

North Yorkshire

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Whitby

I am writing as a past Whitby Town councillor, three time Whitby Mayor, Scarborough Borough Councillor and North Yorkshire County Councillor, with over 5 decades of combined experience across those roles. I have now retired from these roles and public life but remain active in social and cultural life in the town.

Whilst I strongly agree with the commission's decision to keep the Whitby Town Council area within two divisions only rather than split it up, I am writing to object to the commission's proposals to move the boundary between Whitby Streonshalh and Whitby West further along West cliff in the town, right up to and including part of Upgang Lane and resulting in West Cliff Primary School being moved into Streonshalh. Hopefully you will agree that this would lead to huge confusion and when the council has just become unitary risks increasing the sense of disconnect and alienation that isolated communities like Whitby are feeling from distant administrative headquarters. I am afraid the proposals suggest a lack of understanding of the deep divide that exists socially, culturally and demographically as well as historic antipathy between the West and East sides of Whitby. The draft proposals will make it extremely difficult for any councillor to effectively represent the division. We saw the huge public uproar that occurred when North Yorkshire proposed closing Eskdale school last year by parents living on the East Side of town and having all secondary age students in the town attend school on the West Side. If you speak to any locals you will understand that the two sides of Whitby are like the Montagues and Capulets and I would urge the commission to reconsider.

My suggestion for a better division that would enable more effective representation would be to move the boundary in town back to where it currently is and instead move Ruswarp village into Whitby Streonshalh which is connected to the rest of the division by Larpool Lane. Although

historically this may not have made sense, the development of the business park on the East Side of town and the resulting jobs it has brought for people in Ruswarp along with all of the supermarkets that have been opened there means that many people now look far more to this area for their day to day needs and life than they did previously and than they now do to West Cliff. If the boundary in town is moved back eastwards to allow all of Ruswarp from Ruswarp Lane southwards or even include Ruswarp Lane from where the houses on the West Side stop to be moved into Streonshalh it would make a division which would be much easier to represent effectively and give the residents who live there a councillor who is not having to bridge a divide between two area which are historically at odds with each other.

I hope this is of assistance to your considerations to give Whitby the most effective representation possible and ensure our town's voice is not forgotten about at Northallerton.

Please keep my personal details private.

Yours sincerely

Attached Documents:

None attached