

Barnsley

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Related subject: Birdwell, Dodworth, knock on effects elsewhere

See attached document

Attached Documents:

- barnsley2.pdf

Suggestions for new wards in Barnsley: response to draft recommendations

September 3, 2024

1 Introduction

This is a submission in response to the draft recommendations for new ward boundaries in Barnsley. I submitted a first round proposal, which is referred to in the mapping as “Local Resident Scheme”.

For the most part I think the Commission have done a good job here. However it was a little unfortunate that the electorates made available before the first round have had to be corrected, meaning that some proposals made by myself and others produced too large deviations from electoral equality and therefore either couldn't be used or had to be modified.

I have a handful of concerns about the draft proposals. My main concern is the split of Birdwell between Rockingham and Worsbrough wards, but I also think the eastern boundary of Dodworth ward remains messy, splitting some communities, and can be improved.

One option for Birdwell would be to include the whole area in a Worsbrough ward, as in my original proposal. However, this would, with the revised electorate figures, produce a ward which is too large, requiring some part of Worsbrough to be removed, and there does not appear to be a very satisfactory way of doing this. Therefore I suggest abandoning the Birdwell/Worsbrough link, including Birdwell elsewhere. This requires finding some extra electorate for Worsbrough, and the obvious choice is Worsbrough Common; this is currently in the Kingstone ward, so requires substantial modifications in that area.

One option is to remove all the areas east of the M1 in the current Dodworth ward. This would produce a clean boundary, and some of this area would provide the needed electorate for Kingstone, with other areas being added to Darton West and Old Town wards. Dodworth would then be grouped with areas to the south which are also close to the M1, including Tankersley and Birdwell; there is enough electorate here for a ward and with the inclusion of Birdwell and Stainborough it is reasonably coherent and connected.

Modifications are then also needed in the Hoyland and Wombwell area to ensure electoral equality. The draft proposals already include part of Wombwell (Wood Walk) in a Hoyland ward, and my suggestion is to include a little more, and make the hybrid Hoyland/Wombwell nature of this ward clear in the name.

Maps showing my proposals appear as Figure 1 (for west and central Barnsley, including the areas around my proposed Kingstone, Old Town and Central wards) and Figure 2, including the Hoyland and Wombwell areas. Explanations of each suggested ward which differs from the draft recommendations follow.

I support the boundaries of the wards not mentioned below. I will not comment further on their names, except in one case: I support the proposal to use the name “Athersley” rather than “St Helen’s”. The Athersley area dominates the ward, and of the various “St Helen’s” names, some are not in the proposed ward; for example St Helen’s School and the adjoining St Helens Way are in the proposed Monk Bretton ward.

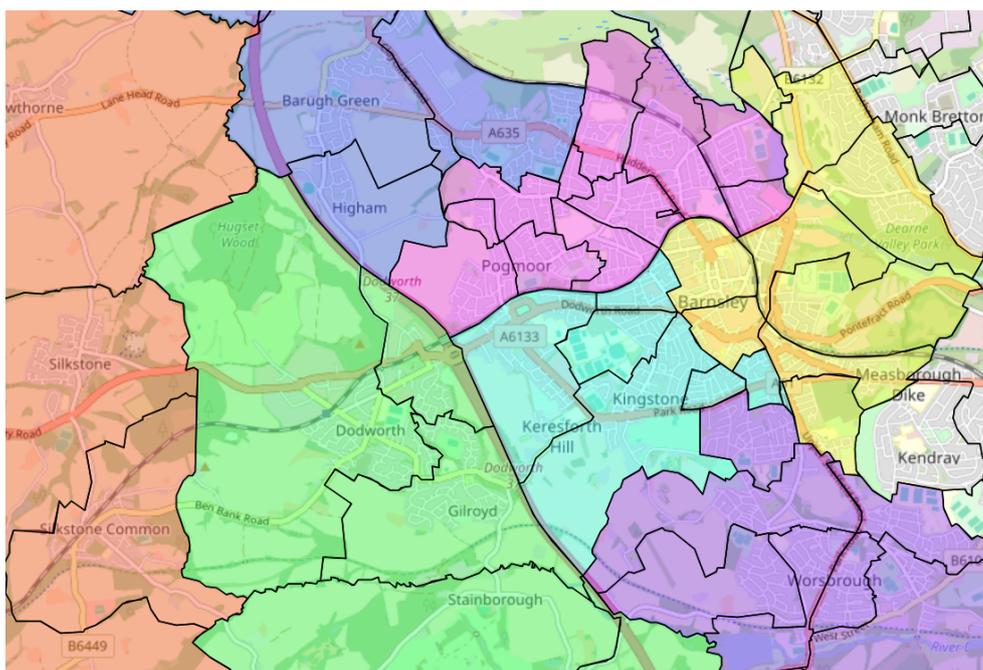


Figure 1: Proposed wards in western and central Barnsley: Penistone East (red), Dodworth & Birdwell (green), Darton West (blue), Old Town (pink), Kingstone (turquoise), Central (yellow), Worsbrough (purple). Map drawn using www.wardtool.co.uk. © OpenStreetMap contributors, Boundary data © Ordnance Survey Copyright and database right 2024, Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Penistone East

I suggest that this proposed ward be modified by the removal of the parish of Stainborough (current polling district NG).

Projected electorate: 8822 (−4%)

Dodworth & Birdwell

I suggest creating a new ward containing the communities of Dodworth, Stainborough, Birdwell and Tankersley. Compared with the existing Dodworth ward, this would have a much clearer eastern boundary (following the M1 for much of it) and would not need to include Higham (which would be a better fit in Darton West ward with its neighbour Barugh Green) or any part of Pogmoor or Gawber. It would be reasonably well connected, using the road between Birdwell and Stainborough, and would avoid splitting any of these communities, nor would it include any outlying parts of other communities which would be cut off from their neighbours.

Other names could be considered, mentioning Stainborough and/or Tankersley, or using the local landmark of Wentworth Castle.

Polling districts: HA, HB, HC, NG, NH, NL, NK. Projected electorate 9799 (+6%).

Darton West

As in my previous proposal, I suggest including Higham here, rather than with Dodworth. This forms a continuous urban area with Barugh Green, which is already in this ward. This allows some of the areas in the east of the ward to be removed; I suggest removing most of polling district EE and the eastern end of polling district EF, reducing the part of the main Barnsley urban area included in this ward.

Polling districts: EA, EB, EC, ED, EE (part), EF (most), HE. Estimated projected electorate 9167 (-1%).

Old Town

As well as the Old Town area, Honeywell and the part of Pogmoor already included, I suggest adding the areas mentioned above in the east of Darton West together with polling districts HF and HG from Dodworth ward, which would be a better fit with this ward. As in my previous submission, I then suggest removing polling district MA and a small adjoining part of MH; this area, which is really part of the western edge of Monk Bretton, is rather poorly connected to the rest of the current ward, from which it is separated from by the River Dearne. This creates a compact ward in the north-western part of urban Barnsley, with a clear eastern boundary along the Dearne and a clear southern boundary along the railway line.

Polling districts: MB, MC, MD, ME, MF, MG, MH (most), EE (most), EF (part), HF, HG. Estimated projected electorate 9784 (+6%).

Kingstone

I propose removing the Worsbrough Common area of this existing and proposed ward, transferring it to Worsbrough. Instead, I suggest adding the Keresforth Hill area and the area along Dodworth Road out to the M1; these areas flow naturally into the current Kingstone ward and are currently with Dodworth, on the other side of the M1. As in the draft proposals I suggest running the eastern boundary of this ward along Sheffield Road, and I also suggest extending this north of Park Road, including the southern end of polling district AA here; this should ensure a high enough electorate. and Sheffield Road is a clear boundary.

Polling districts: AA (part), AD (very small part), HD, JA, JB, JC, JD. Estimated projected electorate 8684 (−6%).

Central

I propose a ward very similar to the existing and proposed ward, but with some small transfers to Kingstone ward south of the town centre and also including the areas of the current Old Town ward east of the Dearne. As mentioned this latter area, together with polling district AE, already in Central ward, is really the eastern edge of Monk Bretton, and while there is no room for them in the ward of that name it makes sense to at least put them in the same ward.

Polling districts: AA (part), AB, AC, AD (most), AE, AF, AG, MA, MH (small part). Estimated projected electorate 9698 (+4%).

Worsbrough

I propose simply adding the Worsbrough Common area, polling district JE, to the existing ward.

Polling districts: JE, UA, UB, UC, UD, UE, UF, UG. Projected electorate 9829 (+4%).

The Hoyland wards and Wombwell

The above proposals do not include any part of Birdwell or Tankersley in a ward with Hoyland. Without these areas Hoyland does not have enough electorate for two wards, so some other area must be added.

The draft proposals already add part of Wombwell to their Hoyland Milton ward: the area around Wood Walk, just west of Wombwell station. I suggest adding a little more of Wombwell to that ward, including all of polling district TE; this is not very desirable, but if some of Wombwell is already proposed for inclusion here it is a relatively small defect to include a little more, and this allows the pattern of the other wards to work. To reflect this ward consisting of parts of both Hoyland and Wombwell, I suggest the name **Hoyland East & Wombwell Wood**.

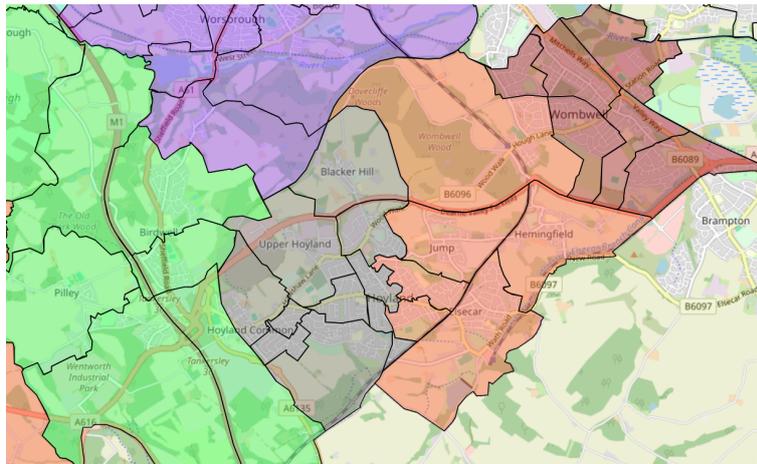


Figure 2: Proposed wards around Hoyland and Wombwell, including Dodworth & Birdwell (green), Worsbrough (purple), Hoyland West (grey), Hoyland East & Wombwell Wood (lighter red), Wombwell (darker red). Map drawn using www.wardtool.co.uk. © OpenStreetMap contributors, Boundary data © Ordnance Survey Copyright and database right 2024, Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

It is then necessary to move the boundary between the two Hoyland wards eastwards to ensure electoral equality. I suggest moving polling districts IB, ID, IE and the part of IC west of Milton Road and south of the Forge recreation ground; this gives a reasonably clear east/west split, though could be tidied up a bit.

Wombwell: polling districts TA, TB, TC, TD, TF, CG (most, as in initial proposals). Projected electorate 8440 (-8%)

Hoyland East & Wombwell Wood: polling districts IA, IC (part), IF, IG, IH, TE. Estimated projected electorate 8767 (-5%).

Hoyland West: polling districts IB, IC (part), ID, IE, PA, PB, PC, PD, PE, PF. Estimated projected electorate 8889 (-4%).