

Swindon

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Organisation Name: RAU Swindon AND Swindon Heritage Preservation (Mechanic's Institute) (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: Proposed boundary changes

It is currently proposed that the new ward boundary runs through Emlyn Square, splitting one side of the Railway Village from the other. I would suggest that this will make it more difficult to manage the heritage in this area and will be working against the community identity and cohesion recently supported by the HAZ project. Connections within the area have been hard-won and splitting it down the middle would be a retrograde step, especially when it comes to applying for future funding (e.g. Mechanic's Institute and Health Hydro). From a heritage professional's point of view, splitting up coherent character areas reduces their legibility to the public and impacts their heritage value. With my SHP/Mechanic's Institute hat on, it splits our five properties across two wards, increase our administrative workload, and would cause a significant headache. Logistically and realistically, to ensure regeneration of the area continues, it would be infinitely better if the whole character area were included within one ward. I would suggest extending the Queen's Park ward to encompass the remainder of the Railway Village, St Mark's, Health Hydro and the GWR Park. Do feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further. I'm easy to find on Google.

Attached Documents:

None attached