

Gateshead

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Ryton Crookhill and Stella boundary changes

Ryton Crookhill and Stella boundary changes.

There are a few point I would like to make with regards to the proposed ward boundary changes that will see Barmoor moved into the Crawcrook and Greenside ward.

Lack of consultation

I don't feel that there has been any meaningful consultation with the community that the ward changes will impact. The vast majority of the Barmoor residents only found out about the changes on the 1st April 2024. At a community meeting on 2nd April labour counsellors informed us that the changes were highlighted on a Gateshead CC Facebook page. How were we supposed to know this ? At this meeting we were told that there had been a virtual assessment of the area where the changes would take place. Virtual assessments do not identify community links. We have had political party news letters during the so called consultation period, however none of these have mentioned the ward changes. Ward changes should be about democracy but I see little of that here and I feel that the lack consultation has drastically failed constituents of Barmoor.

Identifying with Ryton

Since moving to the area in 1989 I have always identified with Ryton. The health services, shops and social places I use are in Ryton. I know that there shouldn't be any immediate changes to services etc, but who knows what might happen in the future. Could I be required to use health services in Crawcrook ?

Time and effort invested in Ryton

Constituents in Barmoor have invested a lot of time and effort in improving the Ryton area. I myself have undertaken volunteer environmental work on Ryton Willows and in Ferndene Park, I have good links with the Brightend Ryton group. I assisted in fundraising events and practical work at The Old Cross (community pub).

The ward change is like saying "thanks for your work but your part of another ward now".

I will still continue community work but will feel different about undertaking such activities when I am based in another ward.

Historic links

Barmoor has always been part of Ryton , dating back to a time before Crawcrook even existed why break a historical link ?

New housing developments

The new housing developments of Woodside Meadows and Staggate Meadows have increased the ward population too a predicted 114%. Why make the Barmoor constituents the sacrificial lamb when residents have invested time and energy into being a members of the Ryton community. Would electoral quality not be better served by placing the new estates into the Crawcrook and Greenside. Barmoor ,which unlike the new developments has established community links with Ryton.

Attached Documents:

None attached