

Calderdale

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Comment text:

Related subject: Northowram and Shelf Ward

Hello. I'm one of two Green Party councillors for the ward of Northowram and Shelf, so I thought it might be helpful if I gave you some views on potential changes to our ward boundaries.

I would generally expect limited changes to the boundaries. The areas of Northowram, Shelf, Stump Cross and Shibden form an area that's closely intertwined, geographically and socially.

The Claremount area, clustered around Claremount Rd, is somewhat separate, being very close to Halifax Town Centre. However, houses to the South East end of Claremount Rd (on the Belgrave Estate at Horley Green) have stronger links to the ward, given their proximity to Shibden Park and the Shibden Valley itself.

The North West end of Claremount Rd, beyond Bradford Old Road, has no real links to the main part of the ward, with people there generally regarding themselves as living in the Boothtown area. Indeed a couple of residents have suggested to me that they should move wards to what is currently the Town Ward. The area that could potentially move to a revamped ward would be bounded by Bradford Old Road, Ploughcroft Lane, Boothtown Rd, and the North-West end of Claremount Road. The area to the West of Swales Moor Road could also move, albeit there are very few people living in here.

There are also a number of houses and flats to the South side of New Bank dual-carriageway, which are really in the town centre and should form

part of any new Town Centre ward. I feel it is unfair on people living in these houses that they're voting for candidates in a ward centred a long way away in places they rarely visit.

I'm working on the assumption that with an increase in the number of wards, and the anticipation of house building in Northowram and Shelf, the boundaries of the current ward is unlikely to be extended. However, if this was required, the natural extension would be to move elements of the north side of the Hipperholme and Lightcliffe ward into our ward. This could potentially include extending the boundary of the ward to the bottom of Coley Rd.

Best wishes

Martin Hey

Attached Documents:

None attached