
From: Michael Turner
Sent: 24 August 2010 12:18
To: 'jessica.metheringham-owlett@lgcbe.org.uk'
Subject: Hartlepool Boundary review - Seaton Ward

Cllr Mike Turner

Seaton Carew

Dear Ms Metheringham-Owlett

Below is a letter all three Seaton Councillors sent to our local newspaper. You can see where we are coming from and hope you will take on board those concerns expressed in the letter to the Mail. Clearly you only have to look at a map to see that Seaton Carew is an easily identifiable entity. It has only three entrance/exit roads into the area, all of which have signs stating that you are entering Seaton Carew. To change our ward boundary would be to upset this identity - and for what reason? To assuage the interests of other Councillors/Parties in Hartlepool as our ward is the biggest ward in the Borough. As to the number of Councillors, I personally have no opinion, as I can see equal arguments for having one Councillor per ward or more. All I would ask for is that Seaton Carew is treated fairly, although in the interests of maintaining the present ward boundary, I personally would not mind having more voters per councillor in Seaton Carew than other wards, if that's what it would take to maintain the boundary.

Finally, I can tell you that nearly all our issues in the ward from having a power station, an esplanade and seaside area, to landfill sites, affect everyone in the ward, as far as I can see from my case work. It would be unfair to remove small areas from the ward where residents would have to seek representation from another ward's councillor, whilst simultaneously having residents in Seaton Carew affected by the same issue! I hope I have made that point clear!!

Yours truly

Cllr Mike Turner

Dear Mail

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is, as many now know, undertaking an electoral review in Hartlepool. We believe that Seaton Carew has a well defined character, with a recognisable geographical entity which easily separates it from other areas of Hartlepool. The present ward boundary reflects this separate identity. We believe to change the present ward boundary - say simply to achieve some form of mathematical balancing act to allow the same number of Councillors to exist within the entire Borough - would be to reduce our community identity and lead to a reduction in community cohesion. We therefore urge Seaton Carew residents to support the notion of no change to our ward boundary and also to request that the actual official ward name be changed from the Seaton Ward to the Seaton Carew Ward. If you agree with us, please support these views by contacting the electoral review officer for Hartlepool, at jessica.metheringham-owlett@lgcbe.org.uk or Jessica Metheringham-Owlett, The Review Officer, Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG.

Yours truly

Seaton Ward Councillors: Cath Hill, Paul Thompson, Mike Turner