

Sandwell

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

Related subject: Cradley Heath and Old Hill

I cannot understand the logic behind changing the Cradley Heath and Old Hill ward and moving Old Hill into Blackheath. Cradley Heath and Old Hill are right next to each other; literally a five minute walk. Blackheath is a twenty minute walk on a good day and there is far less community crossover. I cannot see how this would 'better reflect community identities and interests'. Basing a decision on recommendations made by the Halesowen Conservative Association does not seem likely to be politically unbiased and Halesowen is not even in Sandwell. The fact that the proposal is supported by Councillor Phipps throws more doubt on this as he is a Conservative councillor (in Dudley, not Sandwell) who tried and failed to become a Conservative MP.

Furthermore, changing the existing wards will doubtless have a cost. At a time when the council is proposing to cut bin collections, in part because they have no money, what is the sense in adding an unnecessary cost to the budget? If you were to ask people living in the wards if they would rather have money spent making pointless changes or money spent on street cleaning/libraries/schools/roads/etc I am sure you can guess their answer.

There is no 'confusion or difficulty for electors to understand which councillor represents them' that would be solved by changing the wards; it is a simple search of the council website. If people are unable to do this now how will changing the wards improve this?

Attached Documents:

None attached