

## Derby City Council

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### Comment text:

We moved into the Oakwood area earlier this year, having been keen to move to Oakwood for quite a while. We had previously lived in Allestree, where we agree with your conclusions that no changes are 'needed' to that ward, though it has always surprised us that Markeaton Park is included within the Allestree Ward when it could, we think, be more suitable to inclusion in the Mackworth Ward. However, perhaps as this would create a rather unusually shaped Mackworth Ward, while the populations in each ward would not change, this doesn't need to be considered. We know that Oakwood has an incredibly strong sense of community spirit, community cohesion and community engagement, as well as having a low crime rate, being a relatively recently constructed estate and with local amenities close by, and this was one of the things that prompted us to move to the area. We had been considering moving into one of the new properties at the Red Row Estate on the Western side of Oakwood but couldn't afford to purchase one in the end. However, based on your draft boundary proposals, it looks like this area wasn't Oakwood at all, as was in fact part of the old 'Derwent' Ward. We couldn't believe this area was not within Oakwood Ward, especially as it seems that Windmill Place and properties further up have always been in Oakwood Ward. From an aesthetical geography, I think it makes perfect sense for this area to be included in Oakwood Ward, and no doubt from a community-cohesion and community-understanding of the boundaries it makes sense as well. We assume that the boundaries were last drawn before this area was considered for building but believe it to be very sensible that you are moving this area into Oakwood now. Before living in Allestree, we lived in 'Darley Ward,' and are very surprised at the changes you have suggested for that area. While it looks to have been explained through the knock on effect of the movement to Arboretum Ward, Normanton Ward, Blagreaves Ward and, to a lesser extent, the Crewton, Wilmorton and Osmaston Ward, I struggle to see what similarities a flat above a business in the Cathedral Quarter Area of Derby City Centre, which you propose adding into the Darley Ward, has in common with a 6-bed property in Darley Abbey or even a 3-bed property in Chester Green. I would have thought that boundaries would be drawn with an attempt to keep the City Centre together under one ward. However, as many students in the southern area of Darley Ward may well use City Centre Businesses in Cathedral Quarter as their 'local amenities,' I can seem some logic in the suggestions made. Returning to Oakwood, looking at the southern border with Chaddesden, I know from having lived in Derby for years just how large 'Chaddesden' is and it is clearly too big for just one three-councillor ward like Oakwood. As you are changing it from two three-councillor wards to three two-councillor wards, I assume this is seen as more successful than what currently exists. While I have never lived in the area so cannot really comment on the changes here, nor the decision to remove the bottom end of Oakwood, around Wingfield Road and Matlock Road and place it into Breadsall Hilltop, except to say that it does seem a rather effective approach to simplify things in the area, I would like to comment on two things. The first is that the names for the new wards seem eminently simple and easy to understand. 'Chaddesden East' and 'Chaddesden West' provide no confusion, no difficulty and would allow the councillors to work together should they choose. I know before there was some talk about a 'Cherry Tree Ward' or something similar, I do not think that would be sensible. The second is that I believe you have adopted the right approach in these wards having equal number of votes and elected representatives, especially given the low turnout for local elections and low political engagement from between 50% and 70% of the population in these wards. A situation where one ward 'Chaddesden' Ward could cast three votes while the neighbouring 'Chaddesden' Ward had one and the neighbouring Breadsall Hilltop had two would be so difficult to understand and follow, especially for those voting for the first time or elderly residents. In antithesis, Oakwood and Spondon are separate areas and it would be understood easily that they had three votes while wards 'in Chaddesden' had two. From the draft proposals, I can also see that you plan to transfer the entirety of Morley Road, which is currently split between Oakwood and Chaddesden Wards, Brookfield Avenue, Kevin Close, Lark Rise,

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