

Coventry

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Related subject: Longford

The boundaries of this area have been changed often and in doing so have not always recognised the communities of Longford Ward and its relationships with Exhall (NBBC), Hawkesbury (partly in NBBC) and Foleshill (CCC). The key areas are located on the east and west sides of the B4113 (Longford Road–Bedworth Road) and include: Sutton Stop (Hawkesbury, south-side of Coventry Canal), Foxford, Alderman's Green (including Lenton's Lane and Parrott's Grove), Hall Green, Manor House (to West of Wood End), Little Heath (north of Old Church Road), Longford, Woodshire's Green and Rowley's Green. Historically, the Medieval village of Foleshill is believed to have been located in Hall Green (near Windmill Road and St Laurences Church) and at one time there was a Foleshill Rural District which covered many of the areas mentioned above. To get a better understanding of the area it is worth looking into the history of Longford, Foleshill and Exhall (see Victoria County History, 'The City of Coventry: The outlying parts of Coventry, Foleshill' and 'Parishes: Exhall'). Nowadays, people consider Foleshill Ward to be located nearer the City Centre and the New Inn Bridge (Canal Bridge 8), where the B4113 changes name from Foleshill Road to Longford Road, to mark the boundary of the two wards. However, it is worth looking at the catchment of schools and parish boundaries to see if this should be extended down to the junction of Old Church Road. Since the Arena Library was closed, the nearest public library is in Bell Green. The main shopping centres are Longford Square, Tesco Arena and Bell Green. The local communities use the following green spaces which are associated with either the River Sowe (and its tributaries) or the two canals: Longford Park, Play Area off Rudgard Road (Foxford), Hawkesbury Junction/Sutton Stop (partly in Poplar Ward, NBBC), Wyken Slough LNR, playing fields off Cubbington Road, Longford Nature Park, Bassford Bridge Meadow LWS (partly in Exhall Ward, NBBC), Sowe Meadow LWS (in Exhall Ward, NBBC) and PRowS such as B23 and B25. Local residents use places of worship on both the east and west sides of the B4113 such as St Thomas, House Of Empowerment International Ministry (Lady Lane), Longford Baptist Church (Oban Road), St Laurences (Old Church Road) and Alderman's Green Free Methodist Church. The local Scout Group is

the 82nd Swans on Alderman's Green Road.

The B4113 is an arterial road which leads into the City Centre. It can become heavily congested with traffic during peak hours, when there are issues on the A444 or M6 (J2 or J3) or during major events at the CBS Arena. It forms part of walk routes to a number of schools in the area and is within Coventry's AQMA. There are significant issues with air quality along this road and it is heavily used by HGVs. Currently, Coventry & Warwickshire lacks a coherent lorry management strategy and the local authorities are not addressing the pressures being placed on the B4113 from distribution centres effectively. The section of the B4113 within Coventry should have a weight limit placed on it and this should be enforced using ANPR technology. Further measures should be put in place to discourage through traffic and to prioritise sustainable modes of transport. The Longford and Foleshill shopping centres suffer greatly due to their location along this road and the amount of through traffic it currently generates.

The northern fringe of Coventry also lacks segregated cycle ways which are compliant with the core design principles of the Department for Transport's 'Cycle Infrastructure Design Local Transport Note 1/20 July 2020' – coherent, direct, safe and comfortable. Most of the existing infrastructure is directed through unlit green spaces or along the Coventry Canal with little natural surveillance and it often takes indirect routes which, although attractive, only fulfil leisure objectives. Therefore, they should not be considered as safe commuting routes. This is surprising considering that wards within the north of the City have some of the lowest levels of car ownership and have some of the most deprived areas. Foleshill Ward also has one of the least amounts of green space per head of population, poor housing and suffers from over-development and densification. It is hard to understand why there has been more of a focus on segregated cycleways, green spaces, nature recovery and water quality within the southern fringe of Coventry when there are such high levels of inequality which urgently need to be addressed within the north of the City.

In the past, manmade structures have heavily influenced the boundaries of the northern fringe of Coventry, these include: M6, Coventry Canal, Oxford Canal and the NUCKLE line (Nuneaton to Leamington Spa). However, since the A444 was built, this has become a dominating feature and created an additional barrier between communities. Although this consultation is for ward boundaries, it is important to consider the location of SEA-2 Wilson's Lane (NBBC, Borough Plan) and the adjacent local wildlife sites (Bassford Bridge Meadow LWS and Sowe Meadow LWS). These sites are located to the east of the A444 and are separated from Holbrook (CCC), Ash Green (NBBC), Exhall (NBBC) by this road, B4113 Pickard's Way and the M6. Future residents of the SEA-2 Wilson's Lane site are more likely gain access to it through roads within Longford and use Coventry's facilities such as local shops, schools, parks, churches and Longford Health Centre. In light of this, would it possible to review the boundary of Coventry in this location to include sites on the east-side of the A444? It would also make sense to extend the boundary so that Coventry City Council is the Highway Authority for the full length of the A444 up until M6 J3.

Attached Documents:

None attached