

David S. - Changes good and bad

The main thing that I have seen, the lasting change – something that is very personal to me – is that town has changed a lot. [Only] four shops that are there were there in the 80s in the same location. Every other shop has changed. Nostalgia creeps in because we have pictures of town as it was in the 70s and 80s. When you look at all the shops that were there then and that are not there now, it upsets me a little bit. I wish there was a way we could bring some of those old shops back.

When my parents moved here, it was majority white. When my father moved into where we lived, the vast majority of the street was white. That was 1971, and I would say by the mid 80s there were very few white families left. There are some out there who accuse Asians of not integrating enough. Well, when Asians move into a predominantly white area, generally what happens is their white counterparts move out for whatever reason. And if people buy the house, what happens is there will not be another white family. It will be an Asian family. But that is just the way it goes.

I think it's because people like to be around their own demographic. We are social creatures. That is not a racist comment. We are social creatures, so I think that is what happened in Highfields and that is what has happened around Evington as well. When we moved from Highfields [to Evington] in the early 90s, there were a lot of white families in my immediate area which are not there now. It is a challenge for everyone to remain integrated as much as they possibly can. We are a very small island, we have limited resources, we have to get on.