

Gateshead

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Change of boundaries of Ryton, Crookhill and Stella ward

As an elector who is directly affected by the boundary change I was dismayed to discover this was happening only on Monday 1st April 2024, having had no communication from Gateshead Council about it at all. I was born in Ryton and have lived here all my life, 42 years in my current home. I now discover I am to become part of the Crawcrook ward. The map showing the new boundary of the Ryton ward submitted by Gateshead makes no sense. My home in Barmoor is to be in Crawcrook yet there is another stretch of land between me and Crawcrook which will stay in Ryton. The land my house is on was bought by the Stella Coal Company in 1860 and the deeds from that time state it is in 'the township of Ryton'. Gateshead council have gone ahead purely on numbers with no regard for the guidance you yourselves set out. Indeed the +/- 10% is just that - guidance - and is not law. It would have made much more sense to take the Stella Riverside Estate, at the east end of the ward, which is isolated on its own and has nothing around it, and put that into Blaydon ward to achieve the same outcome. Under your 'community identity' guidelines Barmoor fully identifies as being in the community of Ryton and definitely not Crawcrook. We are in the Parish of Ryton, I was married and my children were christened in the village church. There are people in the area who own shares in the community pub in the village. We use all the facilities in Ryton - shops, GP, my children went to Ryton school, use Ryton park, the list is endless. Gateshead council itself advised that the land between Ryton and Crawcrook, which is designated greenbelt, be kept as a natural boundary between the two villages, There is no natural identifiable boundary which makes sense to proceed with this idea, (as evidenced by the weird shape of the new map). A rather ludicrous situation will exist where, for example, the site of Ryton schools is surrounded by houses deemed to be in Crawcrook. Likewise Ryton Rugby Club, Ryton Scout hut and Ryton cricket club are all somehow managing to stay in Ryton whilst being surrounded by dwellings now deemed to be in Crawcrook. If the council had bothered to consult the electors they would have discovered the strength of feeling from the affected residents and suggested moving the Stella Riverside Estate instead, surely moving a new estate makes more

sense than moving houses, some of which have been here for more than a century, with no regard for the historic significance of the area. I myself live in a miners cottage, c,1850, right next to the land of the former Emma colliery, the colliery site will stay in Ryton and the cottages built for the miners will be in Crawcrook, again absolutely ludicrous. It is indeed ironic that the Ryton ward has only become 'overpopulated' due to the amount of new builds that Gateshead council has allowed.

I hope you find this information useful and are able to take it into consideration when making your final decision.

Kind Regards

Attached Documents:

None attached