

South Tyneside

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Comment text:

Related subject: Wards that will be in the South Shields Constituency from October

I am a former Councillor who has lived in South Shields my whole life. The current Ward boundaries do not reflect residents local affiliations or contacts. Wards have been significantly altered over the years as new houses have been built but when these have been assigned to Wards there has been no consideration of whether it is the most appropriate Ward. For example Westoe Crown was put into Horsley Hill Ward but it is much more closely linked to Beacon and Bents and the majority of residents who live on this estate don't understand why it was ever put in the Horsley Hill Ward. The lack of clarity is demonstrated by the fact the councillors have to refer to the Ward as Horsley Hill and Westoe Crown despite that not being it's official name. Deprivation is also concentrated in certain Wards unnecessarily due to the false areas created by the current Ward boundaries. For example Beacon and Bents and Simonside and Rekendyke are the two most deprived Wards in the town but they are located next to Westoe and West Park, two of the most affluent Wards. Moving the boundaries slightly would spread the deprivation and lead to better use of resources and improved life chances for all residents. I have attached a map of my suggestions for more appropriate boundaries for South Shields with proposals for new names that are relevant to each area. As well as local connections and deprivation I have considered schools and GP surgeries to ensure, that as far as possible, there are sufficient services in each area for the residents. I haven't commented on Jarrow or Hebburn as I am not so familiar with these areas. I would be very happy to discuss my proposals or provide more clarity if required. I realise they are not exactly the same numbers but they are as close as I could identify and certainly more balanced than the current Wards.

Attached Documents:

- Proposals for new Wards with names.pdf
- Proposed new Wards with names.png



