

Worcestershire

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Belbroughton, Bell Heath.

I am writing to formally object to the proposed electoral boundary changes as outlined by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), which aim to transition our area into the Woodvale division. This proposed realignment would detach us from our long-standing and vital connection to Belbroughton, a move that has profound implications for our community's accessibility to essential services, our children's education, and our historical and cultural ties.

Firstly, it is concerning that our community was not adequately informed or consulted about these proposed changes. The lack of transparent communication has left many residents feeling disregarded in a process that directly impacts their daily lives and future. As stakeholders in this decision, it is imperative that we are given a fair opportunity to express our views and contribute to discussions that affect us so fundamentally.

Belbroughton serves as the heart of our community, hosting the only shop and post office accessible to us. It is where our children attend school, and it is a place we rely on for medical care at the Glebeland Surgery. The reassignment to Woodvale division severs these critical connections, complicating our access to essential services and disrupting the continuity of care and education that our families depend on.

Moreover, our children, who currently attend schools in Belbroughton and Hagley, benefit from established routes and connections that support their education and social development. The proposed changes threaten to disrupt these established routines, affecting not just the logistical aspect of their education but their sense of belonging and community as well.

Our community's historical ties with Belbroughton span centuries, a testament to the deep-rooted connections and shared identity that have been cultivated over generations. This proposal undermines these historical bonds and disregards the importance of preserving our cultural heritage. Our engagement in local events, such as the celebrated scarecrow weekend, and the use of community facilities like the parish church hall for meetings, including those with MPs, underscore the active role we play within the Belbroughton community.

The natural environment of our area, characterized by its proximity to the Clent Hills, and the infrastructure that supports our daily lives, including access routes along the A491, are optimized for our current alignment within the Clent division. Altering this would not only affect our daily commutes but would disconnect us from the landscape that defines our community's identity.

In light of these considerations, we strongly urge the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to reconsider the proposed electoral boundary changes.

Attached Documents:

None attached