

Darlington

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Comment text:

Having reviewed the proposed changes to Darlington's council areas, I am broadly supportive of the changes albeit with a few suggestions that would make the wards more reflective of people's communities and general sense of place.

- It should be considered whether the proposed Park East ward includes the triangular area on the other bank of the Skerne bounded by the A167 and Parkgate. This would mean that the full South Park area was in the same ward, ensuring better electoral representation for the historic park. It would also include Polam and the area around the cricket club. Seeing as the council is proposing that the South Terrace area form one Conservation Area with Victoria Embankment and South Park, it seems logical to place them in one ward for heritage and conservation reasons.

All other proposals seem fine, other than some rather uninspiring naming of wards. Wards should resonate with the people who live there. I therefore suggest that the following wards are reconsidered for naming. I have proposed better names but am not wed to them - more that the current ones are dross.

- Park East should not remain named so. No one in the area associates themselves with that moniker. Therefore the suggestion that keeping the name (despite Park West being removed) is moot. I would suggest something like "South Park & Skerne Park" or "Skerne and South Park" if we wanted to avoid double "Park"ing.
- College & Blackwell is a bit of a stretch seeing as the ward doesn't include the Blackwell Golf Club or Blackwell Allotments. Given it now includes the Town Centre, perhaps "College & Town" would be more appropriate.
- Faverdale should be renamed "West Park" - this is the defining feature, over an industrial estate. Most people in that area would say that they

live in West Park so why not call the ward the same thing.

- Albert Hill, Hundens & Red Hall seems to be a conflated name to not offend anyone from feeling left out. Seeing as Hundens Park is the centre of the ward, maybe just "Hundens" would be more appropriate.

Attached Documents:

None attached