

Darlington

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Organisation Name: Pierremont Crescent & Gardens Resident Association (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: Pierremont

I am writing on behalf of the Pierremont Crescent & Gardens Residents' Association to express our disappointment that the Commission's draft proposals for the new Pierremont ward do not include Pierremont Crescent, Pierremont Gardens and Woodlands Terrace.

As an association representing residents of these streets, we firmly believe that they are an integral part of the Pierremont community. Our residents rely on the same local services, amenities and facilities as those living within the wider Pierremont area, and share a strong and longstanding sense of community identity. Excluding these streets from the proposed ward does not accurately reflect the established community boundaries that residents recognise and experience in their daily lives.

Having considered the Commission's draft proposals, we can understand the rationale for including streets such as Thornbury Rise and parts of Carmel Road North within the proposed Mowden ward. Their proximity to the existing Mowden ward, together with the fact that several neighbouring streets off Carmel Road North are already associated with that community, provides a logical basis for their inclusion.

However, the same argument cannot reasonably be applied to Pierremont Crescent, Pierremont Gardens and Woodlands Terrace. These streets are intrinsically linked to Pierremont by name, geography and community identity. Residents identify strongly with Pierremont and regard themselves as part of that community. Their inclusion within Mowden would weaken the coherence of the proposed Pierremont ward and fail to reflect the way local people identify with their neighbourhood.

The Association is also concerned that the draft proposals do not adequately recognise the importance of the town centre. At a time when town centres face significant economic challenges, small businesses require effective and coherent local government representation more than ever. While we appreciate that the town centre may not be of sufficient size to constitute a ward in its own right, there are neighbouring communities within the current Park West and College wards, particularly around Southend Avenue and Abbey Road, that have strong connections to the town centre through both proximity and shared concerns. Issues such as parking pressures, traffic congestion and the vitality of the town centre are matters that affect these communities directly.

On behalf of the Pierremont Crescent & Gardens Residents' Association, I respectfully urge the Commission to reconsider the proposed boundary arrangements and include Pierremont Crescent, Pierremont Gardens and Woodlands Terrace within the proposed Pierremont ward. Doing so would better reflect established community ties, local identity and the interests of the residents we represent.

Yours faithfully,

Chairman
Pierremont Crescent & Gardens Residents' Association

Attached Documents:

None attached