Middlesbrough

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Organisation Name: Middlesbrough Council (Parish or town councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Ladgate

I do not agree with the current boundaries of the "Ladgate" Ward - I can guarantee nobody in the boundary would have a clue what the boundary is or what even is "Ladgate" . This leads to much confusion during election times, with many finding it difficult to understand how the two communities can be represented as one ward - when the challenges facing each estate could not be any different

If one was to walk around the ward - it is clear the only thing with reference to Ladgate, is the road which separates the two estates.

Easterside, is an area of extreme depravity - with many of it's residents having a lower level of education, lower incomes (if not reliant on state benefits) - furthermore, Easterside has a strong sense of community, with many residents living there for multiple generations and having a good idea who all the other residents who live on the estate are through generational knowledge.

Marton Manor on the otherhand has no sense of community at all - not least with easterside - with many residents being on a higher income and having higher levels of education - many residents and by virtue of the name of the estate - are more likely to feel as though they are more "marton" inclined rather than this abstract "Ladgate" - after many unsuccessful attempts at inspiring a community spirit in marton manor - it is clear there is no desire for there to be such

If one was to walk between the two estates, as i regularly do, there is a stark divide between the two, not only with the quality and level of housing and landscaping but of community spirit and involvement.

Furthermore, there is a very popular cafe in Easterside - however, after going multiple times, not a single person from Marton Manor is inside, only easterside residents, when i speak to residents from Marton Manor, they tend to go to Marton Shops and attend the Cafe there - showing that they feel disconnected from Easterside - also the community hub which is in the ward, is called the Easterside Community Hub, as opposed to the "Ladgate" communuity hub, further evidence of the divide between the two estates.

I think whatever metric you look at the two estates, they are not similar at all - whether it be house prices, education, community spirit - this is why I would suggest separating the two - with "Marton Manor" joining "Marton West" and making that a 3 seat ward - whilst leaving Easterside as a 1 seat ward -

Finally, the only thing that has reference to "Ladgate" is the road which separates the two estates and I believe residents would be best served if my proposal above was adopted

Attached Documents:

None attached