

# Derbyshire

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Steve Davey  
**Email:** [REDACTED]  
**Postcode:** [REDACTED]  
**Organisation Name:** (Parish or town councillor)

## Comment text:

Dear Review Body,

I am writing as a local Councillor and the Chair of New Mills Town Council to express significant concerns and objections regarding Derbyshire County Council 's (DCC) proposed boundary changes that would divide our town into two separate divisions. The DCC proposed boundaries would effectively remove a large and important part of our town centre and reallocate this to Whaley Bridge. The proposals concentrate purely on electorate numbers with absolute no regard for the community that would be split. The proposed changes are anything but minor. If progressed, key community assets and part of the town's identity would be split including Swizzels sweet factory, New Mills Art Theatre, New Mills Recreation Ground (the home of New Mills Carnival and local football clubs), New Mills Newtown Railway Station, and the surrounding residential areas. These proposals are arbitrary and make no sense.

New Mills is a town rich in cultural heritage, and its cohesive identity with Sett Ward and Hayfield is a source of pride (and good natured competition) for its residents. The proposed division of the town into separate electoral divisions threatens to fragment our community and dilute the shared sense of identity that has been nurtured over generations. This division may undermine community engagement and involvement in local affairs, ultimately impacting the social fabric that makes New Mills such a vibrant and close-knit town.

Moreover, dividing New Mills into separate electoral divisions could disrupt the representation of our diverse interests. Historically, councillors elected to represent the entire town have been able to address issues collectively and advocate for the holistic well-being of New Mills. By creating divisions, we risk prioritising the concerns of specific areas while neglecting or overlooking the broader needs and interests of the town

as a whole. This fragmented representation could lead to imbalances in decision-making processes and hinder our ability to effectively tackle the challenges that affect New Mills collectively.

We are also concerned about the potential for illogical and disconnected boundaries that may arise from redrawing the electoral divisions. Communities that share common characteristics, whether they be social, economic, or geographical, may find themselves represented by different councillors, disrupting the natural cohesion that has been built over the years. This disconnection could impede effective communication and coordination between different parts of the town, hindering our ability to address local issues in a coordinated and inclusive manner.

Additionally, we must consider the potential impact on voters. The proposed electoral division changes may lead to confusion among residents who are accustomed to voting for candidates representing the entire town. Understanding the new boundaries and identifying the correct representatives for their respective areas could prove challenging, potentially resulting in lower voter turnout and reduced democratic participation. It is crucial that we maintain clarity and transparency in the electoral process to uphold the democratic integrity of our local governance.

In light of these concerns, we urge that the Derbyshire County Council boundary proposal for New Mills be rejected and reconsidered. We believe it is essential to preserve the cultural identity of our town and ensure that our community is effectively represented in the decision-making processes that impact our daily lives.

If a numbers change is absolutely necessary a minor amendment would be to pull the boundary back slightly to the logical boundary of the A6, thereby retaining the existing area of the community listed above.

We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue to discuss these concerns further and explore alternative solutions that could address the issues at hand without compromising the unity and integrity of New Mills.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response and the opportunity to work together in the best interests of the whole New Mills community.

Regards  
Cllr Steve Davey  
Chair of New Mills Town Council  
Ward Councillor for Ollersett

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*