

Lancaster City Council

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Comment text:

I am a City Councillor for the Scotforth East ward, and am responding to the proposed major changes to the three Scotforth wards of Scotforth East, Scotforth West and University & Scotforth Rural. The proposed change divides the current Scotforth East ward into two parts, and combines one part with the University and moves the other into Scotforth West. The current Scotforth East ward is a residential area, comprising mid-priced housing for families, retired people and those who are settled. It is a compact area and is geographically separated from the University. The community has very different characteristics from the University. Before the boundary review of 2000, the University had been part of the Scotforth East ward, but because of the expansion of the University, the Boundary Commission then created a separate new two seat University ward. This enabled both the residents of Scotforth East and the University to have proper representation. At the boundary review in 2013, the further expansion of the University resulted in the creation of a three seat University & Scotforth Rural ward. The rural Scotforth parish areas are quite different from the University. However, the Boundary Commission concluded that the community evidence for keeping the Scotforth parish areas in rural wards such as Ellel and Lower Lune Valley was considered insufficient to counterbalance the electoral variance which would result from a University alone ward. My own view is that the University should form a separate two councillor ward despite having a rather low electorate for that solution. Failing that, leaving the University combined with Scotforth Rural, as a two councillor ward would be the best compromise. I acknowledge that this arrangement is not ideal for the representation of the rural electorate within this ward. However, If the University were to be combined with part of Scotforth East in a three councillor seat, it is likely that this would result in a slate of councillors who would not be representative of one part of the ward or the other. The Barton Road Community Centre and Palatine Recreation Ground both lie within the current Scotforth East ward, and the majority of the residents who use these also live within the ward. There are connections between the two facilities. The boundary commission proposals place the two facilities in separate wards, and create a ward boundary between the Barton Road Community Centre and its closest residents.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded