

Derby City Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

This submission represents the collective opinion to support, in full, your Draft Proposals regarding the proposed changes for the North East Wards of Derby City Council. The proposal is submitted by the following residents of Kirkstead Close and Fiskerton Way, Oakwood Ward: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We would appreciate that this submission is considered as nine individual submissions in support of the proposals. 1. As residents of Kirkstead Close and Fiskerton Way, Oakwood, we express our support for the Draft Proposals for the Derby City Boundaries. 2. We agree that Derby City Council's Ward Boundaries need changing. Since previous changes, there have been new housing estates constructed in various locations, including Lime Tree Court in Oakwood. As such, changes to ward boundaries are necessary. 3. The current Oakwood Ward boundaries were drawn just after the final 'original' properties were constructed. Since then, there has been building in and around Oakwood. There also remains the possibility of building on the ward borders, including 600 properties at Morley Road/Acorn Way, dozens at 'Brookfield' and the on-going potential for upwards of 600 properties behind Chadd Woods, adding thousands of new residents to the Oakwood Ward. 4. No doubt the potential of such large additional conurbations and additional electorate have been included in your thoughts. 5. As residents of Kirkstead Close and Fiskerton Way we are a stones' throw away from Oakwood's southern border with Chadd Ward; the border runs along the back of our neighbour's properties further down Fiskerton Way and across Morley Road, below Morley Gardens. 6. It has never been clear why this was chosen as the location for the boundary. Aside from a 'Welcome' Sign, there is no landmark, line in the road or demographic or property-type change showing you have travelled from one ward to another. The line is at best blurry, at worst fabricated, existing on a ward map and nowhere else. 7. This contrasts with the 'Steamin Billy'/Wood Road Roundabout. Here there is a clear boundary as the style and age of properties changes from those constructed in the 1980s/1990s to those decades earlier and from those always privately owned to former 'Council Houses' in the 'Poyser Avenue' area. 8. We support your inclusion of this area in Oakwood Ward. 9. Residents in this area spend their time in 'Oakwood Ward' including our Shopping Districts, Medical Centre and Post Office. 10. There is also a strong community spirit, community feel and support network in this area, which crosses the ward boundary as if it never existed, because to us it doesn't exist and never has. We recently held a Jubilee Street Party where residents from across and outside Oakwood Ward attended, including partygoers coming from this area of Morley Road. 11. Fiskerton Way and Kirkstead Close themselves are easily accessed from the Morley Road area by car, and on foot, where there is a pathway between 151 Morley Road and 153 Morley Road. 12. The current boundary also causes issues for local councillors. When Oakwood Councillors tried to address Lees Brook School parking concerns and when Chadd Councillors wanted Morley Road resurfaced, there were boundary issues and gridlock for residents. 13. Similarly, considering external city boundary issues, where residents care what happens on both sides of the Chad/Oakwood Boundary, different issues are addressed by different councillors. 14. A boundary drawn at the roundabout leaves only Oakwood Councillors responsible for Morley Road and assists these issues, rather than "who represents 5/6 of the road and who represents 1/6." 15. Thus, we support this change to the Oakwood Boundary. 16. We also support Oakwood Ward retaining its three-councillor status and were pleased to see the draft proposals retain said status. 17. One reason for this is that Oakwood is a ward constantly expanding or being considered for expansion. While many Derby wards, including Mackworth, Mickleover, Boulton and Chadd, are 'built' about as much as possible, Oakwood has an array of green spaces which may be built on over the next decade, as the need for housing increases. 18. These include land behind Chadd Woods, already developer-owned, which could see a rapid introduction of hundreds of new residents to Oakwood Ward. Similarly, several pieces of developer-

owned Public Open Space could see additional housing constructed; including land off Appledore Drive, land off Oldbury Close and the POS known as the 'Big Dipper,' where dozens of new properties could be built. 19. As a result, whilst your figures may suggest Oakwood would be 7% under the average for a three-member ward, this wouldn't be the case should developments go ahead, which is felt very likely by many groups and residents in Oakwood. However, even should this 7% be the case, it is less than the 10% Spondon is expected to be under by; Spondon is proposed to retain three councillors - We believe Oakwood should too. 20. Secondly, we can see much sensibility in the Oakwood and Spondon Wards, which will have clearly defined boundaries, being the wards in the North-East of the City where there are three councillors, while those in the Chadd Area have two councillors each. We feel this will be very easy for residents in all wards to understand and not be confused by. 21. An additional way this can be easily identified is Spondon and Oakwood belong to the Mid-Derbyshire Parliamentary Constituency, while Chaddesden East, Breadsall Hilltop and Chaddesden West are in Derby North. Similarly, it will not dilute the area's voice, as the Chaddesden area retains 6 councillors while Oakwood and Spondon retain 3 each. 22. For these reasons we believe Oakwood should retain three-councillor status and ask that you maintain this stance in your final proposals. 23. We would now like to express our thoughts on the proposal that "the Cavendish Close Schools Area" join Oakwood. 24. As with Morley Road, our area has a bond with this area. Houses on Seagrave Close, a road just metres further down Fiskerton Way, are 'over the fence' neighbours with residents on Copes Way; there is no road dividing the area because there is no divide to the area. 25. Just like the lower 1/6 of Morley Road and adjoining streets, it has never been clear why this area remained within the 'Chaddesden Ward' of days old and was not relocated into the Oakwood Ward at the last boundary change. 26. It looks to have been clearly intended to happen, as the schools have Oakwood Addresses and are the places of education for many Oakwood children, especially in the Kirkstead Close/Fiskerton Way area, which is not in the catchment area for the sole primary school in the current Oakwood Ward (Parkview Primary School.) 27. Similarly, the schools and streets in the area are next to central Oakwood amenities which are much closer than similar amenities in Chaddesden/Derwent are. There is also an incredibly strong community identity of which residents on Oakwood streets and residents on streets in this area, currently part of Chaddesden but most at home in Oakwood, are part. 28. Throughout the year, the grassy area off Alsager Close and Gleadsmoss Lane is host to children from 'always Oakwood' and children from properties in the 'Cavendish Close Area' who play football and other sports there. At times of celebration, they host VE Day Celebrations, Jubilee Parties, Snowball Fights and other celebrations on the public open space. The communities have strong local bonds and are a part of each other's lives; these streets should be in Oakwood Ward. 29. This area is also the walk route for hundreds of Oakwood Children making their way from Danebridge Crescent, Saffron Drive, Springwood Drive and other Northern, Eastern and Central Oakwood roads to Lees Brook School or Cavendish Close schools, or a bus stop to travel into Derby. 30. As local residents living in the area, we believe the "Cavendish Close Area Streets" should be part of Oakwood - they are very much Oakwood and share our community identity. 31. Drawing a fair map is an inherently difficult task due to its subjectivity - what some people view fair, others will view unfair. However, we feel these proposals are very fair. 32. We do not see them as politically advantageous to any party, and so they cannot be accused of party-political gerrymandering. The north-east of Derby has fluctuated between major and minor political parties, but your proposals show no 'packing' of a certain party's voters into one ward nor 'cracking' them into many wards. 33. Similarly, these proposals cannot be accused of dividing local communities, instead it unites communities given the much overdue inclusion of Morley Road and the "Cavendish Close Area Streets" into the Oakwood Ward. 34. We are pleased that the 'Western Oakwood' area around Chandlers Ford and Minster Road remains in Oakwood Ward and not moved to the 'Breadsall Hilltop' Ward. Western Oakwood belongs to Oakwood Ward just as we do, their businesses have Oakwood names, and they share no community identity, community links, postcodes, addresses or road connectivity with the Derwent/Breadsall Hilltop Area. You have rightly decided against removing this area from Oakwood. 35. In closing, to highlight our main areas of support: • We support Morley Road and the Cavendish Close School Area being included in the Oakwood Electoral Ward. • We support the creation of a Breadsall Hilltop Electoral Ward. • We support the Oakwood Ward remaining a three-councillor electoral ward. • We support the Chad West, Breadsall Hilltop and Chad East Wards becoming two-councillor electoral wards. 36. We appreciate you considering our submission.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded