

Swindon

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Colin Doubleday

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Old Town Residents Association (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: The area of Old Town that sits currently across Eastcott and Old Town wards

Old Town Residents association has a heritage of over 50 years continuously acting to facilitate discussion and representation of those who live across the Old Town hill - Croft to Eastcott, Kingshill to Lakeside.

The Old Town area is clearly a community and is recognised as such by the rest of Swindon. Although the housing stock may vary from Victorian terraces to 1930s semis and modern flats converted from offices, there is a significant commonality of life in the area which leads some to identify it as an urban village. Shops, churches, pubs, restaurants, leisure centre, community centres, doctors and dentists, a theatre, a library, all these things are within walking distance of the bottom of each of the numerous hill roads that meet on top of Old Town hill.

These are the elements that shape life for residents in the area as also does the positive and negative presence of a distinct shopping area and a distinct nightlife, separate from the rest of Swindon by travelling distance and a perceivable culture.

It is reasonable to say that in many cases the needs, perceptions and opportunities for Old Town residents often have more in common within this small area of town than they do with other areas of Swindon. It is often a challenge to represent this factor effectively.

It is distinct in style, content and needs to Wichelstowe, the Town Centre, Walcot or anywhere else.

It has always been a concern for Old Town that it has to date been split across two Borough [and Parish] wards - currently Old Town and Eastcott.

Ideally the whole area should sit within one ward, although numbers may make this challenging. Certainly it makes sense to centre a ward on Old Town to include most of the area amongst one group of councillors - in the same way that Stratton or Wanborough may be seen as one 'village' unit.

The current proposals are the exact opposite of this concept and slice Old Town into small pieces and split one of the most definable areas of

Swindon into 3 separate wards. This is not acceptable.

We are asking you to consider the following as an Old Town boundary, effectively all properties that are based on the Old Town hill. That is basically starting at the bottom or extreme end of each of the following Old Town roads and heading into the centre of the area - namely Eastcott Road, Prospect Hill, Victoria Road, Cricklade Street, Marlborough Rd [starting at the Broome Manor Roundabout], Pipers Way, Croft Road, Westlecott Rd, Okus, Road and Kingshill Road. Then taking a circular approach to include all properties which would spill onto those roads to travel into Old Town.

Old Town deserves that representation and the councillors who can continue to support quality of life and development in the area. Discussion on Old Town can be found on Facebook at the Old Town Residents Association and Old Town Community pages.

Attached Documents:

None attached