

# Sandwell

## Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Postcode: [REDACTED]  
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** cradley heath and old hill

I disagree strongly with the proposed changes to the Cradley Heath and Old Hill ward which would see Old Hill leave and become part of a Blackheath and Old Hill ward.

Your own information gives that 'A good pattern of wards should:

Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.

Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries

And asks does your pattern of wards reflect where local people go for shops, medical services, leisure facilities etc?

I would point out that the centres of Old Hill and Cradley Heath are a five minute walk apart while Blackheath is a twenty minute walk from Old Hill up a very steep hill. People from Blackheath do not come to Old Hill because there is little here but vape shops and barbers and people do not travel from Old Hill to Blackheath because there is nothing there but a Sainsburys. People from Old Hill go to Cradley Heath because it is closer and has a Tesco. There are no strong community links between Old Hill and Blackheath. There is a strong, easily identifiable boundary between Old Hill and Blackheath in the form of long steep hill that you need a car, a bus or the lungs of a Shetland Pony to get up. People from Old Hill do not go to Blackheath to use shops, medical facilities or leisure services, they go to Cradley Heath.

I cannot understand why you would ignore the will of the elected council in Sandwell regarding the proposed changes. Why you would consider changing wards based on information provided by the unelected Halesowen Conservative Association eludes me; Halesowen is not even in Sandwell, it is in Dudley. The fact that a Conservative Association in Dudley is trying to influence wards in Sandwell just sounds like an attempt at gerrymandering. Old Hill has a Cradley Heath postcode for the good reason that they are next to each other with the vaguest of boundaries. Old

Hill is not part of Blackheath.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*