

Middlesbrough

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Boundary changes

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views on the Boundary Commission review of Middlesbrough

My comments relate to my Marton West ward and are as follows:

1. Based on the Boundary Commission electoral figures, it is apparent that there is no significant requirement to change the boundaries of Marton West. There is minimal variance between the 2023 and 2029 electoral figures.
2. The current boundaries of Marton East and Marton West are clearly delineated by the bisection North to South by the A172 Stokesley Road and East to West by the A174 Parkway Dual Carriageway between Marton Manor and Marton West.
3. Our ward was modified in the previous boundary review, adding in the De Brus area to the ward, in 2015. Since then, a modified Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted, incorporating the De Brus part of the ward, alongside the existing Eagle Park, McInnes estate and Gunnergate areas, each of which have their own distinguishing features.
4. We understand that in Middlesbrough Council's consultation response, they are proposing an addition to our ward, by taking part of the Ladgate ward and adding this into Marton West. This would be a detrimental change, in our opinion, as there is no clear linkage between the Ladgate community and the Marton West ward. No reference was made to this in the 2013 review of boundaries, so it is questionable as to why it should now occur.
5. Middlesbrough Council has not approached the Marton West Community Council to discuss this proposed change and appears to be seeking to impose a change to the ward without undertaking any meaningful dialogue. Their consultation response, approved at its Council meeting on 8th March, is littered with inaccuracies e.g. referencing the shopping parade which is part of the Marton East ward; likewise, community centres are also located in the Marton East ward. Marton West does not have its own community centre

6. There is currently a clear boundary for Marton West, i.e. that of the A174, which runs along to the Fairy Dell park. There is no reason / justification to change this.
7. Marton West Community Council operates effectively with its current boundaries, having produced a modified Neighbourhood Plan, supported by residents; producing bi monthly newsletters to all its resident community and running regular bi-monthly meetings which are well attended by the local community.
8. The community council could not absorb the financial impact if Marton Manor were to join Marton West, we would be unable to function and deliver our communications to residents due to costings
9. Should any boundary change be necessary, the only area of merit to consider is the boundary between Marton West and Nunthorpe. As a result of new house building at the Grey Towers Farm, part of the housing estate falls in Marton West and part in Nunthorpe. Two possibilities exist; one, to use the Poole roundabout as the boundary for Marton West, to incorporate the Grey Towers estate in Marton West; two, to make Brass Castle Lane the boundary between Nunthorpe and Marton West, with the Grey Towers estate wholly falling into Nunthorpe, along with the recently approved Ford Riding Centre planning application.
10. In terms of the 2029 electoral figures, the more appropriate solution would be to extend the Marton West ward to the Poole roundabout boundary. This would balance up the Marton West electorate(-3%) and reduce the +6% variance in respect of Nunthorpe.

Attached Documents:

None attached