

Solihull

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

Related subject: Olton

I'd like to object to the boundary changes proposed to remove the Richmond Road area north of the Grand Union canal from the Olton Ward to the Lyndon Ward. Richmond Road, formally Richmond Park Road is part of the original 1900s historic fabric of the Olton area, and really should remain in the Olton Ward. This area was developed from the 1870s onwards as part of the early original Olton area benefiting from the connections by canal and railway, and centred on the two modes of connection that cross Richmond Road. It is far more part of Olton than much of the area to the South of Grange Road that is also included in the Olton Area. As such the redrafting of the boundaries to remove this area from Olton is wrong in terms of historic boundaries, and so any changes would be more appropriate if affecting the south of the ward which is far more remote from the historic centre of the area.

A motion to amend the proposals brought by local councillors at the local council meeting on the 8th October was overruled by a Conservative council majority citing a topographic inconsistency, that is not only incorrect in terms of history but also topography - the houses on this stretch of Richmond Road having been here since the late 1870s and in the context of the Lodge building even earlier.

The statement raised at the meeting by the Conservative councillors (who overruled the amendment to the proposed changes that would keep the area within the Olton ward) that the area is 'like entering a different county let alone a different part of Solihull' shows contempt and ignorance and fails to understand Olton as an area in its own right and whilst it is within Solihull MBC it is not actually Solihull, and as such any further fragmentation by ward boundary change is not in the interests of the public who live here or the historic continuity of the area. The failure of the councillors to understand the historical co-development of the differing housing typologies in the mid to late 1900s on either side of the Warwick Road as part of a whole community of differing 'working classes' and that Olton is not just the larger suburban Victorian Villas on the south of the Warwick Road shows a blinkered view of the community as a whole both historically and currently, who wish to remain as having an Olton

representation at the local council.

Attached Documents:

None attached