

Darlington

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Organisation Name: Darlington Borough Council (Councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Mowden Ward

Dear Sirs

When the draft ward boundaries were first published, I was immediately contacted by a local BBC reporter for my comments on the odd dogleg, which put parts of the current College ward, including the large Victorian houses on Pierremont Gardens, Pierremont Crescent and Woodlands Road, into Mowden ward. The reporter was also incredulous that one half of one side of Milbank Road was to be included in the new Mowden ward. I agree with the reporter and many of the residents that I have spoken to, that this area of Darlington has no connections at all with Mowden. The houses are completely different styles, the residents there have more affinity with Cockerton shops, or indeed with the town centre, than with Mowden and Mowden shops and the children there are more likely to attend the nearby Abbey Primary School rather than the Mowden Schools.

The first draft had the current Mowden ward in its entirety, which I heartily approve of, as residents are proud that they live in Mowden (although pronunciation does differ depending on who you speak to) and the area is well thought of, clean and tidy, with for example, residents often carrying out work to the grass verges themselves rather than waiting for the council. Residents are mostly owner occupiers who look after their properties and gardens.

To gain the required additional number of residents, I would suggest that the streets both sides of Nunnery Lane would be a much better match. This area would include Broadmeadows, Whitemeadows, Hillclose Avenue, Clare Avenue and Cardinal Gardens – in fact all of the streets north of Carmel College.

If this does not provide sufficient households/residents, the other logical addition would be to include both sides of Carmel Road North (currently only the west side is included in Mowden) and the cul-de-sacs that exit onto Carmel Road North such as Thornbury Rise, Highbury Road and Thornfield Road.

In my opinion, the area that includes Pierremont Gardens and Pierremont Crescent belongs in Pierremont Ward as a preference, as it always seemed odd to me that streets with the word Pierremont in them were not previously included in the current Pierremont ward. Or, failing that if the numbers could not be reconciled, it would be far better suited to a town centre ward, not Mowden.

I would urge you to consider these suggestions as they are the result of speaking to numerous residents in Mowden ward over the last few months and from years of experience as the Mowden Ward Councillor.

Many thanks.

Pauline Culley MBE
Mowden Ward Councillor

Attached Documents:

None attached