

North Yorkshire

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Comment text:

Good afternoon

I have just become aware of the public consultation that was launched in October 2024 to help shape new council divisions for North Yorkshire Council. I have not previously seen anything about this fundamental change to the area within which I live so your publicity has been sadly inadequate. If the Local Government Boundary Commission for England want to hear people's views on where they live, to help make sure that the new divisions reflect the size and shape of local communities then the publicity must be aimed at everyone including those who live in rural communities where communication is often through Parish magazines and noticeboards. The interactive map says: Click on the 'Have your say' button below this map to tell us what you think of our draft recommendations. but there isn't a 'Have your say' button hence this email.

I am looking at the proposal for Birstwith in the Harrogate area of North Yorkshire. The proposal is to join Birstwith with Pannal and the note on the interactive map reads:

For the parishes that lie west of Harrogate, we propose to adopt the Liberal Democrats' proposed Birstwith & Pannal division. This proposal helps achieve a division pattern that reflects the topography and community interests of the surrounding areas of Harrogate, Wharfedale and Nidderdale. Furthermore, it links the larger villages of Pannal and Birstwith in a division with other smaller villages west of Harrogate. We consider these areas are likely to share similar concerns and interests, and therefore should be contained in the same division.

This is a complete nonsense. There is no geographic, social or community association between Birstwith and Pannal. Birstwith is a small rural

parish that straddles the river Nidd and has historic and geographic associations with Hampsthwaite, Clint and Darley. Public transport links, health services, social, church and education links tend to naturally align along the Nidd valley as does the rural road network. Pannal is physically separated from Birstwith by the A59 which is a major traffic route. There would be more logic in associating Birstwith with the rural communities on the North side of the Nidd valley. All this indicates that Birstwith should be part of either Lower Nidderdale or Pateley Bridge & Nidderdale.

Kind regards



Attached Documents:

None attached