

Darlington

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Park West lacks a clear centre, shared facilities, or established identity. Residents commonly identify instead with surrounding areas such as Park East, Hummersknott and College. As such, the ward functions primarily as an administrative construct rather than a genuine community.

Its dissolution allows change to be focused where it is most justified, minimising disruption to stronger, well-defined wards.

Park West be abolished and its polling districts reassigned as follows:

- PWC to Park East
- PWA to Hummersknott
- PWB to College

Each transfer reflects existing community ties, travel patterns and neighbourhood continuity.

Abolishing Park West results in an immediate reduction of two councillors, contributing directly to the move from 50 to 41 councillors without requiring wider structural change.

The abolition of Park West ward provides a proportionate, low-disruption means of improving ward coherence while supporting electoral equality and effective local governance. It represents a logical first step in delivering a smaller council that better reflects Darlington's communities.

If adopted, Park East should undergo a name change (given there wouldn't be a West variant). It is difficult to consider a name that includes a wide range of areas: the town centre, South Park, Polam, Skerne Park and the railway station. As the town centre and South Park are the biggest anchors, perhaps "South Park & Town" would be acceptable?

Attached Documents:

None attached