

Kirklees

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Comment text:

Related subject: Dewsbury South/West boundary

The existing boundary formed by the River Calder is perfect and accurately represents the areas that people connect themselves with and the communities that regularly interconnect and blend naturally.

The proposed map would cut Savile Town from Thornhill Lees and would cut Ravensthorpe from Dewsbury Moor and Westtown

People in Savile Town have no reason to access services in Dewsbury Moor and Westtown, and people in Dewsbury Moor and Westtown have no reason to access services in Savile Town. The same can be said between Ravensthorpe and Thornhill Lees.

However, people in Savile Town and Thornhill Lees regularly visit each other to access services such as supermarkets like Asda and Mullacos, chemists such as Nobles Chemist in Savile Town and Sykes Chemist in Thornhill Lees and community events in both Savile Town park and the playing fields behind Thornhill Lees Community Centre. All of these places are within easy walking distance and have good public transport connections. Also, children who attend infant and primary schools in Savile Town usually end up attending Thornhill Community Academy. Similarly, children who attend infant and primary schools in Ravensthorpe are more likely to attend Westborough High School in Westtown.

Crossing the River Calder isn't easy unless you have a car as the pavements are quite narrow and dirty due to the industry that surrounds both Thornhill Road and Calder Road. There are also no public transport links on those two roads.

The proposed changes risk isolating Savile Town and Ravensthorpe from the areas closest to them and could result in those areas being underrepresented on the Council if all 3 councillors do not live or visit those areas. It is also less likely that people in Savile Town and Ravensthorpe would want to stand as independents in an election as they won't have any local knowledge about the rest of the ward.

Rivers act as stronger boundaries than railways which is why countries are often bordered by a river. The existing map has well established corridors such as Savile Road/Slaithwaite Road in Dewsbury South and Huddersfield Road in Dewsbury West both creating good connections on all forms of transport with the rest of the ward.

The existing River Calder boundary should remain unchanged.

Attached Documents:

None attached