

# Solihull

## Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Postcode: [REDACTED]  
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

Please see attached.

## Attached Documents:

- Page 1 Solihull MBC Ward Boundary Proposals 001.jpg
- Page 2 Solihull MBC Ward Boundary Proposals 001.jpg

30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Local Government Boundary Commission for England,

By email.

Dear Sirs,

Proposed Electoral Review of Solihull.

Before making any comments about this review I feel that you need to know something about me. I am a 75 year old man still working as a private consultant architect. I have lived at various addresses within the Borough continuously for nearly 70 years, in 50 of which my home has been located within a mile of Solihull Town Centre. During this period I have been a Principal in several practices of Chartered Architects, designing award winning houses and developments for many of the well known and smaller, local, developers, several projects of which are in the Borough. Educated at Marston Green Primary School, and Solihull School. I became a Member of Solihull Athletics Club in 1964, was Chairman in 1976 -78, and made an Nonorary Life Vice President in 2008. With offices at various times in Knowle, Hampton in Arden, and Balsall Common since 1976 I consider myself to be a Silhillian.

My Wife and I decided to purchase a bungalow in 2006 to alter into a 'lifetime home' involving consideration of many issues and a considerable investment. While I understand it will be the moving of a boundary that is not evident on the ground, when I walk to our current Polling Station I am reminded that I designed it as a Meeting Room for the Athletics Club. Local Estate Agents acknowledge that although the Postcode has a greater influence on house prices the Ward boundaries also affect them and I have no wish to see our home removed from within the St Alphege Electoral boundary.

The proposed change will adversely affect the whole of our neighbourhood. We have no link to Shirley East Ward and have no desire to be linked to Shirley. I would have bought a property in Shirley had that been the case. Solihull High Street is within a mile of our home and we regularly walk to shop and have lunch in Solihull. I have not been to Shirley for months as it is twice as far away and does not have the choice of shops or restaurants that we wish to visit.



I have studied the Borough Plan showing the location and area of each Ward and looked at Appendix B – Ward Schedule and Summary of Changes and given the figures that appear to have been used to drive the reasons for change are based upon predictions of the electoral forecast for 2029 I can see little reason to embark on any changes. Solihull MBC cannot agree with the Planning Inspectorate on how many houses are likely to be built in the new Local Plan Period, and with the current delay in their Plan being accepted together with the reduced rate of Consents and house completions since lock down due to Covid, the figures cannot be relied upon. The difference between the overall numbers within each Ward is not that great, and given that residents in some areas will be more proactive in seeking advice and help from Councillors than those in others, and some Councillors are far more efficient than others, it would be preferable to ensure that the more efficient ones have seats in the areas of greater demand. Many Councillors do not represent the Ward's in which they live. Moving a larger number of properties from St. Alphege into Shirley East just so that BL02 can be moved from Blythe (Monkspath) into St. Alphege is a nonsense, as there is far more synergy between Monkspath as an attached extension of new housing in the Borough, and Cheswick Green and Dickens Heath, detached new areas of housing, than with the longer established areas near my home.

These newer areas, some of which I was involved with the design, have a small nucleus of retail facilities to satisfy local need, but were designed with the car and improved local transport for residents to reach Solihull or Shirley with their greater choice of less costly goods. The fact that Monkspath abuts the older development boundary of Solihull while the other developments are more rural is down to the National and Local Planning Policies that prevailed at the time.

If house purchasers wish to live in particular Postcode areas or Ward boundaries then they should seek to buy properties in those areas not seek to influence changes to those boundaries to the detriment of many others. If some changes have to be made they should be kept to a minimum and not involve St. Alphege Ward.

Mrs [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] covers many other issues in her response of 17<sup>th</sup> october which I fully endorse.

I would be grateful if you would also take my comments into account.

[REDACTED]