I am an elected member for the Spreydon Ward of the Waihoro Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Board in Christchurch. Additionally, I am the Manager of Cross Over Trust. I grew up and currently live in Hoon Hay.

Cross Over is a trust associated with South West Baptist Church. Ourmission is supporting (at risk) families and communities in South Christchurch to develop resilient children of character. We work with Primary and Intermediate aged children and support local schools (Rowley, West Spreydon and Addington Primary Schools) where necessary. We also do regular visits to families and supporting according to need and carry out one on one mentoring. We have been operating in the Hoon Hay, Hillmorton, Spreydon and Addington communities for over 30 years.

I am submitting in objection to the proposed changes to the Wigram boundary on the basis that it is not paying due regard to our community of interest.

Through both my elected representative role and my job I have a good grasp of what constitutes our community. There is an interlocking of people, services and identities between all the communities we work in. While we work in the Addington area, I accept that putting both sides of Addington together into the Christchurch Central electorate makes sense. I believe that the neighbourhood of Addington should not be split in two (as it is on the current boundary) and instead served by a single MP.

I also believe that the same can be said for Spreydon. It needs to stay as one neighbourhood in the Wigram electorate. The proposed boundary splits this neighbourhood of Spreydon in half on a boundary that has no logic on a local level. Locally, Spreydon is understood to extend at least the Selwyn Street shops on its eastern boundary. I believe that the whole of Spreydon needs to stay in Wigram because of its close connections and shared community of interest with Hoon Hay. Many of our local social service organisations work across both communities because of their commonality of need and their shared interests and identities.

I grew up with playing rugby for Suburbs Rugby Club and this club illustrates the strong connections between the two neighbourhoods. We have recently acquired a new clubrooms in Domain Tce Spreydon and this facility is fast becoming a central place for individuals and groups across Spreydon, Hoon Hay and Hillmorton.

Retaining the present boundaries of Wigram along Selwyn and Strickland Streets would also mean a greater alignment with the CCC boundary for the Spreydon ward. As a local community board member, I believe it is to the community’s benefit for there to be strong working relationships between the local council and community board elected members and the local MP. Having a single MP representing the whole of Spreydon would be more effective representation for the local community.

My children attended West Spreydon School. In this school community there is a tight knit group of parents who see their school as central to the community. Splitting this enrolment zone across two electorates is not giving due regard to this clear community of interest.

Barrington Mall, Barrington Library and Barrington Park are at the heart of our community and should not sit on the edge of Christchurch Central. They belong with the rest of Spreydon and Hoon Hay and Hillmorton.

Solution

That the boundary between Wigram and Christchurch central be moved to Brougham St in the north and run South down Selwyn St to Milton St. This would reflect our community of interest. Adjustment for population could be made in other parts of the electorate where there not so strong and clear communities of interest. This solution also gives die consideration to the existing boundaries of the Wigram electorate.