

Kirklees

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

Dear Sirs, please find a submission from the Kirklees Conservative Group.

With thanks and regards,

David Hall

Attached Documents:

- kirklees-conservative-group-submission-september-2024.docx

Kirklees Conservative Group

Response to the Third Consultation of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England into electoral arrangements for Kirklees Council

September 2024

We are pleased that the LGBCE has agreed with our initial proposals for the following wards:

- Colne Valley
- Holme Valley North
- Holme Valley South
- Denby Dale
- Kirkburton
- Liversedge & Gomersal
- Birstall & Birkenshaw
- Cleckheaton
- Heckmondwike
- Batley East
- Batley West
- Dewsbury East

Response to other revised recommendations:

Dewsbury South, Dewsbury West and Mirfield

We are content with the revised recommendations for this area, apart from the suggested boundary between Mirfield and Dewsbury West. We would support the logical move to bring the Spring Place Gardens Estate entirely into the Dewsbury West ward, but not the re-alignment of the rest of the boundary along Shillbank Lane and Crossley Lane.

We believe it is more important that communities are kept together than to provide an easily identifiable administrative boundary. In this case, the present boundary is much better, as it unites all Mirfield in the Mirfield ward.

The Dewsbury Country Park is not a community and has no residents – therefore it is immaterial if the boundary crosses it. The present boundary follows the one between the old Mirfield Urban District and Dewsbury County Borough and is therefore well established.

Indeed, the recommendations already accepted by the LGBCE include a boundary which runs through the Oakwell Hall Country Park (between Birstall & Birkenshaw and Liversedge & Gomersal wards), so there is no argument to say that one could not run through the Dewsbury Country Park.

Our suggestion for this boundary will also remove the need to introduce a further new Mirfield Town Council ward contained within the Dewsbury West ward, and will reduce the +10% electoral variance in the Dewsbury West ward.

Huddersfield

We do not agree with the revised proposals for Almondbury and Dalton wards.

Kirkheaton village is not closely knitted to Dalton, and residents feel no attachment. Online community groups have been established merely to follow existing ward boundaries for the convenience of council administration, and will no doubt be revised when ward boundary changes happen.

Kirkheaton had its own council until 1938. It was not then brought together with Dalton into Huddersfield County Borough, but instead merged with Kirkburton, Shelley, Shepley, Flockton and Lepton: other semi-rural villages.

Kirkheaton is again a part of the Spen Valley constituency, whereas Dalton is a part of the Huddersfield constituency. This was the case as long ago as the old Spen Valley constituency which existed between 1918 and 1950, and this continues to demonstrate no link between Dalton and Kirkheaton.

We feel that the original recommendation to put Kirkheaton into Almondbury ward is a better one, as it unites the Kirkheaton parish ward with the Lepton parish ward into one Kirklees ward. The parish council at present is split between three Kirklees wards.

Our proposed Almondbury ward then would consist of similar semi-rural villages with similar affinities, and to allow for electoral equality, we would substitute an area from the west of the recommended Almondbury ward, more akin to central Huddersfield, into Dalton ward.