

**Sarehole Residents' Association**  
**Response to The Boundary Commission Proposals from the Residents**  
**of Green Road, Keel Drive, Burke Avenue,**  
**Moseley, Birmingham B13**

Our part of Moseley is not Sparkhill South. In terms of its environment, social and historical links it is Moseley: shops, churches; local businesses, schools; and all the Moseley organisations that make up the community.

We have no connection to a proposed Sparkhill South Ward. We are a small enclave: a corner of Moseley, one mile from Moseley Village centre itself. We are bounded on one side by the River Cole, with variable access via a ford to the Hall Green area; on the other side direct access by road to Moseley: its centre; its surgeries; cafes; pubs; festivals and Farmers' Market. Moseley is where we belong; and we are part of its vibrant community-driven culture.

As you will know, Moseley, last year, was voted the best urban living environment in the UK by a panel of Sunday Times judges; and featured widely in newspaper articles. The ward boundary structure facilitated a cohesive approach to effective local government within the community.

In our recent door-to-door survey we contacted 35 of the 42 houses in Green Road, Keel Drive and Burke Avenue. The proposal to include our part of Moseley in Sparkhill South Ward was rejected unanimously. There are no working links, common issues or affinity with Sparkhill South. One Sparkhill South councillor, dealing with a heavy workload of different needs to ours, could well cause our part of Moseley to be severely marginalised.

We value the history here in our small neighbourhood. In Green Road are two properties dating from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Green Road looks across a field to Sarehole Mill, an 18<sup>th</sup> century watermill, with connections to the great industrialist, Matthew Boulton. Now beautifully restored, it is a fully working mill, supplying flour to a Moseley restaurant for its bread. Close by us here is Moseley Bog, with its lovely woodland and prehistoric Iron Age site: the inspiration for J.R.R. Tolkien. Interestingly, both Moseley Bog and Sarehole Mill

were saved from redevelopment through the generosity of a previous resident of Green Road; and the campaigning of the local community. The Moseley Society with its Historical Society too; and The Moseley Forum would surely prove effective in safeguarding these well-loved sites.

The residents of Green Road, Keel Drive, Burke Avenue, form a truly mixed cohesive community; and they reject wholeheartedly the Boundary Commission proposals and support the Moseley Community Groups submission.

Edith Moore

Rosie Jenkins

on behalf of Sarehole Residents' Association