

### Submission by the Lower Wake Green Road Residents group (nos 213-217) and survey evidence to support our joint proposals

#### **Response to the Boundary Commission Proposals** **Lower Wake Green Road Residents' Group (213-247)**

We are a close community of Moseley residents living in a block of houses numbered 213-247 Wake Green Road. This response has been put together after consulting each household in our block in writing, emails, face-to-face meetings and telephone calls.

#### **Residents' survey**

Number of properties in the area of concern - 18

Number of properties consulted regarding the boundary proposal - 17 (215 is empty)

residents asked - Do you consider yourself part of Moseley and why?

Do you object to the Boundary being changed to place you in Sparkhill ward?

Number of residents responded - 17

**% of those responding considering themselves part of Moseley - 100% unanimous**

**% of those responding objecting to the boundary being changed - 100% unanimous**

**The views expressed in this response to the proposals are unanimous. Every household in our block has been hand delivered a final copy of this response and every resident responding has agreed the content.**

Ours is an ancient, historic area of Moseley, famous in particular for the beautiful conservation area of Moseley Bog, which is directly opposite our block of houses, a few yards away. A well known Moseley resident and tireless conservationist and supporter of Moseley Bog was Joy Fifer of 245 Wake Green Road, in our block. She fought until the end of her life to save this beautiful natural area in her home village of Moseley, indeed part of the Bog is named after her, "Joy's Wood". Joy was awarded a "Supermillenium Hero of Moseley" award by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham on 13/05/00 for her work regarding Moseley Bog, and also an MBE on 2/3/2001. She is remembered as the founding mother of the environment and urban wildlife movement nationally. We residents think it would be a disrespectful travesty to repay Joy Fifer's loyalty to and hard work for her community of Moseley and the marvellous legacy she has left behind by shifting her home (where her husband Alan, life president of friends of Moseley Bog and Joy's Wood, still lives) into the area of Sparkhill. She was extremely proud of being a Moseley resident and she loved Moseley, her husband confirms she would be absolutely horrified by the current proposals.

Current residents in our block are now "friends of Moseley Bog" and have volunteered their time clearing brambles and walkways for the common good and benefit of our Moseley community. Many of us walk to the Bog daily to walk our dogs and take our exercise. Another famous neighbour was JRR Tolkien, who lived at 264 Wake Green Road, Moseley, and famously based his books around our beautiful Moseley Bog and surrounding area of the ford on Green Road and Sarehole Mill. We residents of 213-247 WGR are proud of this heritage and take great pride in our area of Moseley and its rich history.

Our residents are fully involved in the wider Moseley community and we collectively feel absolutely part of everyday Moseley life. Between us we have educated our children in Moseley at Moseley C of E primary school, and been governors as well as parents at that school, and at St Bernard's

Primary school in Moseley which is directly opposite our block and by any reasonable person would be seen as being in the same area as our block; worshipped at St Mary's Church in Moseley, and been PCC members and choir members, as well as parishioners at that church, our children have been Christened and later married at that church demonstrating a lifetime of association with Moseley; we have sent our children to brownies and Cubs at what was Centre 13 in School Road, Moseley; our children have learned to dance at Moseley Dance Centre; We have played tennis and attended bonfires at Moseley Tennis Club in Billesley Lane; we attend our doctor's surgery in Wake Green Road, Moseley village; we regularly walk or drive down our road into the village to enjoy the benefits our fantastic centre has to offer including our award-winning farmers' market, our pubs and restaurants, cafes and shops. Many of us residents have lived our entire lives in Moseley, were educated here, married here, have lived in various roads in Moseley, always remaining in Moseley as it is part of who we are, we are Moseleyites and very proud of it! We love our village, its atmosphere, its people, its facilities and we are proud to have lifelong associations with our village which we dearly wish to continue.

213-247 Wake Green Road has been part of Moseley since records began. Various residents in our block have house title deeds relating back to the turn of the last century when these houses were built referring to the land where our block is situated as "Wake Green, Moseley, Worcester". The county may have changed, but for us residents living in this beautiful historic area, it is of paramount importance that we remain in Moseley, the place where we have our roots, have lived our lives, raised our children, and wish to live in until our old age.

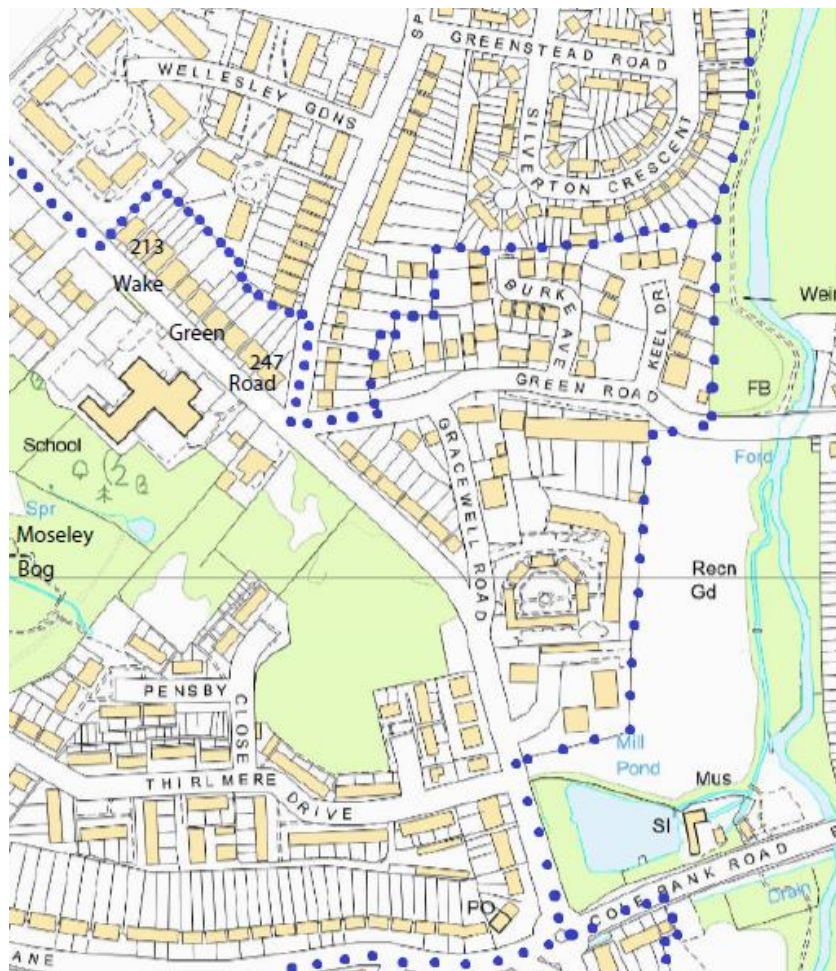
On a practical level, houses in the next block heading away from Moseley, namely 249-267 Wake Green Road, are within the proposed new boundary of Moseley, which makes absolutely no sense whatsoever as they are further away from Moseley Centre albeit in the same road as our block. It would make no sense at all to walk down the same road and change from Sparkhill to Moseley the further away from Moseley centre you walk. It is ludicrous and also divisive of the Wake Green Road community, which, albeit on a main road, does exist. Wake Green Road leads directly into Moseley, it is the main road in Moseley and is synonymous with Moseley throughout the city of Birmingham, it should remain within Moseley. Furthermore, for many reasons, including road safety liabilities (there are 2 schools on this section of Wake Green Road, St Bernard's Primary and Moseley Secondary) it does not make sense to have the Ward boundary running along the centre of the main road making 2 wards liable for regulation/implementation of matters of concern and safety issues to residents and other road users, in particular the hundreds of school children using this section of Wake Green Road every morning and afternoon. For community cohesiveness and practical reasons it makes much more sense for Wake Green Road to be fully within the one ward of Moseley as it always has been.

We as residents of B13 absolutely oppose the LGBCE proposals and urge that the boundary submission proposed by the Moseley Boundary Working Group incorporating the Moseley Forum and Moseley Society, be accepted, and that the Moseley border remains along the back of our houses as it always has done, so that our block remains in the Moseley ward, see Appendix 1. It is much more sensible to have boundaries across the back of houses where there is little or no contact, rather than across the front of homes in the middle of a road where relationships are made and people live and work in the same street, causing an artificial division to be created between them to the detriment of the community. We wish to vote on matters that affect our lives, that are relevant

to us and relate to our local area, community and services that we access, that is all in Moseley. As a community we have no ties with Sparkhill, we do not eat there, shop there, or use the local services there, we do not associate ourselves with the Sparkhill community in any way, which is a matter of paramount importance. All our community ties are with Moseley. We are just 18 households of Moseley people who wish to retain our home identity, our culture, our addresses and our way of life, 18 households will make no significant difference to the ward numbers or help achieve the LGBC's aims. The cost is too high and devastating for the 18 households involved, we therefore reject the proposals put forward.

## **Appendix 1**

### **1. Boundary now proposed by Moseley Communities, the Lower Wake Green Road Residents Group and Sarehole Residents Association (in blue)**



- |                          |                       |                          |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 213 - Ed                 | 225 - Ali and Dave    | 237 - Adeeba             |
| 215 - Empty              | 227 - Ted and Nick    | 239 - Mahmood            |
| 217 - Angie and Mike     | 229 - Jane            | 241 - Sangita and Gurdip |
| 219 - Steve and Glynis   | 231 - Brian and Janet | 243 - Filippo            |
| 221 - Tim                | 233 - Barbara         | 245 - Alan               |
| 223 - Narinder and Sahib | 235 - Annie           | 247 - Charlie and Pushba |