

Swindon

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: The Eastcott Community Organisation Committee (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: Eascotte

Good Afternoon,

We are writing to place on record our objection to the decision to effectively eliminate the historic name of Eastcott from the official map of Swindon, due to the splitting of the current borough council ward between the new Queens Park and Kingshill and Okus wards. Eastcott Community Organisation is the charity which runs Eastcott Community Centre in Savernake Street.

The centre can trace its history back more than a century; it was in 1918 that the much-loved local rag and bone man and philanthropist James 'Raggy' Powell donated the land on which the centre stands. We, the charity's volunteer trustees, are proud that one of the two halls in the centre bears his name. Readily available evidence at the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery show the Eastcott area dating back to 1576.

We acknowledge that the boundaries of council wards occasionally require adjustment, and also that in the case of the latest changes in Swindon, there are pertinent reasons for adjustment, chiefly the desire to increase the fairness of overall electoral representation throughout the borough.

However, we feel that both of these purposes could have been just as well served without eliminating the Eastcott ward altogether.

Eastcott, like any other area of the borough whose name is instantly familiar both within and beyond its boundaries, is a place with its own distinct history, culture and identity. That history, culture and identity has not only endured but thrived throughout years and decades of demographic evolution, economic fluctuations and changes in the way local government has been organised in Swindon and beyond.

While we have every intention of ensuring to the best of our ability that the name of Eastcott lives on, we still feel that some way could readily have been found to preserve Eastcott as an official entity - and hope it is not too late for that preservation to take place.

Kind regards,
The Eastcott Community Organisation Committee
Steph Newton
Anna Smart
Barrie Hudson
Anne Stone
Josh Sheppard
Lauren Wallis
Sally Castrillo

Attached Documents:

- [img_20240712_145449.jpg](#)
- [img_20240712_145458.jpg](#)



Map of Wiltonia (Wiltshire), 1576

From 'Atlas of the Counties of England and Wales' by William Saxton, published 1579.