

**The local Government Boundary Commission for England
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, Consultation on warding arrangements,
Conservative Group Submission.**

Plan B

The Conservative Group on Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) are grateful to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) for undertaking this important work.

The Group are mindful of the aim of the review and further consultation from the initial draft recommendations.

Although further consultation will undoubtedly create additional work for interested parties, it is vitally important our communities are properly identified and fairly represented at Council, and this correlates with the aims of the Commission,

‘The aim of the electoral review is to recommend ward boundaries that mean each councillor represents approximately the same number of voters.

We also aim to ensure that the ward boundaries reflect the interests and identities of local communities, as well as promoting effective local government’.

To assist the review and further consultation, The Group will focus entirely on the 3 distinct areas within the aim, voter representation, community identification and promoting effective local government, in the following submission.

The SoT Electoral Forecasting Proforma, the LGBCE draft recommendations and local knowledge are just some of the many sources of data and information to assist.

The SoT document clearly outlines over and under representation of voters, by Councillors, in the projections for 2026. Although it can be argued whether, or not, these figures truly represent the actual Ward numbers, depending on future employment, the economy, housing development, etc, The Group, use only these figures to assist their further submission.

The Group are also alive to the difficulties of presenting a balanced picture of voter representation across the Borough but accept anomalies in the variance are rebalanced by community cohesion/identity and ease of local governance. We regard Community identity and cohesion as the pressing priority.

This submission and proposals focus solely on the Wards highlighted in the further draft recommendations.

Fairfield

The Commission will be cognisant of the proposal submitted by the Conservative Group for Fairfield in the original consultation period, for ease, the following is the relevant extract from that submission.

Fairfield is a suburb of Stockton-on-Tees within the borough of Stockton-on-Tees. It is situated to the north-west of the town centre.

Fairfield was originally the site of a field which hosted a fair, hence its name. It is now a suburb of Stockton-on-Tees and no longer a village. It is one of Stockton's greener areas but is not as affluent as neighbouring Hartburn. The Northern part of Fairfield is newer than the Southern.

Fairfield has several local amenities. There are several schools, Fairfield Primary School, St Patrick's Roman Catholic Primary School, Our Lady and St. Bede's Catholic Secondary School and Ian Ramsey Church of England Secondary School. Next to Ian Ramsey School is Fairfield Library.

A green belt divides the suburb from neighbouring Hartburn to the South, while at the other, northerly end, Fairfield ends abruptly at the edge of the town.

Fairfield Ward is in Stockton South (Parliamentary Constituency) and is predominantly home to older families with adult children still living at home, living in suburban mid-range, 3-bedroom homes and is likely to be home to residents who have not moved address for some years.

However, over time part of Fairfield Ward, as well as the neighbouring Hartburn Ward, have been merged into the neighbouring Ward of Grange field. Grange field Ward can only be described as a bit of this and a bit of that to make up a Ward. The bits of this and bits of that are generally accepted as belonging to the communities of Fairfield and/or Hartburn. The area known as Grange field and Stockton Grange are more associated with the neighbouring ward of Newtown.

Most voters (in the present Grange field ward) are resident in the defined Fairfield and Hartburn Communities.

To strengthen this view, that residents define themselves as living in Fairfield/Hartburn, it can be evidenced that Hartburn Primary School, Fairfield Road, Fairfield Close, are only located in the present Grange field Ward to make up 'the bit of this and bit of that' approach. Fairfield Road, one of the main arterial roads is presently split between the Grange field and Fairfield wards.

The Group propose that Grange field Ward is disbanded.

*The polling area of GF2 is merged with Newtown Ward and the ward renamed **Newtown and Grange field Ward**, and the polling areas of GF1,3 & 4 are merged into Fairfield and Hartburn.*

The proposed new ward boundaries for Fairfield would now extend to include the area South of Bishopton Road West, West of Oxbridge Avenue and North of Oxbridge Lane and East of Fairfield Road.

This area has a projected electorate of 2350 for 2026.

The Group propose to increase to 3 Councillors for the Fairfield Ward

4575 + 2350 = 6925 (2308 per Cllr)

New Variance -12%

The strength of the proposal submitted by The Conservative Group, in particular community identity, hasn't changed. The Group were grateful that the Commission looked at this community closely, identifying the historical problems with carving it up to bolster other community/ward numbers and were able to strengthen the proposal, to once and for all identify 'Fairfield' as it should be.

The hard work undertaken by the Commission did not go unnoticed by residents in Fairfield.

However, the Conservative Group have been inundated with concerns raised by residents (following the revised/further recommendations by the Commission) in the 'Fairfield Community' that their identity is being sacrificed, once again, for the sake of retaining a single Councillor centred and focused on the 'Grange field' area.

These concerns have been heightened by the Commission initially accepting that Fairfield is a 'community' and identifying it as such with the initial recommendation that 'Fairfield' area should be represented by 4 Councillors, two North and two South, specifically representing this defined area, then altering their recommendations and carving Fairfield up, again. The Commission's further daft recommendation reads,

16. We carefully considered the submissions received for this area and assessed the merits of a number of different warding patterns. While we are of the view that the levels of electoral inequality facilitated by the existing Fairfield ward boundaries have not been justified by the evidence, we do acknowledge that compelling evidence of communities has been provided for some areas of the ward and we have sought to reflect these views in our further draft recommendations for this area. In particular, we are persuaded by the evidence that the existing northern boundaries of Fairfield ward should be maintained, with all electors with access from Bishopton Road West included in the ward. We are recommending also including Bishopton Court, Fairfield Close, Gilling Road, The Avenue and all adjoining roads in the ward.

Putting this into a numerical and community-based context, the area of Grangefield/Stockton Grange makes up only 20% of the present Grangefield Ward. The remaining 80% is within the Fairfield and Hartburn communities and was accepted as such by the Commission in their initial recommendations.

As one resident/elector recently stated “I live on Fairfield Road, opposite the Fairfield Pub and Fairfield library, also on Fairfield Road, but I have to be represented by someone who doesn’t live here, but lives nearly two miles away, barmy”

With the introduction of a further Councillor as proposed by the Commission, increasing from **56 – 57**, the average number of electors per Councillor, across the Borough is reduced from **2639 to 2593**.

The Group propose that their previous submission to the Commission for Fairfield is revisited. To help and overcome the elector representation difficulties highlighted by the Commission, The Group further propose that the area of Oulston Road, Coxwold Road and the residents on the South side of Oxbridge Lane adjacent to these two roads (**227** electors) are included in the original proposed (Conservative Group Submission) Fairfield Ward. This small area is presently recommended to be in the Hartburn Ward

The area is shown on the attached appendix 1. (Fairfield)

The Fairfield Ward would have 3 Councillors, **7152** electors (**2384** electors per Cllrs) and the variance would now be **-8%**.

Hartburn

The area of Oulston Road, Coxwold Road and residents on the South side of Oxbridge Lane, adjacent to these two roads (**227** electors, as outlined in the previous paragraph) is presently recommended to be in Hartburn Ward. If this further proposal were to be adopted the variance in Hartburn would change from **-6% to -7%**.

Grangefield

The Conservative Group note the further draft recommendations to the Grangefield Ward/Newtown Ward following the responses received by the Commission from residents.

The Group propose to strengthen the further draft recommendations and resolve the historical Fairfield Community identification issue by proposing the following.

The area of Grangefield is merged with the nearby Newham Grange & Stockton Grange area (presently NT4) and two further small areas that are presently in the Newtown Ward to form a single Councillor Ward, called Grangefield & Newham Grange.

The Ward would have the boundaries of East of Oxbridge Avenue & Bishopton Road (A1027) running North to the junction with Durham Road & A177, taking in Westfield Crescent (**200** electors, presently part of Newtown Ward NT2) just prior to this junction. Turning East on to the A177 and encompassing Lilac Road & St Crispins' Court (**133** electors, presently part of Newtown Ward NT1) before turning South on Durham Road. The boundary would then turn South around Durham Road Cemetery & Oak Tree Academy and the area to the West of Lustrum Beck.

The area is shown on the attached appendix 1.

This area has an electorate of **2541**, with a variance of **-2%**.

The proposal seeks to accommodate the evidence submitted by residents, strengthen the Commission's recommendations and achieves the aims of community identification, fairer voter representation and local governance.

Westfield Crescent is adjacent to Newham grange Park, the address for Oak Tree Academy is Newham Grange Avenue. In addition, it also resolves the issue of the area of Stockton Grange/Newham Grange being split between the present Newtown and Grangefield Wards.

Newtown

The Conservative Group note the further draft recommendations to the Grangefield Ward/Newtown Ward following the responses received by the Commission from residents.

The Group propose to strengthen the further draft recommendations and resolve the Grangefield historical issue by proposing the following.

The Newtown Ward is reduced in size by adopting part of the initial and further recommendations proposed by the Commission to form a single Councillor Ward.

The Ward would have the present NT1 area, except for Lilac Road 7 St Crispins' Court and the majority of NT2 area, except for Westfield Crescent.

The boundaries for Newtown Ward would be the A177 to the North, the railway line running North & South to the East and Lustrum beck to the West, incorporating the boundary movement outlined in the proposed Grangefield & Newham Grange Ward, around Durham Road Cemetery and Oak Tree Academy.

The NT3 area proposed by the Commission in their initial recommendations (but altered in the further recommendations) to be incorporated into the **Roseworth Ward** should be adopted. Roseworth is projected to be **4905** electors in 2026, with a variance of **-7%**. Returning to this recommendation the Conservative Group note that the variance would be **2708** electors per Councillor, with a better variance of **4%**.

These areas are shown on the attached appendix 1.

The area, Newtown Ward would have an electorate of **2811**, with a variance of **8%**.

The proposal seeks to accommodate the evidence submitted by residents, strengthen the Commission's recommendations and achieves the aims of community identification, fairer voter representation and local governance.

The area proposed is a particularly tight knit community that reverts to its original identity.

In summary, the proposals put forward by The Conservative Group resolve the historical community issues regarding Fairfield, accommodate the evidence submitted by residents to the Commission for Grangefield, Newham Grange & Newtown, achieve and strengthen the hard work and aims of the Commission.

Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree

The Conservative group have only one proposal to make for this Ward, as it comes up regularly from conversations with residents, to add Whitehouse Farm to the Ward name. Bishopsgarth, Elm Tree & Whitehouse Farm.

Yarm, Ingleby Barwick, Sothern Parishes

The Conservative Group were very supportive of the original recommendations for these areas by the LGBCE. The further recommendations provide some inconsistency in the approach to accommodating Civil Parishes being coterminous with ward boundaries and creating a further Councillor post at the expense of local residents.

That said, the Conservative Group have looked closely at the challenges faced by the LGBCE, Local Civil Parishes and residents in trying to accommodate the aims of the review. Hopefully the following paragraphs strengthen the further recommendations and aims of the commission.

Yarm

The Conservative Group have no changes to suggest to the revised draft recommendations.

It has an acceptable variance **-6%**

The ward exclusively reflects the long-established Yarm Civil Parish boundary.

- The ward neatly takes in the existing polling districts of YM1, YM2, YM3, YM4 and YM5,

Based on representations, the LGBCE removed the developments south of Green Lane out of the initial recommendations for Yarm Ward. This is sensible and supported by the Conservative group as these developments are coterminous with Kirklevington Civil Parish (YM6) which is now in the proposed Southern Parishes Ward. Removing these developments from the Yarm Ward doesn't have an unacceptable impact on the variance of Yarm.

Southern Parishes

Kirklevington (YM6)

The Conservative Group support the comments submitted regarding the whole of Kirklevington Civil Parish being respected and incorporated into the proposed Southern Parishes Ward. For this reason, The Group support the LGBCE proposal to move the new developments South of Green Lane (YM6) out of the Yarm Ward and into the proposed Southern Parishes Ward.

Maltby (IBE5)

With Kirklevington Civil Parish being coterminous in the proposed/revised Southern Parishes Ward, the Conservative Group propose that Maltby Civil Parish is afforded the same consideration, being coterminous with one Ward, rather than being split between the proposed Ingleby Barwick South and Southern Parishes Wards. It may be seen to be hypocritical to accept Kirklevington Civil Parish remaining coterminous with a Ward, but not Maltby Civil Parish.

The Conservative Group propose to keep the Maltby Civil Parish (IBE5) coterminous in one Ward. This would be the proposed Ingleby Barwick East Ward, which it is presently and has been for many years, rather than being split between the proposed Southern Parishes and Ingleby Barwick South Wards.

This would leave the Southern Parishes Ward being made up of YM6, YM7, IBE6. These polling districts contain parishes which are true to the Ward name (Southern Parishes). Furthermore, the links between these parishes is recognised by the shared TS15 9 postcodes.

Conservative Group propose that the recommended Southern Parishes Ward, is also renamed **Kirklevington & Hilton Ward.**

Kirklevington Civil Parish (YM6) - 2178

Castlelevington Civil Parish (YM7) - 25

Hilton Civil Parish (IBE6) – 313

Please note that improved electoral variance is achieved through this proposal.

New total **2516**, variance **-3%**

LGBCE variance **5%**

Ingleby Barwick East

As outlined above, the Conservative Group suggest moving the Maltby Civil Parish (IBE5) into the proposed Ingleby Barwick East Ward. Splitting the Maltby Civil Parish is not desirable to meet the aims of community identity.

It may be seen to be hypocritical to accept arguments of placing the whole of Kirklevington Civil Parish coterminous with the proposed Southern Parishes Ward, while not extending the same principle to Maltby Civil Parish

Maltby and Kirklevington Civil Parishes have a commonality of containing original Villages, with new developments on their borders towards the main urban centres (Yarm and Ingleby Barwick).

- Moving all of Maltby CP (IBE5) into Ingleby Barwick East improves the variance for Southern Parishes closer to **0%.**
- Maltby CP (IBE5) is already in the Ingleby Barwick East ward which has largely been preserved. It is therefore desirable to maintain community cohesion by keeping IBE5 in Ingleby Barwick East.
- The LGBCE has added a small number of streets from IBW3 into Ingleby Barwick East. We propose moving this whole section which is **approximately 180** electors into Ingleby Barwick South to compensate for losing its part of IBE5.

Conservative Group propose that Ingleby Barwick East ward is renamed **Ingleby Barwick East & Maltby Ward**

IBE1 – 2495

IBE2 – 1734

IBE3 – 1070

IBE4 – 1648

IBE5 – 1091

New total **8038**, Variance **3%**

LGBCE variance was **-8%**

Ingleby Barwick South

Maltby

As outlined, the Conservative Group proposals have sought to improve the variance and community links for the proposed Ingleby Barwick East and Southern Parishes Wards. This has meant that the proposed Ingleby Barwick South ward has lost a new housing development known as Little Maltby Farm which is in the IBE5 (Maltby CP) polling district, however this suggestion would satisfy the aims of the Commission of improving representation and community links.

IBW3

The revised LGBCE proposal for Ingleby Barwick East put a section of the IBW3 polling district into it. The residential area within this portion of IBW3 includes the streets of Elsdon Gardens, Harbottle Close, Rochester Court and Thirlwall Drive, approximately 180 of the electorate.

The Conservative Group is conscious that removing IBE5 from Ingleby Barwick South has affected the representation, however, moving this section of IBW3, from the proposed Ingleby Barwick East into Ingleby Barwick South, means the whole of IBW3 polling district remains coterminous with the Ingleby Barwick South Ward.

Altering the areas of IBE5 and part of IBW3 achieves the aims of the Commission, elector representation and community identification.

Conservative group proposed Ingleby Barwick South ward:

IBW1 – 1761

IBW2 – 1631

IBW3 - 1406

New total **4798**, variance **-7%**

LGBCE variance was **6%**

Ingleby Barwick West

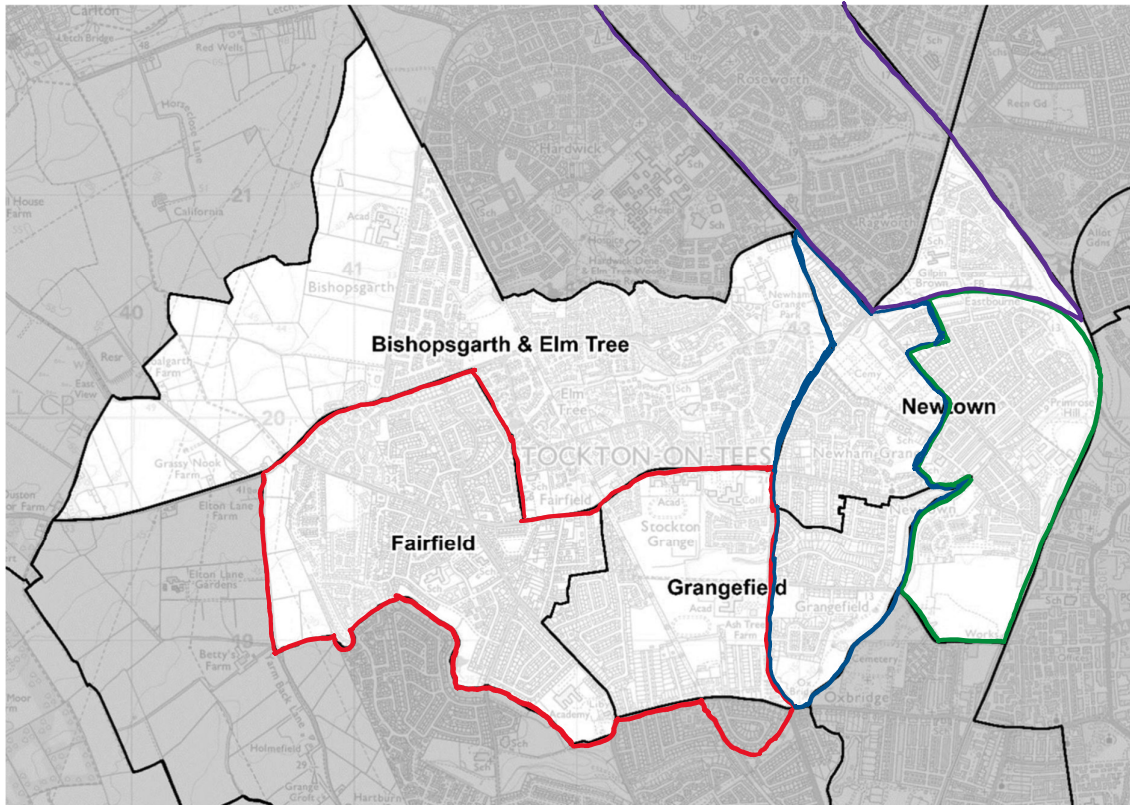
The Group have no amendments to suggest to the LGBCE proposal for this ward.

The proposed areas are shown in appendices 2 & 3/3a

Tony Riordan

Conservative Group leader

Stockton Borough Council

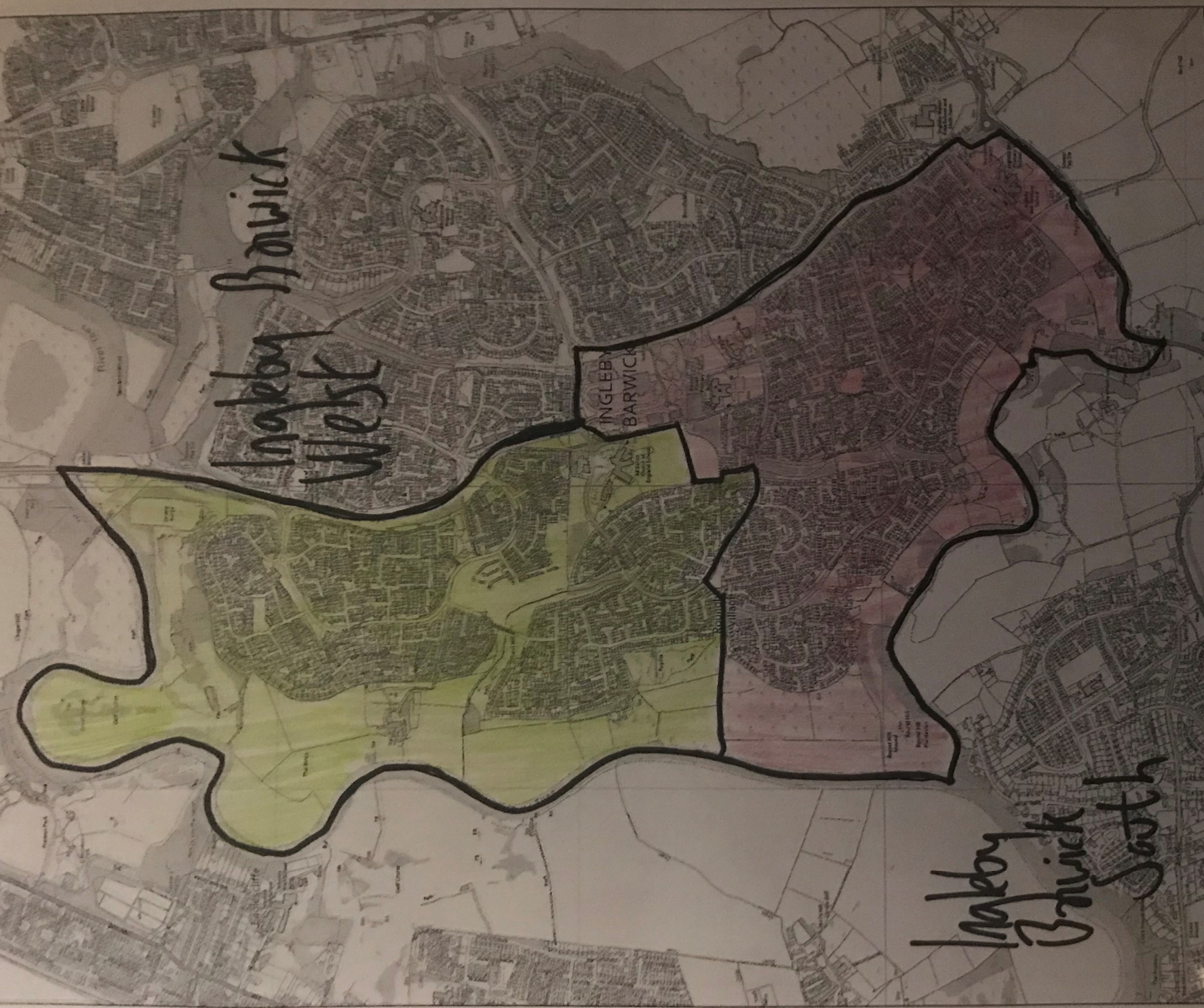



FAIRFIELD.

GRANGEFIELD &
NEWHAM GRANGE

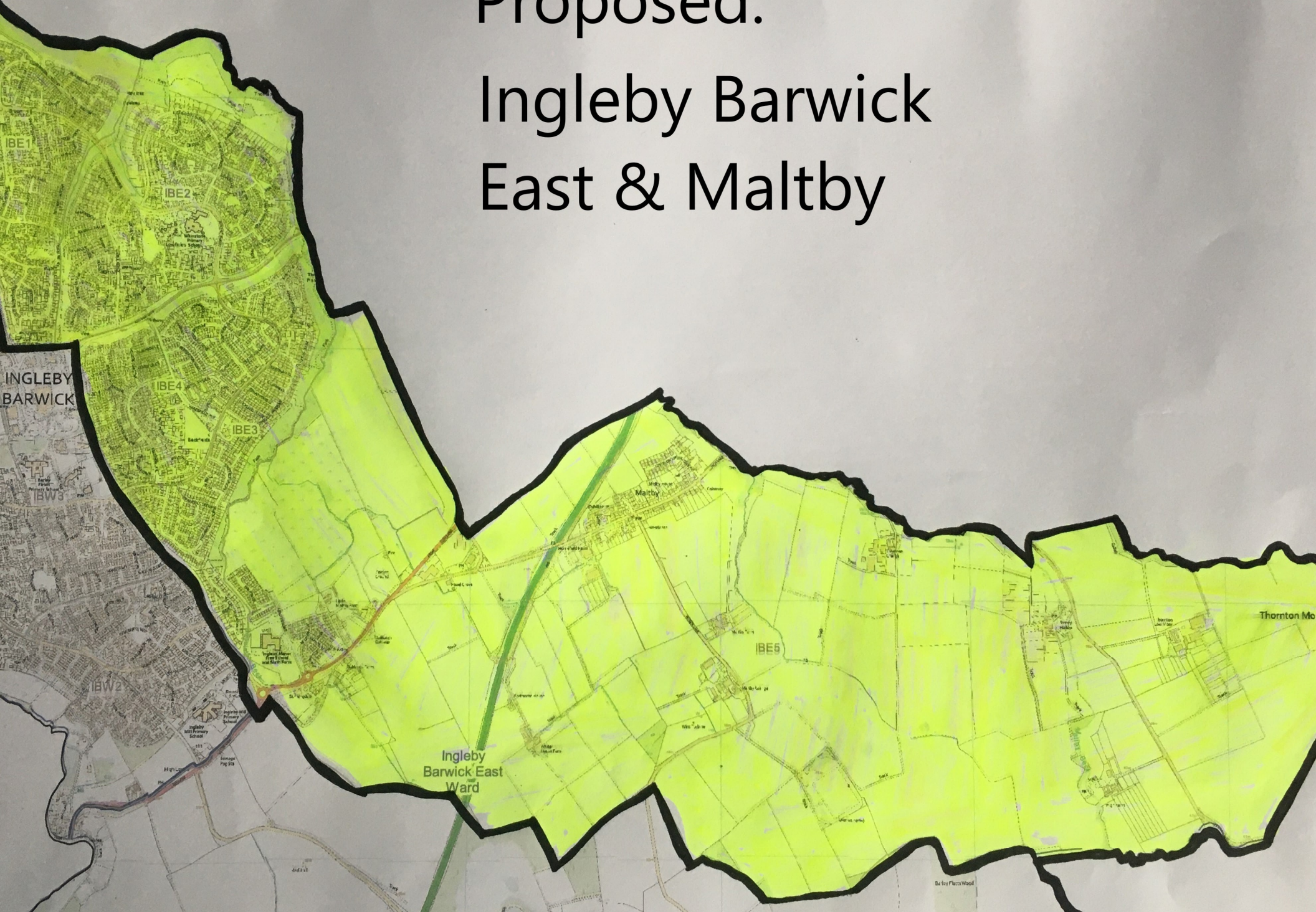
NEWTOWN.

ROSEWORTH

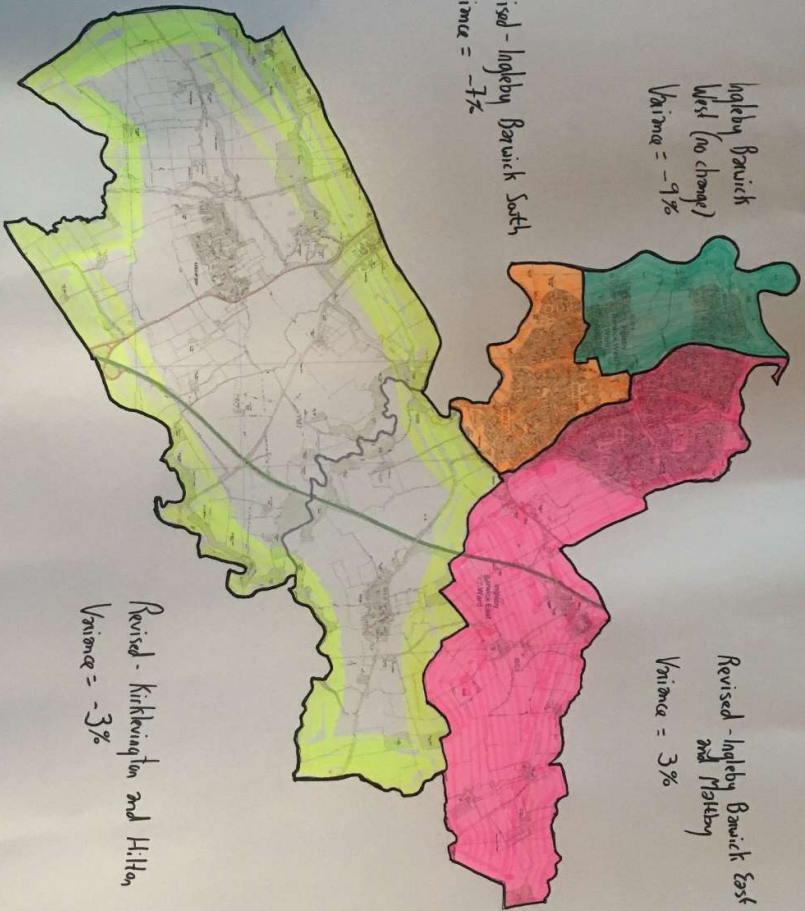


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Proposed: Ingleby Barwick East & Maltby



☐ Polling Districts
☐ Wards



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