

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

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Comment text:

The Boundary Commission's initial proposal was excellent and provided for strong representation. It is therefore disappointing that it has decided to make amendments and put forward these changes which are detrimental to residents and to representation. These 'Additional Draft Recommendations' promote a much more unbalanced number of residents in the Fairfield and Grangefield Wards. I fully support Plan B which better balances the number of people in each ward making it fairer and more democratic. Moreover, the new proposals would ensure that residents along Fairfield Road, with the Fairfield Pub opposite them and local shops on Upsall and Rimswell (areas naturally identified as Fairfield) would be placed in Grangefield. Speaking with residents, they cannot understand this thinking. Those on Whitton Road and the streets off of it have always identified as Fairfield. Their children were or are educated at Ian Ramsey School which is the local Secondary and is located in Fairfield. These residents also use Fairfield Library and The Fairfield Pub, both located on Fairfield Road. The initial proposals put forward that established Fairfield North and Elm Tree alongside Fairfield South ensured that residents were in wards better suited to their community and ensured strong representation. The same can be said of those residents of Newham Grange area of Stockton, who identify themselves as in the same community as those on Gray's Road, Windermere Road and other streets. The original proposals ensured that these areas, that naturally identify as the same area would receive the same representation rather than split as they currently are. The community centre used by residents of Newham Grange is on Gray's Road, the nearest Bus service is shared and is on Bishopton Road, while these areas all use St Pauls Church with the children of these estates all going to the same school. The initial proposals made perfect sense as it ensured that residents were placed into areas they naturally identified with. These 'further proposals ensure an unnatural border in an area so closely intertwined. This new proposal by the Boundary Commission represents a sheer lack of understanding for the local area and disregards natural communities in Fairfield and Newham Grange. I fully support Plan B, and hope that the Boundary Commission will to while disregarding these ridiculous and unwanted 'further recommendations'.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded