

# Walsall

## Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]

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**Organisation Name:** I am the former Councillor for the Willenhall North Ward (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Willenhall North, Willenhall South, Short Heath

There is a considerable population difference within the Willenhall wards of Willenhall North, Willenhall South and Short Heath. This has been due in recent times to significant residential building taking place in Willenhall South which is still ongoing with significant projects currently underway that will boost the population even more. From my recollection the split was circa 10K voting age residents for both Willenhall North and Short Heath and around 13.5K for Willenhall South, a situation that will continue to increase in the years to come.

I've lived in Willenhall my entire life, growing up in the Short Heath Ward, being elected councillor for the North and residing in the South for the last 20 years so I believe I have a good understanding on the communities across the town and which naturally fit to get the best.

I don't think there is scope for boundary movement in the east as the M6 motorway forms a distinct border between Willenhall and Bloxwich and how the communities identify on either side. Equally I don't think there is scope for any change across into the Bentley Darlaston Ward as although if you want to get really historical you could argue parts of Bentley were Willenhall it's not a particularly good argument and the existing boundary formed by the disused railway line makes a lot of sense.

So movement to try and bring the wards into a more equal size should be done solely within the three Willenhall wards.

I personally would move Polling District EF from Short Heath and into Willenhall North to top up the population numbers in the North and maybe alter EF so that the boundary follows the Wyrley and Essington Canal. This would match how it formed the border between the wards in the western side and the Woodlands Estate would naturally fit better in Willenhall North. I would however retain the Manor Farm (Farmhouse Road etc) estate within the Short Heath ward as it naturally sits better there.

Then to top up the population numbers of Short Heath having lost these to Willenhall North and try to reduce the considerable difference I would move GF and depending on the numbers required to equal things out more, GD into Short Heath. The are around Overdale Drive definitely fits better in Short Heath, the estates were built around the same time and the Cathedrals Estate Canterbury, York, Lincoln Avenue's etc form a logical area to move into that ward to. There's an argument though that it shouldn't go further south than the Wolverhampton Road and perhaps the Coronation Avenue/Riverbank Road areas in Willenhall South.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*