

Middlesbrough

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Comment text:

Related subject: Nunthorpe Ward

Dear Local Government Boundary Commission,

I attach a personal response to your draft recommendations, with particular reference to the Nunthorpe Ward, whose residents I represent on Middlesbrough Council.

I look forward to your decision.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr Morgan McClintock

Attached Documents:

- boundary-review-response---september-2024.pdf

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL WARD AREA REVIEW - NUNTHORPE WARD

I am responding to your invitation for reactions to your draft recommendations for Middlesbrough. As one of the two Nunthorpe Councillors, my particular focus is the boundary between the Marton West and Nunthorpe wards.

I welcome your main recommendation for Nunthorpe - that the Nunthorpe Ward should remain unchanged, with the addition of the households in Borrowby Rise and Plantation View.

I draw your attention to my previous submission, where I made the case for this outcome. I hope that account will be taken again of the details which I previously provided, but, for convenience, the essence of the arguments are repeated here.

“Nunthorpe” is a clearly-defined area which makes sense to residents and those living beyond our boundaries. It is identical to Nunthorpe Parish, and the Ward/Parish has a strong community ethos. There are significant numbers of retired residents who volunteer enthusiastically as members of various groups, enhancing the environment across the Ward. The groups are supported by a very active Parish Council, which fosters integration and communication by delivery of a free, glossy magazine to every household, four times a year. There have been no signs that any part of Nunthorpe wishes to secede from the Parish, and it is significant that the Boundary Commission did not receive any challenge to the integrity of the Nunthorpe Ward during the first stage of consultation. Although a relatively affluent community, Nunthorpe has its problems, but residents seem willing to continue to face them together as “Nunthorpe”.

Nunthorpe residents were delighted when the Boundary Commission announced that it has provisionally accepted the case about the enclave of Borrowby Rise / Plantation View, currently within the Marton West Ward. Until the Boundary Review began, many residents of the houses in this area, the Grey Towers Village Residents Association, and almost all residents of the current Nunthorpe Ward, reasonably assumed that this integral component of Grey Towers Village is part of the “Nunthorpe” community. (Even Officers of Middlesbrough Council have made this error.) In my previous submission, I described the current dividing line between Marton West and Nunthorpe as an “historical anachronism”, which makes no sense as a matter of geography, access or community coherence. The Marton West Community Council has agreed that Borrowby Rise and Plantation View should be transferred to the Nunthorpe Ward. In short, if the Commission were not to confirm its draft recommendation, such an outcome would be regarded with surprise. I urge the Boundary Commission to confirm the outcome of the first stage of consultation by including Borrowby Rise and Plantation View within the Nunthorpe Ward.

We appreciate the interesting suggestion of the Boundary Commission that Nunthorpe Ward might be extended further, to include transfer from Marton West to Nunthorpe of an area adjacent to Brass Castle Lane as far as De Brus Park and Newham Hall Farm. My

understanding of the consensus among Nunthorpe residents is that this would reduce, rather than enhance, our sense of community entity. We do not regard Nunthorpe as extending west beyond the area now known as Plantation View. De Brus Park and Newham Hall Farm are regarded as an integral part of Marton West, and we understand that the residents of these houses agree. Moreover, I stand by the argument I made in my previous submission relating to the Ford Close development. As the entrance to this estate will be from Brass Castle Lane, it differs significantly from the adjacent estate of Plantation View whose sole means of access is via the primary access to the rest of Grey Towers Village, ie Ellerbeck Avenue. As I previously commented, not being part of the Grey Towers estate, the Ford Close residents will have a different developer, and their issues will be different.

In short, I urge you to continue to acknowledge “Nunthorpe” as consisting of the integrated community within the current Ward boundary, subject only to the inclusion of Borrowby Rise and Plantation View.

Councillor Morgan McClintock



12th September 2024.