

Derby City Council

Personal Details:

Name: Heather BRYANT

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Friends of Chaddesden Wood Volunteers

Comment text:

Friends of Chaddesden Wood (FoCW) is a voluntary community group that maintains and cares for this important ancient oak woodland located off Springwood Drive in Oakwood. It is designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and owned by DCC. We have a large membership and strong participation in our task mornings and events. The woodland is a very popular local amenity and is highly valued by Oakwood residents. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers the woodland has held a prestigious Green Flag Community Award since 2017. FoCW organise many informative events for local residents of all ages to learn more about the range of wildlife, plants and tree species in the Nature Reserve including bat walks, bird walks, fungi forays, bug hunts and tree identification. The Committee feel that the Boundary Commission proposals as published in their Draft Proposals for Derby City would be in the best interest of the Local Nature Reserve, and we support them in full. Under the proposals, Western Oakwood remains within Oakwood Ward thereby ensuring that all of the land surrounding the LNR is within one Council Ward. This is the only way to secure cohesive planning and oversight for the future conservation of the woodland and its wide range of flora and fauna. The woodland is already surrounded on three sides by the housing estate. Its one remaining open access to the surrounding countryside is the Green Wedge of fields that Labour proposes to move into Breadsall Hilltop Ward. This would be extremely detrimental to the future of the LNR. However, if the Green Wedge remains within Oakwood Ward we can continue to fight for it to remain as open space because this is absolutely essential for the woodland's long term survival. Splitting the woodland from its surroundings by placing them in separate Wards with different councillors who have different aims would not be workable and could leave the LNR vulnerable to planning decisions made by Councillors who have no accountability towards the ancient oak woodland. It would also be detrimental to Oakwood Ward if the number of Councillors were reduced. A Councillor would no longer have time to be involved in the conservation efforts of the LNR as currently happens, and funding for this relatively new community would be lost at a time when a sense of community needs to be encouraged. Any plans to split Oakwood into different Wards would cause confusion and lead to a lack of cohesive community identity.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded