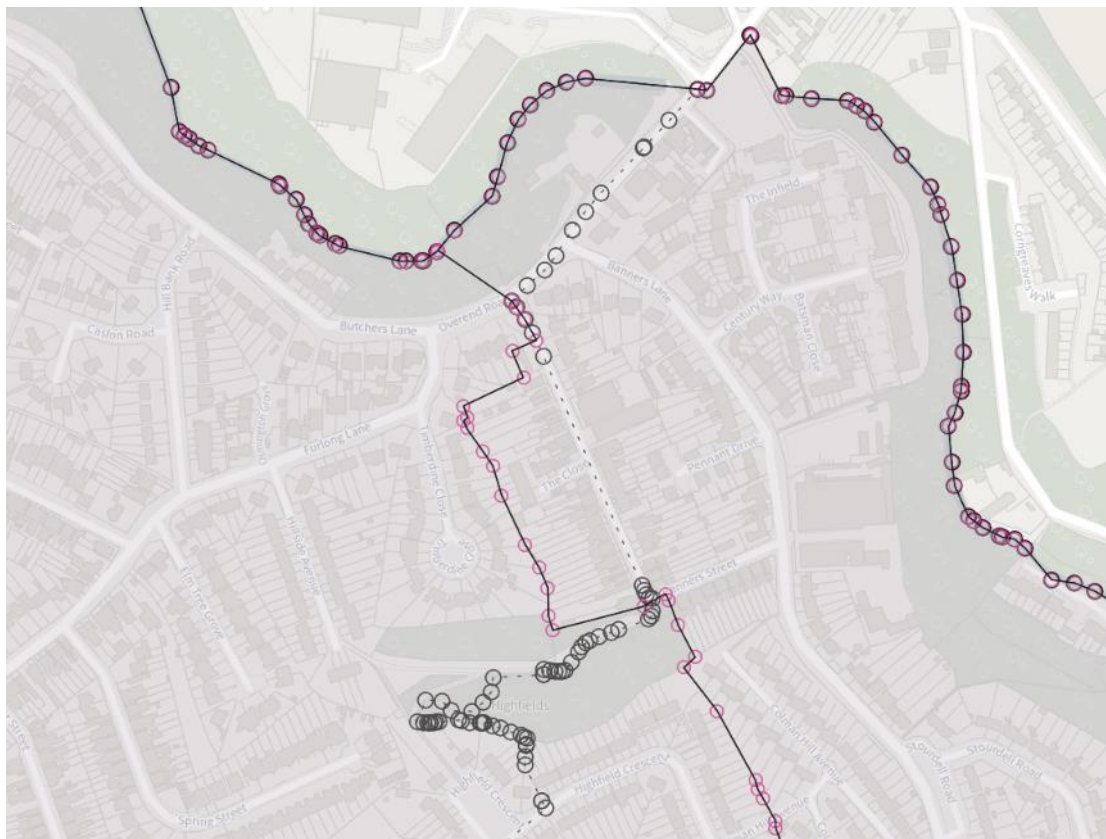
Local Government Boundary Review – Dudley MBC

Belle Vale Ward submission – Cllrs Simon Phipps, Peter Dobb and Daniel Bevan

1. The existing Belle Vale ward boundaries accurately reflect local community ties and infrastructure. The predicted electorate in the ward is well within the acceptable tolerances and there is no need to make adjustments solely for the purpose of ensuring there are the correct number of electors in the ward.
2. Largely, boundaries with other wards form sensible dividing lines for local ward boundaries, even if there are shared community ties on opposing sides of a boundary.
3. There are instances where the boundary lines may cause confusion within a very specific local area or road. Therefore, we are proposing small changes that would not impact on local community ties yet would create much more consistent and sensible boundaries.
4. The existing boundary with Cradley and Wollescote Ward leads to significant confusion as it needlessly runs down the middle of small residential roads. In the diagram below, the existing boundary can be seen with the dotted line and grey circular points. As you can see, this results in Highfield Road and Highfield Crescent being split between the two wards. Indeed, two neighbouring properties on Highfield Crescent are in the two separate wards: 161 and 159 Highfield Crescent. This is a needless problem given there are an appropriate number of electors in both wards which would enable the boundary to be moved to keep these roads in the same ward.



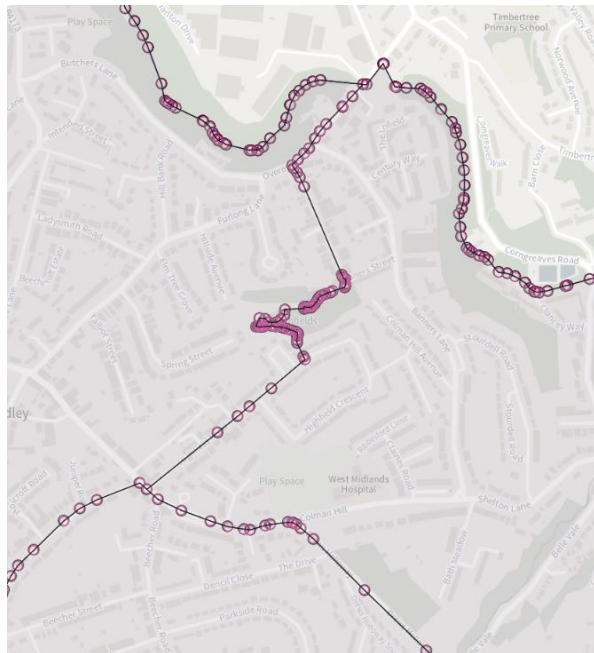
5. Therefore, we propose moving the boundary to instead run along the rear of the properties on Highfield Road and Highfield Crescent, before cutting along the rear of properties on Colman Hill Avenue to meet the next boundary in Banners Street. This would also see the small number of properties on Drews Holloway moved to the Cradley and Wollescote ward, before the boundary cuts across to include Carpenter Glade and Ashbourne Ridge in Belle Vale. The proposed new boundary can be seen with the solid black line with pink circular points.
6. The proposed new boundary would ensure that the entirety of Highfield Crescent and Highfield Road are within the Cradley and Wollescote Ward, which they share equal ties with given they are already on the boundary. It would also form a new boundary between properties on Colman Hill Avenue and Highfield Crescent which would be sensible as there are no properties which lead in to either road and the access between the two roads is a small single track road that can easily become a non-contentious boundary.
7. There is another needlessly confusing issue on the boundary between Belle Vale and Cradley and Wollescote Wards on Banners Street. The existing boundary, marked with the dotted line and grey points below, splits Banners Street and Overend Road down the middle. Once again, the communities here have affiliation to both wards and could easily belong in either. Given we are proposing that Highfield Crescent and Highfield Road should move to Cradley and Wollescote, this could easily be replaced by ensuring that all of Banners Street and connected cul-de-sac The Close moves to Belle Vale ward.



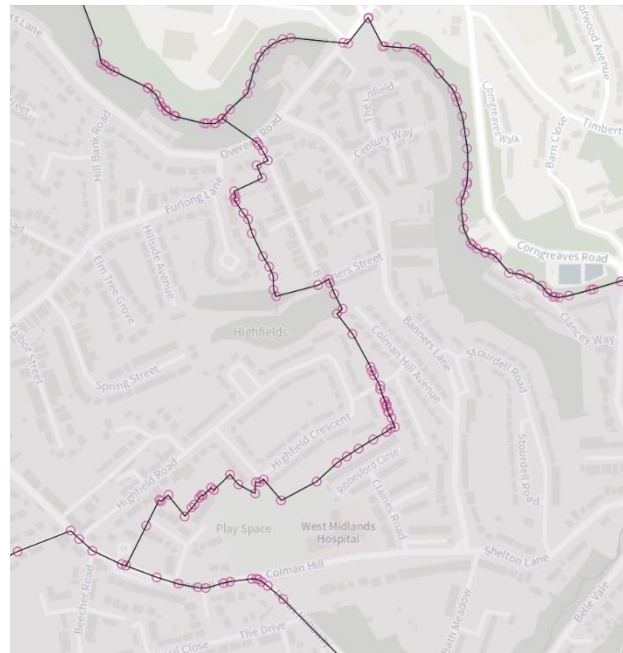
8. The new boundary once again marked in black with pink point would run along the rear and side boundary of all properties in Banners Street and The Close, before returning to the centre of Banners Street after the first property on the Western side of the road. It would then proceed directly over Overend Road rather than run along the centre of the road towards the Sandwell boundary. This would have the effect of the singular property on the Northern side of Overend Road moving to the Belle Vale ward.

9. Both of these changes would result in cleaner and more easy to understand boundaries where neighbours would not be forced to seek out different representation should they require assistance from elected representatives. We ask that the Commission takes this under consideration and implements the proposals.

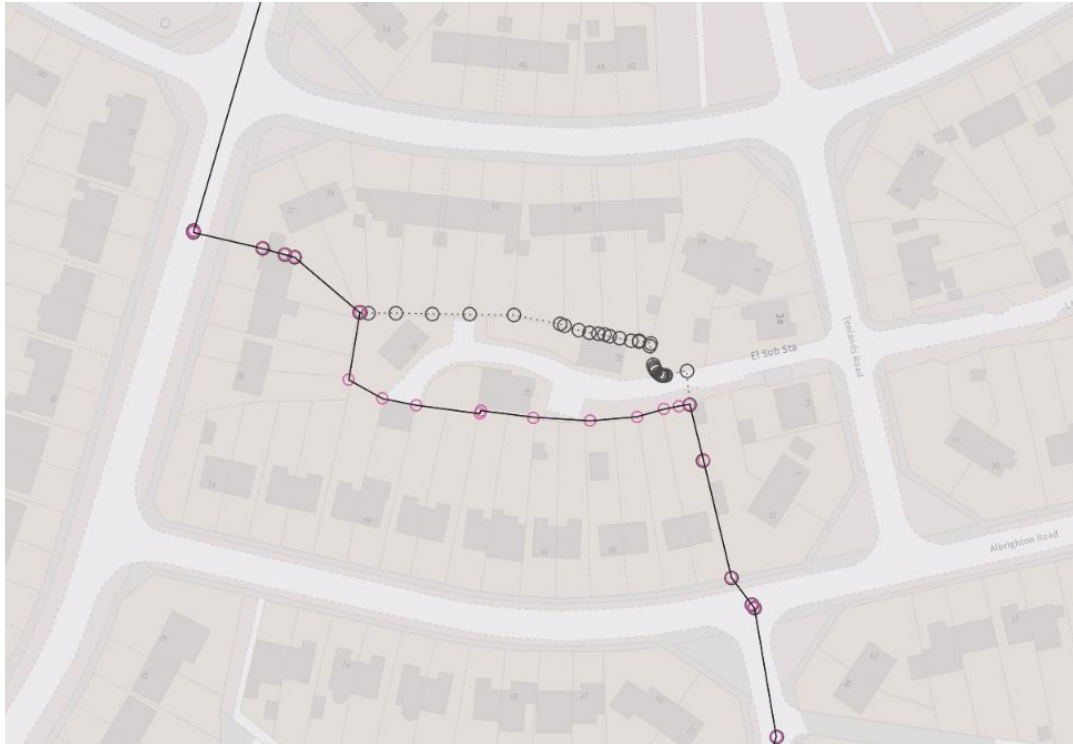
Before



After



10. There is also an opportunity to eliminate one other confusing boundary to move a small, newly developed cul-de-sac to Belle Vale to ensure that it is in the same ward as the road you must use to access it.
11. Tenlands Road is currently split between Belle Vale and Hayley Green and Cradley South as the site of a former garages plot has been developed with new housing. This means that the new properties are in Hayley Green and Cradley South, but you can only access them via the rest of Tenlands Road which is in Belle Vale.
12. To resolve this anomaly, we are proposing to move the boundary from the rear of properties on High Farm Road to the rear of properties on Bassnage Road and Albrighton Road. This would maintain the existing road split on Albrighton Road which is not problematic but ensure that the new properties are in the same ward as the rest of the road. Once again, the old boundary is shown with the dotted line below, and proposed boundary with the solid line.



13. Whilst there are a number of other road splits, we do not propose any further changes as these are very well-established boundaries that would not necessarily resolve any local confusion or better improve local ties. These small changes are only proposed as they will simplify boundaries and make it easier to understand for residents where there is existing confusion, particularly in the Cradley part of the ward. As the rest of the ward is very firmly in Halesowen and all communities share that Halesowen identity, there is no need to resolve any further road splits in our opinion.